

Dear all,

Welcome to the first BatLife Europe information bulletin.

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1. Launch of BatLife Europe

BatLife Europe was successfully launched at the XIIth European Bat Research Symposium in Vilnius, Lithuania on 23 August 2011 .

2. Members

We now have a further 11 NGOs whose membership has been approved by the board of trustees:-

- **Czech Republic:** Czech Bat Conservation Trust (CESON)
- **Egypt:** Nature Conservation Egypt
- **Estonia:** Suurkõrv
- **Hungary:** Nature Foundation
- **Lithuania:** Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation
- **Norway:** Norwegian Zoological Society (NZF)
- **Russian Federation:** Russian Bat Research Group
- **Slovak Republic:** Slovak Bat Conservation Society
- **Slovenia:** Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation (SDPVN)
- **Serbia:** Wildlife Conservation Society "Mustela"
- **Ukraine:** Ukrainian Centre for Bat Protection

With the current 17 members (see below) this brings the total number of BatLife Europe partners to 28, in 26 countries, which is great news.

- **Austria:** Austrian Coordination Centre for Bat Conservation and Research
- **Belgium:** Plecotus – Natagora Working Group
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Speleological Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Finland:** Chiropterological Society of Finland
- **France:** French Mammal Society (SFEPM)
- **Germany:** Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU); Stiftung Fledermaus
- **Ireland:** Bat Conservation Ireland
- **Italy:** Italian Mammal Society
- **Macedonia:** Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia

- **Netherlands:** Dutch Mammal Society
- **Romania:** Romanian Bat Protection Association
- **Poland:** Polish Society for Nature Conservation (Salamandra)
- **Spain:** Spanish Association for the Study and Conservation of Bats (SECEMU)
- **Switzerland:** Centre for Coordination (west) for the Study and Protection of Bats
- **UK:** Bat Conservation Trust; The Vincent Wildlife Trust

3. Trustees

At our Meeting of Partners in Vilnius on 23 August 2011 we elected 13 trustees and are currently in the process of electing the 14th and final trustee.

The new trustees have been working together by email and are searching for a way to hold conference call meetings in the near future.

4. New Initiatives

Pan European Indicator Project.

BCT, Dutch Mammal Society and Statistics Netherlands have been commissioned by European Environment Agency to develop, in partnership with BatLife Europe partners and national monitoring schemes, a prototype pan European indicator based on bat population trends at hibernation sites. This is building on from a previous BCT contract for European Environment Agency, which worked closely with the Eurobats Intersessionary Working Group on bats as Indicators.

The central aim of the project is to “Support the SEBI process in further developing the SEBI indicator 01 ‘Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species’ in order to increase the coverage of species groups included in this indicator beyond birds and butterflies”. The project work incorporates a short literature review looking for new papers on bat population trends, monitoring and indicators, correspondence with monitoring groups across Europe to update the information we collated on schemes in 2008 and fill in gaps, and working together in cooperation with other data contributing countries to develop a prototype indicator. The project will be completed by early December 2011.

The countries participating currently are UK, Netherlands, Austria, Germany (Bavaria, Thuringia), Hungary, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Portugal who are all contributing information from their hibernation monitoring programmes. Although this is a great first start, we are very aware that a much better indicator could be constructed if our timeframe was longer. We will be using the report to promote plans for indicator expansion and a first revision, hopefully in a year’s time, with a much larger group of countries involved. The longer term aim is for indicator revisions to be coordinated through BatLife Europe.

We would very much like to hear from countries who would be keen to be involved at next indicator revision, so we can highlight this in the report to EEA. Please respond to Karen Haysom khaysom@bats.org.uk.

4. For your Interest

Viruses and Bats Manual - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2407e/i2407e00.pdf>

2011 Year of the Bat Photo Contest winners - http://www.eurobats.org/YoB_photo_index.htm

You are welcome to send us information to include in future bulletins.

Best wishes,

Hannah

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