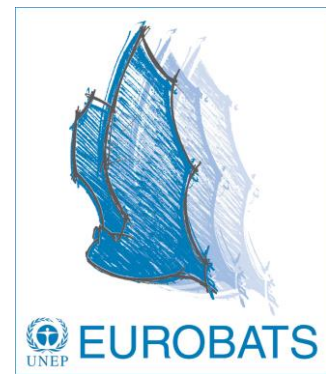


Report of the UNEP/EUROBATS Secretariat to the 41st Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee



Agreement Membership

Since the 40th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, Cyprus and Switzerland have 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 their accession to the Agreement.

Publicity and Outreach

In 2012/2013 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.).

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 2014.

The International Bat Night continues to be very successful and continues to grow all over the Agreement area.

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.

EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

In 2012/2013 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.
- 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 Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom.

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.

EUROBATS Meetings in 2014

The joint meeting of the extended Standing Committee (all administrative focal points) and the Advisory Committee (all scientific focal points) StC9/AC19 will take place from 7 – 10 April 2014 Heraklion (Greece).

The 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP7) will take place from 15 – 17 September 2014 in Brussels upon the generous invitation of Belgium.