**Questionnaire – IWG EUROBATS on Quality of Assessments and Experience and Skills of Experts**

Country: The Netherlands

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Taking into account the increasing number of plans and projects with possible impacts on populations of European Bats and the therefore growing demand of environmental studies (e.g. EIA - Environmental impact assessment, SEA - Strategic environmental assessment, or other studies in the various planning projects, further all referred as “*assessment studies*”) assessing the potential impacts on bats, the Meeting of Parties decided to instruct the Advisory Committee of EUROBATS to develop criteria of the required standard experience and skills of experts assessing the impact of projects, plans and programmes on populations of European Bats. In order to collect information on the current practice within the scope of the agreement, we kindly ask you to answer the following questions.

Please underline Yes/No answers. If yes, please provide details.

**I) Basic legislation part**

**1. Does your country have legislation/guidelines for the following three areas relating to** *assessment studies* **on bats:**

a) Conducting preconstruction surveys

Yes (*please provide details (links, references)* No

There is no legislation, but there is a guideline that was developed by the Network of Ecological Consultancies, the Dutch Mammal Society and the Dutch data authority: Bat protocol 2013 (Vleermuis protocol 2013): <http://www.netwerkgroenebureaus.nl/downloads/category/20?download=175>

b) Assessments of impacts of projects/plans where bats might be concerned

Yes (*please provide details (links, references)* No

There is the Flora- and fauna-act: impact assessments of projects are obliged if bats might be concerned.

Furthermore, there is a guideline that was developed by consultancies, the Dutch mammal society and the Dutch data authority: Bat protocol 2013 (Vleermuis protocol 2013): <http://www.netwerkgroenebureaus.nl/downloads/category/20?download=175>

There are species specific standards for minimal mitigation or compensation measures for several bat species.

<http://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/agrarisch-ondernemen/beschermde-planten-dieren-en-natuur/flora-en-faunawet-ffw/ontheffing-vrijstelling/soortenstandaard/beschikbare>

c) Post-construction monitoring of projects where bats are concerned

Yes (*please provide details (links, references)* No

*If yes, please provide details: Monitoring might be prescribed when assessment has shown that mitigation is required by the authorities*

Which level? E.g. national/project level: Project level

**II) Who is doing *assessment studies* on bats and in what kind of legal framework ?**

**2. Does your country implement these legislation/guidelines (where applicable) through a licensing system/procedure for experts/consultancies that**

*If answer(s) are yes, please provide details (authorities in charge, whether licence is is permanent or not) and type of survey methods it includes (handling bats, acoustic methods, underground surveys, sampling for DNA etc.).*

a) Conduct surveys

Yes No

b) Assess impacts of projects/plans where bats might be concerned

Yes No

c) Conduct post-construction monitoring of projects where bats are concerned

Yes No

Which level? E.g. national/project level:

**3. Does your country have a list of experts/consultancies allowed to do** *assessment studies* **on bats in planning/development processes?**

Yes No

*If yes, please answer also on the following questions:*

a) What are the criteria for listing?

b) Who is responsible for preparing and keeping up-to-date this list?

c) How often is the list updated?

Which level? E.g. National/project level:

**4. Are there any defined standards for qualifications/required skills /experience for people doing** *assessment studies* **on bats in your country for the following three areas?**

a) Conducting surveys

Yes (*please provide details; links, references)* No

b) Assessments of impacts of projects/plans where bats might be concerned

Yes (*please provide details; links, references)* No

Experts need to have a degree in ecology or demonstrable experience.

<http://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/agrarisch-ondernemen/beschermde-planten-dieren-en-natuur/flora-en-faunawet-ffw/ontheffing-vrijstelling/ecologisch-deskundige>

In practice surveys, assessments, and monitoring is to be done by a skilled and experience ecologists, for example by relevant education, experience, and/or membership of a relevant NGO or the Network of Ecological Consultancies. No licencing or protection of the title of ecological consultant is in pace.

c) Post-construction monitoring of projects where bats are concerned

Yes (*please provide details; links, references)* No

Which level? E.g. national/project level

**III) Who assesses the *assessment studies* on bats?**

**5. Is the quality of** *assessment studies* **assessed in your country?**

Yes No

If yes, please provide information of responsible body, e.g.

- Governmental body

- Independent expert referee

- Other (please describe)

This has been done, but only rarely/very irregularly, by an independent expert referee

Assessments, when part of a request for permits, are assessed by the National or regional authorities, who in turn might ask an ecological consultancy to give a review or second opinion of the ecological assessment.

**6. Are there any defined standards for qualification/required skills/experience for those assessing submitted** *assessment studies* **on bats in your country?**

Yes (*please provide details)* No

**7. Is there a system in place to ensure that those involved in assessment of** *assessment studies* **are up-to-date with the newest conservation threats and solutions for bats (e.g. attending lectures, training courses, symposia/conferences)?**

Yes (*please provide details)* No