

# 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Cluj, Romania, 23 – 24 August 2008

## Record of the Meeting



### 1. Attendance

This is listed at **Annex 1** to the Record.

### 2. Opening remarks

Mr. Peter Lina (Chair) opened the Meeting. He welcomed the participants and invited the representative of the host country (Romania) to make opening remarks.

The State Secretary for Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr. Zoltán Levente Nagy, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Romanian Government. He highlighted that this was a particularly successful week for bats with having first the European Bat Research Symposium and right afterwards the EUROBATS Advisory Committee convening in Cluj. Never before had bats been given so much attention in the country.

The Chair thanked the State Secretary for his kind words of welcome and pointed out that Romania was hosting the Advisory Committee for the second time already. He was looking forward to a productive and successful meeting dealing with an impressive agenda.

The Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS, Mr. Andreas Streit, read an opening statement of Mr. Robert Hepworth, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) who, also on behalf of the UNEP Executive Director Mr. Achim Steiner, sent best wishes for another successful Advisory Committee. He drew the attention to the CMS Conference of Parties that would take place later in the year and invited EUROBATS together with NGOs to actively contribute to the CMS activities on indicator species for climate change and the development of similar agreements in other regions, in particular Africa.

The Executive Secretary thanked the Romanian hosts for their kind hospitality. He was happy to see once again so many participants from all over Europe and in particular welcomed the delegate from Georgia whose travel to the Meeting was overshadowed by a difficult situation in his home country.

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.1)**

The Agenda was adopted unanimously.

### **4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure and admittance of observers (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.3)**

The Rules of Procedure were adopted by consensus. The Chair introduced the observers and requested the approval by the Parties for their attendance. No objections were raised.

### **5. Secretariat report (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.4)**

In view of the time constraints, the Executive Secretary referred to the written report. However, he used this opportunity to introduce the new staff member Ms. Tine Meyer-Cords to the Committee.

Furthermore, he informed the Committee that before the Meeting only a few Updates to National Implementation Reports had been received by the Secretariat. As soon as sufficient reports were collected, the Secretariat would prepare an updated Synthesis.

He hoped that reports from Non-Party Range States present at the Meeting would contain encouraging news on progress concerning accession to the Agreement.

The Executive Secretary was pleased to present a new project initiative which would use voluntary contributions from Parties to fund bat conservation, research and public awareness projects. The Secretariat had already prepared criteria and the general framework. These were presented in Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.16 and endorsed by the Committee.

Another highlight of the successful work of the Agreement was the EUROBATS Publication Series, volume 2 on important underground sites already available as the second edition and volume 3 on wind turbines launched two days before at the European Bat Research Symposium.

### **6. Reports from Parties and Non-Party Range States as well as NGOs<sup>1</sup>**

Denmark continues a 6 year project (fourth year) surveying all 17 Danish bat species in selected smaller areas (polygons) using the “site species richness method” (Ahlén & Baagøe 1999). Advice to the public on bats in houses and in forests has been continued. The Atlas of Danish Mammals (Baagøe & Jensen 2007) has been published with complete distribution maps of all 17 bat species. A handbook on all species on the

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<sup>1</sup> These summary reports were submitted in written by the country and NGO representatives and included without further editing by the Secretariat.

Habitat Directive has been published in 2007, with advice and guidelines to employees in administrations of all Danish municipalities and others. The important publication on “Bats and offshore wind turbines studied in southern Scandinavia” (Ahlén et al. 2007) was also published, informing about the remarkable finding of several bat species hunting far out at sea, both in the period just after breeding and in the migration period.

Estonia reported that the State Nature Conservation Center (SNCC) was established. Data collection, interpretation and dissemination concerning conservation of bats should now be organised by SNCC. SNCC’s 8 species protection specialists are also equipped with detectors and sound analyse programs.

The official database EELIS was reorganised to allow for the progressing inclusion of bat monitoring data.

Two new species protection sites are under preparation for bats. Piusa underground space was renovated in cooperation with SNCC.

The amount of work concerning bat conservation which is carried out by students, independent researchers and NGOs is slowly increasing as is the amount of cooperation with other range states.

Finland informed the Meeting that a new species, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, has been reported in the country. A more detailed report of the observation(s) of this 12<sup>th</sup> species is still needed. A pilot study on bat migration has been started in Southern Finland. This is carried out by the NGO The Finnish Chiropterological Society, individual bat workers and some institutions. A survey for European bat lyssaviruses has been started. European Bat Night has been successful in 2007 and will probably have good publicity also this year.

This year the French ministry in charge with ecology became the Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement durable et de l'Aménagement du Territoire. It finalised for 2008-2012 a second National plan for bat conservation in metropolitan France, after a first five-years plan that ended in 2003. This plan is available in French and in English on the website of the ministry: [www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr). It will be sent to the EUROBATS Secretariat for an international diffusion on its website. It would be interesting to have the action plans of other countries in order to compare experiences across Europe. A power point presentation was available for a further presentation during the meeting.

A new bat species, being *Myotis escaleraei*, has been found this year; being the 34th species for France. More information on species status and population trends are given

in the national plan, and annex 6 provides the distribution maps of the 33 bat species (past and present distribution).

The threats induced by the use of chemicals, in particular anti-parasitic drugs, are a major concern. The ministry in charge with ecology is working together with the ministry in charge of agriculture for reducing the amount of pesticides used by farmers. This includes appropriate information to farmers and veterinarians who prescribe those medicine. France did not send back the EUROBATS questionnaire yet, partly because for some questions it is difficult to find the best organisation to answer.

Wind farms are another matter of concern, and the ministry distributed EUROBATS Resolution 4.7 to all the regional administrations in charge with environment. Guidelines for impact studies previous the building of wind farms, first published in 2004, are going to be updated, the impact on bats will be developed.

A 2007 ministerial order (April 24), now protects the 33 bat species listed in the text. Thus, when a new species will be found, the relevant information should be quickly sent to the ministry for the species to benefit legal protection. This ministerial order includes the protection of breeding sites and other roosts of bat species.

France is particularly concerned with the destruction of orphan mines for security reasons. It continues to work on that subject and thanks to EUROBATS Publication Series n°2 it is possible to demonstrate that solutions exist to secure bat roosts.

Public awareness will be enforced by the publication, this summer, of a new leaflet presenting the bat species, their national and international conservation status, and the second national plan. It is expected to have a good audience.

Germany highlighted the CBD CoP9, which took place in Bonn in May 2008, as the greatest event in nature conservation in Germany. During the conference the German Chancellor herself announced a new initiative for the creation of a worldwide web of reserves to protect forests due to their high importance for biodiversity. Germany will support the conservation of such areas worldwide by 500 million EUR for the period until 2011 and further 500 million EUR per year from 2011 onwards. In addition, Germany reported on three federal projects with special reference to bat conservation: (1) One of the most important underground sites for bats in Germany, the mining area "Mayener Grubenfeld", is further investigated and protected by a joint project funded by the Federal Government (3.1 million EUR), the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate and the NGO Naturschutzbund (NABU). (2) A research and development project by the Museum Koenig and the University of Bonn reviewed the state of knowledge about bat migration across the current borders of the Agreement area and considered research

methods alternative from bat ringing to prove such migrations (see Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.15). (3) Another project will be finalised in a couple of months investigating the impact of bat habitat fragmentation by roads, the risk for bats to be killed by vehicles and the impact of traffic noise. Finally, Germany mentioned ongoing preparations for the European Bat Night 2008 which will raise public awareness for bats through many activities and events coordinated by NABU.

The Irish Bat Monitoring Programme (IBMP) continues to expand. 6 of Ireland's 10 species are now subject to annual monitoring schemes. Most of these schemes are run jointly with Northern Ireland. The IBMP is funded by the Irish government and managed by Bat Conservation Ireland.

A Centre for Irish Bat Research was established in May 2008 with funding from the Irish government. The new research team, under their Director Dr. Emma Teeling, will focus initially on the ecology of three *Myotis* species: *M. brandtii*, *M. nattereri* and *M. mystacinus*. We know very little about these three species in Ireland and have yet to establish an effective monitoring programme for them. We hope that this new Research Centre will address some of these issues.

Italy informed about some highlights from the 2008 National Report (Inf.EUROBATS.AC13.9) and further news: A remarkable growth in interest about bats is taking place in the country, with several education and research initiatives promoted or funded at various levels (from local to nationwide scales).

There are now Italian web-pages fully devoted to the EUROBATS Agreement's mission and the issue of bat conservation in Italy. Their preparation was funded by the Environment Ministry. Descriptions of the species occurring in the country are also given. The pages are easily reachable from the Ministry's home page.

The Ministry funded a project dealing with bats in buildings, covering several representative case-studies selected across the country. A document providing guidelines to the correct management of bats in buildings, whose preparation largely involved members from the Italian Chiroptera Research Group and implied co-operation by the *Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali* (National Heritage and Culture Ministry), is now completed and will be hopefully published soon. Much of the document focused on the issue of bats in historical buildings. As part of the project, an unprecedented result was obtained, *i.e.* both the Environment and the National Heritage Ministries signed an agreement on the protection of bat colonies in buildings of historical value.

Finally, scientific co-operation between the Polish Academy of Sciences (Prof. Wieslaw Bogdanowicz) and the Applied Ecology Laboratory at the Faculty of Agricultural

Sciences, University of Naples Federico II (Dr Danilo Russo) resulted in the first record of the Alcathe's bat (*Myotis alcathoe*) for Italy, observed in the Majella National Park by molecular techniques.

Luxembourg presented a short report and, beneath "normal" bat work, the following points were highlighted:

- Species action plans for *R. ferrumequinum* and *M. emarginatus* within a national nature protection plan are waiting for green light by the Ministry of Environment;
- Forest dwelling bats inventory is continued and a PhD on the impact of woodland management on *M. bechsteinii* could be funded;
- An active transboundary European bat lyssavirus initiative is installed.

The delegate of the Netherlands presented a short report on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. Copies of the EUROBATS Publication Series were sent to bat workers and the "Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects" will also be sent to agencies and companies involved in the planning and management of wind farms.

Recently a new species for the Netherlands, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, was found.

In accordance with the rabies resolution the active and passive surveillance on bat rabies was increased. A new working group on bat zoonoses was established by the Central Veterinary Institute, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment and the National Museum of Natural History to study also other emerging diseases in bats.

The European Bat Night in 2007 was very successful, excursions were held for the public at many places across the country.

The ecological study on the Pond bat is still going on.

Dr. Jasja Dekker, delegate of the Dutch Society for the Study and Conservation of Mammals (Mammal Society VZZ), reported the following highlights from the period since the last AC Meeting;

Financed by Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the VZZ published a proposal for the Red list status of mammals, formulated according to IUCN proposal. It is expected that this proposal will be taken over by the Dutch government unaltered.

The third revision of Natura 2000 sites is currently underway. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and VZZ are cooperating to include all underground parts of the limestone mines used for hibernating.

Financing from the government made it possible to write a report on bats and wind turbines, aimed at policy makers, impact assessment agencies and wind park owners.

After unfruitful talks with the Netherlands Wind Energy Association, a letter was written to the Minister of Environment asking her to stimulate monitoring and other research on this subject.

Two new national monitoring schemes were started in 2007 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, CBS and VZZ: attic roost counts and car-based monitoring. Together with hibernacula counts, this will give indexes for all commonly occurring Dutch bats.

There were two autecological studies performed in 2007: on *Myotis emarginatus* and on swarming bats. Both projects were financed by the EU, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Province of Limburg.

An emerging threat to bats seems to be the conversion of large Napoleonic and more recent defence lines. These are turned into hotels, restaurants, or are renovated. VZZ made a study of values for bats along a defence line, the Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie, the threats and mitigating measures for the changes in use of elements of these lines. This theme seems to be emerging in neighbouring countries as well (Belgium, Germany, and Poland). VZZ requests EUROBATS to survey the extent of this problem under its members, and if the same situation is occurring in more states, to work towards international co-operation in working towards a solution.

The Norwegian government, through its responsible body for implementation of the EUROBATS obligations, the Directorate of Nature Management (DN), is collaborating closely with the Norwegian Zoological Society (NZF) for the achievement of the conservation and science objectives of the Agreement. Hence, with financial support from the Directorate, NZF arranges bat nights and bat walks, carries out several small-scale monitoring activities (both in winter and summer), runs a web site with information on bats, and generally inform the public on bat issues (e.g. when bats occupy roosts in houses). NZF has also been commissioned to draft a Norwegian management plan for bats (work is ongoing). An issue of the Society's journal *Fauna* focusing specifically on bats will be available later in the year and distributed to AC focal points and collaborating organisations. Major discoveries over the last 15 months include rediscovery of *Barbastella barbastellus* (single individual found hibernating in the SE; last recorded 1949), confirmation of *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* as Norway's 12<sup>th</sup> bat species (SW Norway), and several new records of *Pipistrellus nathusii* in spring, summer and autumn, also in the southwest. Measures have been taken to protect and preserve the hibernation site for *Barbastella barbastellus*. Searches for feeding areas and roosts during the summer of 2008 were not successful, but will be continued.

In Poland, with respect to the first official proposal from the year 2004, there is a significant progress in the designation of Natura 2000 sites for protection of bat habitats. From 2006 year on, the Polish government has been systematically extending the official network proposal. The initial number of bat protection sites has been tripled and currently stands at 68, whereas certain sites proposed in 2004 were also extended. In 2008 regional expert teams were appointed with the task to develop projects of sites filling the still remaining geographical gaps. The Polish government is planning to finish proper designation of Natura 2000 network by the end of the first quarter of the year 2009.

In Poland wind farms are starting to grow rapidly and many more are in the stage of planning. During conducting environmental impact assessments bats are often not taken into account what might cause a threat to some bat populations. A guide-book published by EUROBATS might contribute to changing this situation.

The mass-scale thermal modernisation of communist-era apartment blocks might cause immuring bats in the cracks in walls while covering them with insulation. Shelters used by bats for years are vanishing too. As this problem is probably present also in some other Central and Eastern European countries, Polish nature protection authorities and NGOs would welcome the exchange of experience and cooperation to minimise this threat."

Portugal submitted a written report (Inf.EUROBATS.AC13.10) and highlighted a recently inaugurated Interpretation Centre that includes an interactive exhibition on bats and a live show from a cave. Images will be made available in the Internet after 30 August 2008.

Sweden continues the surveys to cover the distribution of 18 bat species, using mainly the Site Species Richness method. There will soon be enough data to produce an atlas for Götaland in the south of Sweden. Each year new findings are pushing the distribution for several species further north, sometimes substantially so. In some cases, this might then be the most northern distribution known in Europe so far. There are also more records and more accurate distribution maps of *Barbastella barbastellus*, mainly in Götaland, the southern parts of Sweden.

Sweden has carried out passive surveillance of Lyssa virus for many years. Now, a pilot project of active surveillance on European bat lyssavirus in bats has been conducted during the summer 2008 as a joint venture of the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control, the National Veterinary Institute, the Swedish University of Agricultural



Sciences and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. So far 56 bats have been tested but there are no results as of yet.

The UK has submitted an updated National Report (Inf.EUROBATS.AC13.12). Highlights mentioned were the adoption of bats as indicators, a project on the range of *Myotis bechsteinii* using standard methodology and a landscape scale project on *Rhinolophus hipposideros*.

## **7. Report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee**

The Chair of the Advisory Committee reported about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn, Germany, 6 May 2008) where he was able to present an overview of the Advisory Committee's ongoing work. The Standing Committee was impressed by the progress achieved, becoming manifest also in the EUROBATS Publication Series.

The Chair of the Standing Committee, Mr. Michel Perret (France) apologised for not being able to attend the AC13 Meeting and had requested the Chair of the Advisory Committee to transmit sincere thanks and compliments to this Advisory Committee for the excellent work being undertaken and the results already achieved. He also included his very best wishes for this Meeting.

Another very positive outcome of the Standing Committee Meeting was the new projects initiative that the Secretariat had already presented earlier in the day. Thanks to the healthy financial situation of the Agreement's budget, voluntary contributions from Parties could now be fully used for research and conservation projects.

The record of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee would be circulated to the focal points together with the AC13 Record in due course.

The Chair assured to continue maintaining the close link and exchange of information between both Committees.

## **8. Reports from Intersessional Working Groups:**

### **a) Transboundary Programme – Habitats: Data Compilation**

The Convenor (Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones) reported that for the time being the work was completed but that the group would be maintained for future deliberations when required.

**b) Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels**

The Convenor, Dr. Jessa Battersby, apologised for not being able to attend the AC. A written report (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.6) and the draft monitoring guidelines (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.7) were presented by Ms. Amy Coyte (acting convenor). The group decided to convene during the Meeting.

Mr. Roman Guziak gave a presentation about the Pan-European Monitoring Project

**c) Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management**

A draft leaflet on bats and forestry (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.8) was presented by the Convenor (Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones) and the group continued its work during the Meeting.

**d) Bat Migration**

Due to a change in job, the Convenor Dr. Kaja Lotman was no longer available. Dr. Dino Scaravelli took over the role as convenor and the group decided to meet during the Meeting.

**e) Autecological Studies for Priority Species**

The Convenor, Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier, presented a written report (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.9.Rev.1). Also this group continued working during the Meeting.

**f) Protection of Overground Roosts**

Following the last AC Meeting, Dr. Ferdia Marnell and Primož Presetnik made some final changes to the Working Group report, and the final report had been submitted to the Secretariat earlier in the year. However, even though the text was completed, it was recognised that new publications relating to overground roost protection continued to appear. It was important that such recent publications, and in particular those that relate to roosts in cultural heritage buildings, be included in the report's references and all delegates were asked to submit details of same to the convenor as soon as possible and by the end of September 2008 at the latest.

**g) Impact on Bat Population of Use of Anti-parasitic Drugs for Livestock**

Mr. Tony Hutson (convenor) informed the Meeting that a final report would be ready later in the year and that he would like to have a short meeting during AC13.

#### **h) Wind Turbines and Bat Populations**

The Convenor, Dr. Luisa Rodrigues, presented the work plan that was being carried out by the group.

#### **i) Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes**

A written report (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.10) was presented by the Convenor Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen. This group also met during the Meeting.

#### **j) Bats as Indicators**

The Convenor Dr. Karen Haysom referred to the written report (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.11). The group would continue its work during the Meeting.

#### **k) Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats**

Dr. Nathalie Lacour (Convenor) reported about the progress achieved. The group would convene again during the Meeting.

#### **l) Light Pollution**

The Convenor Mr. Ludo Holsbeek presented a written report (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.13) and the group had further discussions during AC13.

#### **m) 2011 – Year of the Bat**

Dr. Nathalie Lacour and Mr. Oliver Schall (Convenors) referred to their written report about an informal meeting held in 2007 in Budapest (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.14) and asked the IWG to meet during AC13.

### **9. Evaluation and international consultation on the suitability of an expansion of the EUROBATS Agreement area**

An ad-hoc working group was established to discuss this newly introduced agenda item.

### **10. Reports from working groups convened during the Meeting**

#### **IWG on Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels**

Participants: Group held in plenary session. Convenor: Ms. Amy Coyte for Dr. Jessa Battersby.

Confirmed IWG members: As listed in Doc.Eurobats.AC.13.5.

The Parties had agreed at AC12 that the guidelines should be made available following the AC13. However there was clear concern from a number of Parties that due to

unforeseen reasons they had not been able to forward their information and therefore information was missing at this stage and that the document contained some inaccuracies and out of date information.

The Parties agreed to work through these concerns via convenors for each chapter during the AC Meeting. The agreed way forward was to add an Executive Summary to the guidelines clarifying that this was an evolving document and that case studies were for illustrative purposes only.

The Global Mammal Assessment Distribution Maps from the IUCN had been used in the document and it would be made clear that these maps were out of date and that readers should refer to source or the most up to date literature. This would be clarified in the guidelines. The maps would be presented at a larger resolution in the document and without political borders.

The convenors of the chapters would incorporate the comments presented to them at the AC13 Meeting and pass these on to Dr. Jessa Battersby by 25 September 2008.

Denmark and Sweden would pass on final amendments with regards to the extra method by 25 September 2008; Slovenia and Croatia would pass on final comments by 25 September 2008.

Dr. Jessa Battersby would incorporate the above and carry out final amendments. The guidelines would then be published on the EUROBATS website as soon as possible. Parties were encouraged to send photographs of species to Dr. Jessa Battersby by 25 September 2008.

The Interim Working Group on Monitoring Guidelines would then review the document at the next AC and discuss the possibility of producing a printed publication.

#### The Pan European Monitoring of Bats in Underground Sites

The IWG confirmed that it supported the general approach to this project as outlined by Mr. Roman Guziak in his presentations. All agreed on the approach to managing the project i.e via a BatLife structure consisting of NGO's. The next stage was to employ a fundraiser to submit the project to funders. Amy Coyte reported that Defra had provided funds to support this work.

#### The Future of the Group

The group will continue and the remit is to:

Review the Monitoring Guidelines with the aim to investigate how to keep them updated;

Take an overview on the Pan European Monitoring Project of Underground Sites;

Discuss further the Pan European Monitoring Initiative.

## **IWG on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management**

### Present at the Meeting:

Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (Convenor, UK), Dr. Mihaela Antofie (Romania), Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Bat Research and Protection Group, Ukraine), Dr. Peter Boye (Germany), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Mr. Kjell Isaksen (NZF, Norway), Dr. Davit Yavruyan (Armenia), Ms. Dina Kovač (BIUS, Croatia), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Ms. Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Mr. Jacques Pir (Luxembourg), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Ms. Petra Žvorc (Croatian Biospeleological Society).

### Permanent members:

The permanent membership of this IWG was as listed in Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.5 except for Ms. Andrea Stefan (Croatia) who had moved to a new post and was therefore no longer available.

The group met to discuss the draft forestry leaflet that had been circulated to permanent members of the group. Some changes, clarifications and additions were made to the good practice guidance and it was agreed that one or two more species examples should be added, depending on the space available. Dr. Russo volunteered to prepare an example of *B. barbastellus*. Some pictures donated by members of the group were chosen for the leaflet and some more pictures were offered by other members of the group. The Convenor would now make the agreed changes to the text and send the final text to the Secretariat for development into a leaflet.

## **IWG on Bat Migration**

As new Convenor Dino Scaravelli (Republic of San Marino) met with 10 participants: Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Bat Research and Protection Group, Ukraine), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Mr. Branko Karapandza (MUSTELA, Republic of Serbia), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands), Dr. Gunars Petersons (Latvia), Mr. Primož Presetnik (CKFF, Slovenia), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway).

The Convenor recalled the four tasks from the previous work of the IWG, that were accepted:

- 1) To identify the long-distance migrants;
- 2) To analyse available information on long-distance migrants regarding timing and distribution of migration;

- 3) To develop a questionnaire in order to collect data on migration routes (flyways), use of habitats during migration – „stopover places of concentrations“ (including feeding areas, mating roosts, etc.) – and collect data on known and potential barriers/obstacles to migration;
- 4) Find out gaps in knowledge and needs for future research.

The long-distance migrants were previously named as follows: *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, *Nyctalus leisleri*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *Vespertilio murinus*, *Pipistrellus nathusii*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus/pygmaeus*. But due to the importance of the species and its international movements a special account was reserved to migration patterns of *Miniopterus schreibersii*.

The convenor would send an email to all previous members of the IWG to get a confirmation for their permanent membership.

A revision of questionnaires and a check of which countries still have to answer would be done and a specific questionnaire be circulated about *Miniopterus*.

In the previous meeting the work was divided by species as following:

	Name of the species	Member of IWG	Additional experts are needed
1.	<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	Marié-Jo Dubourg-Savage	Simone Vergari, Gianni Dondini, Peter Estok
2.	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> ,	Gunārs Petersons	+
3.	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Josef Chytil	+
4.	<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	Lena Godlevska, Per Ole Syvertsen	
5.	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Gunārs Petersons, Peter Lina	
6.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus/pygmaeus</i>	Peter Lina, Milan Paunović, Laurent Biraschi	Jacques Pir
7.	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage	Luisa Rodrigues, Zoltán Biharí

With the same species concept the group also wanted to collect a review of methods available for migration study and in particular new genetic and other techniques.

A special effort would be made to evaluate the very important work recently done in Germany as reported by colleagues.

The group recognised also the importance of an inventory of different projects involving migration of bats that could be created with the inputs of questionnaires and on bat expert knowledge.

The group decided to establish close contacts with other similar IWGs of sister conventions in order to coordinate a more comprehensive strategy along the range of involved species.

Furthermore the group intended to review the work with a first milestone at the end of February 2009 in order achieve results before the next AC Meeting.

## **IWG on Autecological studies for Priority Species**

Participants: Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (Convenor, France), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Mr. Branko Karapandza (MUSTELA, Republic of Serbia), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic of San Marino), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania).

Observer: Ms. Maria Bodova (Slovak Republic)

In 20 minutes, the participants of the IWG reviewed the two issues presented in Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.9. Some good suggestions were provided to obtain some missing answers to the questionnaire on roost choice. Then it was agreed to prepare an enlarged and updated English version of the third part of the booklet published in the frame of the French Life-Nature project (identification of foraging areas of the three priority species and guidelines for their management). This work, co-ordinated by the Convenor of the IWG, would hopefully be considered for a further publication in the EUROBATS Publication Series.

## **IWG on the Protection of Overground Roosts**

Dr. Ferdia Marnell, Mr. Primož Presetnik and Ms. Christine Boye met to discuss the publication of the report. It was planned to make good progress on this in the coming months and to have the guideline document published as EUROBATS Publication Series No. 4 early in 2009.

## **IWG on the Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock**

The permanent members of the IWG are:

Mr. Tony Hutson (Convenor, IUCN, UK), Mr. Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands), Mr. Jacques Pir (Luxembourg), Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN, UK), Dr. Roger Ransome (UK), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic of San Marino), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat Protection Association).

Participants during AC13:

Mr. Tony Hutson (Convenor, IUCN, UK), Dr. Jasja Dekker (VZZ, The Netherlands), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Prof. Branko Micevski (Macedonia, FYR), Mr. Jacques Pir (Luxembourg), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic of San Marino), Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT, UK).

The IWG discussed a number of outstanding points and agreed final moves to complete its report. With respect to a possible resolution it was felt that the matter was not of sufficient importance to merit a specific resolution. It was agreed that it would be better to seek to feed into the IWG on Critical Feeding Areas and that the report or its essential information and guidelines could be included in the report of that group, perhaps as an Appendix. The Convenor would discuss this with the Convenor of the Critical Feeding Areas IWG.

## **IWG on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes**

### Members of the IWG (revised in AC13):

Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Convenor, Finland), Dr. Jasja Dekker (VZZ, The Netherlands), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), Mr. Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Dr. Anthony J. Mitchell-Jones (UK), Mr. Jacques Pir (Luxembourg), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Henry Schofield (UK), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway).

### Others present in the meeting of the IWG:

Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Dr. Peter Boye (Germany), Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands).

### Terms of reference

Referring to the Resolution 4.9, point 4: Foraging habitats; to produce a synthesis of methods used to study the critical feeding areas and commuting routes and to produce guidance for the national guidelines for bat habitat conservation.

### Meeting in the AC13 session

First the species list was checked to see how many species accounts texts were available (17) and what was still missing. New group members volunteered to write about species they were specialised in. The group then discussed about the scope and process of the work. For some people the draft model species text was not detailed enough and was missing aspects like regional variation. Others pointed out the importance of having general rules of bat habitat conservation and wanted to move on from the species accounts texts to the other parts of the guidance documents.

### Future work

As it was already agreed in the previous meeting of the IWG and as the group had worked with the species accounts texts, the group shall continue with the species texts



to have at least the common and “easy” species covered and then start producing a synthesis of important habitats, the process of identifying them and an introduction for the guidance.

### **IWG Bats as Indicators**

Meeting participants: Dr. Karen Haysom (Convenor, BCT, UK), Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Bat Research and Protection Group, Ukraine), Dr. Jasja Dekker (VZZ, The Netherlands), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN, UK), Mr. Branko Karapandza (MUSTELA, Republic of Serbia), Dr Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Prof. Branko Micevski (Macedonia, FYR), Dr Dino Scaravelli (Republic of San Marino), Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT, UK), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat Protection Association).

Confirmed members as per existing list with the addition of Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Bat Research and Protection Group, Ukraine), Dr. Jasja Dekker (VZZ, The Netherlands), Antoaneta Oprisan (Romania), Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT, UK). Visitors: Dr. Tony Hutson (IUCN, UK), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway).

The meeting followed the structure:

- Introductions to the IWG terms of reference;
- Review of Actions from last Meeting (AC12);
- Discussions about current initiatives;
- Next steps.

#### Review of Actions from last Meeting (AC12).

The majority of actions set at AC12 had been covered (Note that actions at the previous meeting were ordered according to the framework of the CBD headlines). Several items required further action or prompted group discussions:

##### *CBD 6 Area of agriculture/forestry under sustainable management*

Karen Haysom reported that she was aware of current Forestry Commission UK interest in the concept of developing bat indicators for UK forests. The group discussed several concerns that in east and Mediterranean Europe forestry activities were purely economic in focus and there was little overlap with biodiversity protection. The group felt this was also the case with agriculture.

*Action:* Dr. Karen Haysom to contact the Convenor of the IWG on Bats and Forests to explore common areas of interest.

### *CBD 9 Impact of climate change*

The group discussed the results of the UK BTO consortium report to Defra on Indicators of the Impact of Climate Change on Migratory Species and distributed information on the three (global) bat indicators that were proposed in that report.

- *Action:* Mr. Tony Hutson to circulate details of the other draft bat indicators that were not included in the final version of the BTO report
- *Action:* everyone to send suggestions and comments concerning the BTO report to Mr. Tony Hutson.

### *CBD 11 & 12 Connectivity of ecosystems and water quality*

Ms. Daniela Hamidović produced references on the topic in collaboration with Prof. Wieslaw Bogdanowicz. The group discussed the potential value and feasibility of using bats as indicators of the quality of water bodies/riparian systems. There was a general feeling that this may be more readily adopted as a tool by policymakers.

*Action:* Karen Haysom to distribute the reference lists to all the members of the group.

### *CBD 14 & 15 Funding biodiversity & public awareness and participation.*

A questionnaire specifically to collect information of this kind had not been circulated because it was felt that this information would be more easily collected by modification of the national reports, to avoid putting undue extra work on delegates.

*Recommendation:* The IWG recommended that EUROBATS consider modifying the template of national reports to provide a standardized option to report information on (i) funding of bat projects (ii) number of public awareness activities, and (iii) participation e.g. number of volunteers working for bats.

### Discussion on Recent /Current Initiatives

Karen Haysom circulated information on the new UK Biodiversity Indicator on populations of widespread bats.

The group discussed the BCT report to EEA on Developing a methodology for using bats as indicators. The need for more opportunities to exchange information both on monitoring schemes and the development of indicators was discussed and agreed.

### General remarks and recommendations

*Recommendation:* The IWG recommends holding an international workshop on bats as indicators for policy makers, people involved in existing monitoring schemes, and bat experts. A workshop covering potential species and technical aspects of indicator development would be of value in building capacity and working towards the wider establishment of bats as indicators.

## Next Steps

The IWG feels that the use of bats as indicators could strengthen their arguments for adopting monitoring schemes in discussions with their governments. Although the IWG was not working towards a formal output at present the group felt that the IWG had value in supporting members who wished to further develop their interest in the use of indicators.

*Action:* To continue the work of the group.

## **IWG impact of roads and others traffic infrastructures on bats**

### Participants:

Dr. Nathalie Lacour (Convenor, France), Ms. Nigar Adurahmanova (Azerbaijan), Ms. Maria Bodova (Slovak Republic), Ms. Amy Coyte (BCT, United Kingdom), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Mr. Kjell Isaksen (NZF, Norway), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Ms. Jean Matthews (UK), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Luisa Rodriguez (Portugal), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic of San Marino), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat Protection Association).

### Aims (reminder)

To take into account the protection of bats and minimizing the impact of roads and other infrastructures.

### Objectives (reminder)

- Collect and review the different studies, scientific literature and impact assessment reports available on bat mortality, habitat fragmentation relating to roads, railways etc.
- Collect and reviews..... (to be completed)
- Produce general guidelines (to be completed),
- Prepare a resolution (to be completed).

### Work made during AC13

The last Advisory Committee agreed to focus the work on the impact of roads. Other structures such as railways, airports may be considered later.

The questionnaire had been elaborated (26 questions) on 4 items. 16 countries answered. This was not enough to make conclusions about the real impact of roads, and the remaining 32 countries were kindly requested to reply to the questionnaire by November 2008, even if they had no information.

The group thanked France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Italy, Ireland, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, eastern Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom for having provided input.

In some questionnaires references of the relevant studies had been indicated in particular for France, Germany, Ireland, Poland and Ukraine. Switzerland put the Museum of Geneva as the reference.

Some guidelines were already available: Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

#### Work planned before the next Advisory Committee

The work was divided in sub-tasks. Seven persons endorsed the responsibility to report on different subjects:

- 1) Literature research: Mr. Primož Presetnik and Dr. Dino Scaravelli (and Dr. Grzegorz Lesiński);
- 2) Drafting guidelines: Dr. Aurora Dibra and Ms. Jean Matthews;
- 3) Impacts on bats: Ms. Jean Matthews (questionnaire section);
- 4) Facilities and/or measures to reduce impacts : Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (questionnaire section):
- 5) Taking into account during construction : Ms. Maria Bodova (questionnaire section);
- 6) Provide a table for reference for collating information from questionnaire: Dr. Dino Scaravelli.

It was expected that at the beginning of November 2008, every one would be able to send the draft report about his/her subject to the Convenor.

The Convenor would inform the members of the group who were not at the Meeting on progress achieved.

#### **IWG on Light Pollution**

##### Members of the IWG as revised at AC13:

Mr. Ludo Holsbeek (Convenor, Belgium), Mr. Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Dr. Edmée Engel (Luxembourg), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), Ms. Anna Práger (Hungary), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat Protection Association), Ms. Triinu Torv (Estonia).

### Participants during AC13:

Mr. Ludo Holsbeek (Convenor, Belgium), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), Ms. Dina Kovać (BIUS, Croatia), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat Protection Association), Ms. Triinu Torv (Estonia), Ms. Petra Žvorc (CBSS, Croatia).

The Intersessional Working Group on Light Pollution convened for the second time during the 13th Meeting of the EUROBATS AC in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

The members confirmed that, in terms of a continuously economically expanding society, with a growing mobility and expanding human habitation, light pollution was an issue that deserved attention, not only for bats, but for numerous vertebrate and invertebrates species that should be taken into account in any risk assessment process relevant for bats.

There was, however, a great lack of science based evidence of impact of light on behaviour (including flight and foraging patterns), or on roost, nursing or hibernation sites of bats.

The IWG highly recommended research to be commissioned on the impact of light pollution and methods to mitigate possible impacts.

In times of energy over-consumption and global warming, and given the proven or suspected ecological impact of light pollution, all steps that could be taken to limit the loss of light energy should be encouraged.

Initiatives such as in the UK, where the lighting industry were developing and evaluating new technologies to decrease the overall energy consumption and directionality (hence the energy loss) of street lights, were highly welcomed.

On the issue of street lights, even when not straight-forward proven to have negative effects on bats, UV transmitting devices should be avoided. Replacing omni-directional street lights and larger spots by directional devices was an equally easy measure to take, or to impose. This would, however, not mitigate the possible barrier effect of street lighting on bat routes.

The IWG recommended that technical research on lighting should take into account the visual spectrum of bats and other night-dependent species. It was also unclear whether or not, directional lighting towards the ground would remove (some) of the impact on bat flight routes.

The IWG recommended that light impact assessment had to be included in any relevant impact assessment process. This applied directly to important bat roosts, nurseries and underground sites and to flight routes leading to them. Such impact assessment should

not be limited to the site of interest itself, but also to the surroundings. The IWG would debate further on the size of a perimeter that might be appropriate for this purpose, and how perimeters might depend on the particular protection status of species. The IWG would contact the IWG on Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes on the issue on bat home ranges.

In particular cases, this might be broadened to foraging grounds (EU Habitats Directive and other) that are vital for the survival of specific high value colonies.

The principles described above necessarily had to be translated into binding legislation. The IWG recommended, in terms of climate change and halting the loss of biodiversity targets, that specific kinds of excessive lighting e.g. sky beamers or large spotlights over waterways should be banned on the shorter term.

The IWG recommended member states to elaborate and encourage technological improvements, research on light pollution as well as on the further identification of particularly vulnerable bat species.

## **IWG on Year of the bats**

### Participants:

Dr. Nathalie Lacour (Convenor, France), Mr. Oliver Schall (Convenor, Germany), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Mr. Jacques Pir (Luxembourg).

### Introduction

A report about the small working group held in 2007 in Budapest has been circulated (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.14) thanks to Germany.

Another document, written by Dr. Peter Boye (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.17) has exposed different points.

### Discussion in the IWG

In the IWG the pros and cons of the different goals of the event Year of the Bat have been discussed. In particular it was discussed how far EUROBATS members and the Secretariat should take a role in the organisation of the Year of the Bat beyond Europe. Further involvement and responses of other EUROBATS member states appeared necessary in a plenary discussion but time was not available for that.

The group hoped that thanks to the Year of the Bat other countries of Europe would consider joining the EUROBATS Agreement and also, North American and African countries for example, would consider joining the CMS. But do the Parties of

EUROBATS agree with the idea? Is it possible to decide/know which countries will be contacted and for which objectives and programmes?

Different international events in 2010 and 2011 are already foreseen and can be considered by the Parties as occasion to give publicity to the Year of the Bat:

- Second half of 2010: International Bat Research Conference and Meeting of the Parties to EUROBATS in Prague and potential launch of the Year of the Bat;
- Summer 2011 (Lithuania) : European Bats Research Symposium;
- Presumably autumn 2011: Conference of the Parties of the Convention of Migratory Species;
- December 2011: 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUROBATS.

But the principal goal is to improve protection of bats. So the framework subject “Bats as cute neighbours in house and garden” is proposed to the member states. Member states should consider how the Year of the Bat might be best brought forward within their range. It means that they have to propose ideas of events to organise in their country during 2011 to make known bats, the status of protection, and the ways to help them.

The IWG proposes the Secretariat to write to countries:

- To inform them officially about 2011 Year of the Bat;
- Get answers on the issues to be solved;
- And to get information, help and foreseen activities of the members states.

A draft for this purpose should be sent to the members of the working group for consent. The leaflet about the EUROBATS Agreement, actually available in English and German, would be very useful in others languages for this event.

It could be interesting to have on the EUROBATS web page all the different tools (posters, leaflets, books, films... *etc*). A question is open about copyright.

### **Ad hoc working group on the Geographical Scope of the Agreement**

#### Participants:

Mr. Tony Hutson (Convenor), Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Bat Research and Protection Group, Ukraine), Dr. Peter Boye (Germany), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Ms. Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Ms. Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Dr. Gunars Petersons (Latvia), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Mr. Oliver Schall (Germany), Ms. Triinu Torv (Estonia).

An ad-hoc working group on the Geographical Scope of the Agreement was convened by Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN) and welcomed the report on the research project from Germany (Doc.EUROBATS.AC13.15) and reported that

1. while a scientific project involving DNA to assess migration levels beyond the Agreement's current boundaries should be encouraged, discussion on this was referred to the Migration IWG; and
2. for the time being, the decisions of MoP5, Resolution 11, with respect to relationships with range states outside the Agreement area, should be accepted.

#### **11. Date and venue of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee**

The Secretariat informed that Croatia had offered to host the next meeting in case that no other country would invite. The Netherlands also expressed interest and would look into the possibility to host the meeting.

#### **12. Any other business**

The delegate from Georgia thanked the Secretariat for its special efforts to make his participation possible.

Germany drew attention to the upcoming International Symposium on Bat Migration to be held from 16 to 18 January 2009 in Berlin.

#### **13. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting**

The Record of the Meeting was adopted by consensus.

#### **14. Close of Meeting**

The Chair expressed his thanks towards the Romanian hosts to enable EUROBATS to hold the Meeting back to back with the 11<sup>th</sup> European Bat Research Symposium. He also thanked the delegates for their valuable contributions and the input of their knowledge about bats and their experience with bat conservation making the required results in the Meeting to carry forward the implementation of the conservation of bats in the geographical scope of the Agreement. He also thanked the staff of Eurobats, Mr. Andreas Streit, Ms. Christine Boye, Ms. Tine Meyer-Cord and Ms Ayhan Polat for the tremendous work they did with the preparations of the Meeting, for the ongoing support during the Meeting and for the post-Meeting work that still has to be done. In addition he thanked the audiovisual technician for his support. And last but not least he expressed his gratitude towards the Vice-Chair, Dr. Luisa Rodrigues, for her skilled support.

The Meeting was then closed at 21:10.



## 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Cluj, Romania, 23 – 24 August 2008

### List of Participants



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13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Cluj, Romania, 23 – 24 August 2008

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Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels	<p>Dr. Jessamy Battersby (United Kingdom)*          Mr. Serghei Andreev (Republic of Moldova)          Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France)          Dr. Zoltan Bihari (Hungary)          Ms. Amy Coyte (BCT, United Kingdom)          Dr. Edmée Engel (Luxembourg)          Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation)          Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatian Natural          History Museum)          Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany)          Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, United Kingdom)          Mr. Anthony M. Hutson (IUCN, UK)          Dr. Katherine Jones (BCT, United Kingdom)          Mr. Branko Karapandza (MUSTELA, Republic          of Serbia)          Mr. Andrzej Kepel (SALAMANDRA, Poland)          Mr. Herman Limpens (The Netherlands)          Mr. Lauri Lutsar (Estonian Fund for Nature)          Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland)          Dr. Matti Masing (Estonian Bat Group)          Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia)          Mr. Edvardas Mickevičius (Lithuanian          Theriological Society)          Dr. Dumitru Murariu (Romania)          Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia)          Mr. Jacques Pir (Luxembourg)          Mr. Primož Presetnik (CKFF, Slovenia)          Dr. Luísa Rodrigues (Portugal)          Mr. Bernd-Ulrich Rudolph (Germany)          Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy)          Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic of San Marino)          Dr. Friedrike Spitzenberger (Austria)          Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat          Protection Association)          Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia)</p>

<p>Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management</p>	<p>Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom)*  Ms. Mihaela Antofie (Romania)  Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Bat Research and Protection Group, Ukraine)  Dr. Peter Boye (Germany)  Dr. Johnny de Jong (Sweden)  Ms. Aurora Dibra (Albania)  Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation)  Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany)  Mr. Peter Kanuch (Slovak Academy of Sciences)  Dr. Matti Masing (Estonian Bat Group)  Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia)  Ms. Marie Nedinge (Sweden)  Mr. Jacques Pir (Luxembourg)  Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy)  Mr. Laurent Tillon (France)  Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia)  Dr. Nikola Tvrtković (Croatia)</p>
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