

BatLife Europe



Working together for bats and people

There are 45 species of bats in Europe, a remarkable fifth of our mammal species. Sadly, many of these species are under threat, due to habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, development, and persecution.

Who are BatLife Europe?

BatLife Europe (BLE) is an international non-governmental conservation organisation, built from a partnership of national bat conservation organisations committed to promoting the conservation of all bat species and their habitats throughout Europe. We are registered as a charity in the Netherlands.



BatLife Europe is looked after by a Board of Trustees, who are responsible for setting the strategic direction, management and reporting progress. Current trustees are: Kit Stoner, Donna Mullen, Heather Wood, Markus Melber, Marlotte Jonker, Philippe Theou, and Ulrich Hüttmeir.

What do we want to achieve?

- Identify European conservation priorities
- Develop pan-European projects
- Fundraise for international projects
- Develop best practice guidelines
- Facilitate international communication and knowledge sharing
- Assist in capacity building
- Provide support and technical advice for EUROBATS initiatives
- Co-ordinate action in relation to special threats
- Provide international support for national matters of concern
- Collect / manage data
- Assist national bodies in developing / implementing national conservation strategies
- Give international status to national NGOs

Our objectives

Our three year strategy includes the following five objectives:

- Evidence in place for effective implementation of recovery plans/ protection of bats in Europe, with a robust Pan-European monitoring programme in place.
- Improved habitat management for bats, with clear best practice for survey and development.
- Policy makers understand the need to protect bats and seek advice from experts before making decisions. Legal protection of bats and effective implementation and enforcement.
- Better understanding and appreciation of bats within Europe.
- Increased capacity within BLE, partner organisations and academic institutions.

BatLife Europe's projects

Some of the projects that BatLife Europe have launched include:

• The Noctule Count

An annual, Europe-wide survey which aims to provide a widely-accessible method for the general public, citizen-scientists and bat workers, to obtain data on the common noctule to allow us to monitor the population trends of this species.



• Bat of the Year

Trustees shortlist three species of bats each year to be nominated for our Bat of the Year. Our Partners are then asked to vote for their favourite, and postcards featuring the winning species are distributed to them. 2024's Bat of the Year was the Greater Mouse Eared Bat.

• Webinars

We organise webinar talks to aid the sharing and understanding of bat conservation projects throughout Europe. Recent talks topics include: Leisler's Bats, Bats and Windfarms, and Lesser Horseshoe Bats in Ireland. Recording of recent talks can be found on our website.

How you can get involved

We welcome input from other organisations working in the sector who wish to be involved in the partnership. As a Partner you can:

- Vote at the Partnership meetings (one vote per country)
- Nominate trustees
- Participate in BLE activities and receive our monthly Partner Update.

Visit our website for more information: www.batlife-europe.info

Or follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BatLifeEurope

