

9th Meeting of the Standing Committee
19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Heraklion, Greece, 7 – 10 April 2014

Report of the Intersessional Working Group
on Bat Monitoring and Indicators

Convenors: Karen Haysom and Jasja Dekker



Following the amalgamation of the monitoring and indicators IWGs the key objectives for this IWG are:

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 on-going data sharing, as laid out in the feasibility plan written for EUROBATS, agreed by AC14.

Pan European Indicator

Work since last year has focused on the **publication** of the prototype pan European indicator of bats at hibernation sites as a European Environment Agency Technical Report and **profile raising** for the indicator and the report. The report was published on 30th January on the EEA website:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-bat-population-trends-2013>.

There was a coordinated publicity effort to raise the profile of the indicator. We supported the EEA communications team in publicising a press release <http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/bat-population-recovering> which was made available to all data contributors in advance and individual teams also did their own releases. Consequently we achieved massive profile for the report, with more than 200 articles by early February published through Europe and North America. Highlights include articles in National Geographic, New Scientist and all major European press, and radio interviews on 2 major BBC programmes which were used

to raise the profile of the work of bat conservationists across Europe. In Netherlands it was featured in several national newspapers and on national radio. Several other data contributors also got good publicity in their countries and we would be interested to hear from Eurobats contact points about media coverage in their countries. We thank the Eurobats secretariat for promoting the report on the Eurobats website, which led to it also being given profile by UNEP.

Further planned and on-going work on profile raising includes, in the short term, submission of a paper on the current indicator prototype for a special edition of Mammal Review which is focused on indicators and being coordinated by Danilo Russo. In the longer-term our goal is a publication in a high impact journal focusing on the results of an improved and extended indicator covering more species, countries and data sources.

It is still an aim to continue to seek funding for revision and expansion of the indicator. This has been delayed awaiting the publication of the prototype report and the profile that would be generated by that, but now begins again in earnest. Jasja Dekker and Karen Haysom have been working on an outline proposal to discuss at this AC. We request support in means in identifying contacts who should be made aware of the indicator (to use and promote it) and suggestions of suitable funding streams for supporting its expansion .

Capacity building

Planning for the TRIM workshop in Croatia. Part of the post conference training workshop for Balkan delegates will include training in the trend analysis package TRIM, which is the basis of the indicator. This will be taught by Dr Tom van der Meij (Statistics Netherlands) in September.

At AC18 the convenors were asked to check and resend the questionnaire on current monitoring and needs for capacity building support to those countries who had not previously supplied information. We will bring electronic versions of both questionnaires with us for any contact who wishes to check what we have and provide more information during the meeting or pass to a colleague.

The IWG will be meeting at AC19 to discuss the route forward for continuation of this work and a possible resolution.

List of recent links to recent media coverage highlights:

National Geographic: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/01/140129-bats-animals-science-europe-conservation-world/>

New Scientist: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn24985-return-of-the-bat-european-species-make-a-comeback.html>

The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jan/30/european-bat-population-rises>

UNEP:

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2762&ArticleID=10704&=en>

Le Monde: http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2014/01/30/les-chauves-souris-sont-de-retour-en-europe_4356412_3244.html#xtor=AL-32280515

Reuters: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/01/29/us-eu-bats-idUKBREA0S26L20140129>

Spiegel: <http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/natur/europaweite-statistik-fledermausbestaende-erholen-sich-a-950213.html>

Berliner Morgen Post, Welt, Stern + others (dpa):

http://www.morgenpost.de/newsticker/dpa_nt/infoline_nt/wissenschaft_nt/article124378633/Fledermausbestand-steigt-in-neun-EU-Staaten-um-mehr-als-40-Prozent.html

De Volkskrant + others (ANP) :

<http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2664/Nieuws/article/detail/3586173/2014/01/30/De-vleermuis-krabbelt-op.dhtml>

Natuurbericht.nl (by Jasja et al): <http://www.natuurbericht.nl/?id=12166>

Wiener Zeitung :

http://www.wienerzeitung.at/themen_channel/wissen/natur/604027_Die-Fledermaeuse-kehren-wieder.html

Kasjauns (LETA): <http://www.kasjauns.lv/lv/zinas/143460/latvija-palielinas-siksparnu-skaitis>

