

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

Heraklion, Greece, 7 – 10 April 2014

Secretariat Report



Staff

After completion of the re-classification process in January 2013, both posts of Administrative Assistants (GS-6 50% part-time) had been advertised and re-recruited. As of 1 September 2013 Tine Meyer-Cords has been confirmed on her post and promoted to the GS-6 Level and as of 1 October 2013 Ana Thiel has entered on duty as a new Administrative Assistant.

The advertisement and recruitment for the new post of Associate Scientific and Project Officer (P-2, 50% part-time) has been very lengthy but was eventually completed. As of 1 March 2014 Dr. Suren Gazaryan has entered on duty for this post.

Agreement Membership

Since the 18th Meeting of the Advisory Committee, Switzerland has acceded to the Agreement, bringing the total number of Parties to 35. Israel has informed that the accession is an advanced stage. The Secretariat continues to receive indications from a number of additional states preparing the accession to the Agreement.

Publicity

The joint CMS Family internet platform that the Secretariats have started to plan and develop in 2012 is expected to be launched end of March 2014. 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 2014.

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.

EUROBATS Advisory Committee Workspace

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 the administrative focal points of Parties. The user statistics show that the Workspace is not yet being used at its full potential.

Special Projects

In 2013/2014 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;
- 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.
- Capacity Building for identification of bat species and the monitoring of bat species in FYR Macedonia.
- Investigation of the biology and occurrence of the Greater Noctule (*Nyctalus lasiopterus*) in forests in the Ukraine.
- Awareness raising and education about bat biology and bat conservation in the region of Kharkov (Ukraine).

These projects become possible thanks to voluntary contributions from Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom.

In addition to the projects the Secretariat has supported the 3rd Berlin Bat Meeting.

A number of very promising project applications have been reviewed by the EPI Project Assessment Working Group (**Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.11**).

Joint EU-EUROBATS Species Action Plan on Bats

In 2013 the development of a joint Species Action Plan on Bats has started between the European Commission and EUROBATS. An expert workshop to review the first draft has taken place on 18 November. After further consultations among the experts and consultation with EU member states, the SAP is expected to be adopted by the EU Habitats Committee in spring 2014.

Cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Also in 2013 the development of a joint project between IRENA and the CMS Family on “Renewable Energy Technologies Deployment and Migratory Species” has started. Due to the high relevance of wind energy and partly also hydropower, EUROBATS will be actively participating in this project.

CMS Family Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023

For the first time a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species for the entire CMS Family is under preparation and to be adopted at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CMS in November 2014. The Parties to EUROBATS and their focal points are invited to contribute and comment on the most recent draft (**Inf.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.4**).