

Report of the EUROBATS Secretariat  
to the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee to  
CMS



**Agreement Membership**

Effective 14 January 2015 Israel has become the 36<sup>th</sup> Party to the Agreement and the 1<sup>st</sup> Party from the extended Agreement Area. The Secretariat continues to receive indications from a number of additional states preparing the accession to the Agreement.

**Outreach**

The various volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series and Leaflets continue to be highly demanded:

- The General Leaflet about EUROBATS has been revised and reprinted. 5,000 copies in English, 5,000 in German and 2,500 in French.
- Reprint Publication Series No. 5, 500 copies in English.
- Design and print of Publication Series No.6 (Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects – Review 2014), 2,000 copies in English (launched in March 2015). French and German versions are under preparation and will become available in early 2016.
- Layout and Publication of the EUROBATS Implementation Guide (launched in March 2015).

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.

**Special Projects**

In 2014/2015 the Secretariat was able to finance and co-ordinate the following projects through EPI funding:

- Developing Monitoring Programmes and Analysing Trends in Bat Populations in the Dinarics – capacity building workshop, Skradin Croatia

- Trans-border collaboration in bat migration research in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region. The pilot project (Ukraine);
- Free-of-charge dissemination of scientific knowledge to European bat specialists through the World Bat Library (Geneva) and the EUROBATS network;
- Capacity Building for bat species monitoring in Northwest Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia);
- Survey of distribution and conservation of bats in Armenia;
- *Plecotus sardus* on Sardinia - from knowledge to conservation;
- International Workshop “Improving Forest Management for Bats”.

Most of these projects became possible thanks to voluntary contributions from Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

In addition to the projects the Secretariat has supported the 4<sup>th</sup> Berlin Bat Meeting in March 2015.

### **Joint EU-EUROBATS Species Action Plan on Bats**

Already in 2013 the development of a joint Species Action Plan on Bats has started between the European Commission and EUROBATS. 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 the near future.

### **EUROBATS Meetings in 2015**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee has taken place in Budva, Montenegro from 23 to 25 March 2015.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee has taken place in Rome, Italy on 28 April 2015.