



Dear Colleague,

We wish to extend a cordial invitation to you to participate in the **3rd International Berlin Bat Meeting: Bats in the Anthropocene** to be held from 1-3 March 2013, in Berlin, Germany.

AIM

To foster an exchange of ideas among international specialists working on bats that live in landscapes formed by humans over the past hundreds and thousands of years, i.e. the Anthropocene. We are especially keen on crossing disciplinary boundaries and hope that the discussion among ecologists, physiologists, conservationists, veterinarians and medical doctors will advance the field substantially. We suggest several exciting topics as sessions or workshops. In addition, we have invited plenary speakers to review controversial and exciting developments in their respective research areas.

PLENARY TALKS (TENTATIVE TITLES)

- **Bats in the Anthropocene** (KATE JONES, U.K.)
- **Bats and emerging viral diseases** (CHRISTIAN DROSTEN, Germany)
- **Bats and windfarms** (ROBERT BARCLAY, Canada)
- **Ecosystem services of bats** (SARA BUMRUNGSRI, Thailand)

TENTATIVE LIST OF SESSIONS (CONFIRMED ORGANIZERS)

- **BATS IN DISTURBED HABITATS** (FRIEDER MAYER, Germany; MATT STRUEBIG, U.K.)
- **BATS AND URBANIZATION** (CHRISTIAN VOIGT, Germany; N.N)
- **WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME** (CRAIG WILLIS, Canada; SÉBASTIEN PUECHMAILLE, France; GUDRUN WIBBELT, Germany)
- **VIRAL DISEASES** (CHARLES RUPPRECHT, U.S.A.; JON EPSTEIN, U.S.A.)
- **BATS AND WIND ENERGY** (JENS RYDELL, Sweden; ROBERT BARCLAY, Canada)
- **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF BATS** (SARA BUMRUNGSRI, Thailand; GARY MCCRACKEN, U.S.A.)
- **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND THE CONSERVATION OF BATS** (TIGGA KINGSTON, U.S.A.; N.N)
- **ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES** (PAUL RACEY, U.K.)

You may submit abstracts for posters or oral presentations. Please note that time slots for oral presentations are limited and therefore oral presentations will be assigned on a competitive basis. Details regarding format and style will be communicated in our next call.

DEADLINES AND COSTS

The deadline for registration and abstract submission is **1. November 2012**. Expected registration fee is **70€** for regular participants and **50€** for student participants. The deadline for submission of workshop and session titles is **1. July 2012**. Please check our next call for more details.

Please let us know whether you would be interested in organizing or convening a workshop/session.

We are expecting a stimulating program with many interesting scientific presentations supplemented by an entertaining, yet informative, evening program. Please feel free to distribute this call to anyone you think might be interested in participating. We apologize in case you received this letter more than once. If you have any questions, please contact us at 3rdIBBM2013@izw-berlin.de or check the web pages www.izw-berlin.de (-> 'events', -> '3rd IBBM') or www.batlab.de. We are looking forward to seeing you in Berlin in March 2013,

PD Dr. Christian C. Voigt and Dr. Ana Popa-Lisseanu

Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin

INTERNATIONAL BERLIN BAT MEETING

BERLIN, 1-3 MARCH 2013

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

We invite speakers to present data, projects or comprehensive reviews about **Bats in the Anthropocene** in any region of the world. We propose the following sessions:

BATS IN DISTURBED HABITATS

Human activities have greatly disturbed natural ecosystems, precipitating dramatic biodiversity declines and species extinctions. Fragmentation reduces available habitat and promotes the isolation of populations. Fragments are also more susceptible to invasions by alien species, more likely to be exploited by humans due to their easier accessibility, and their ecosystem function may be severely altered. Bats have been proposed as a good indicator group of habitat disturbance owing to their high mobility, their ecological diversity, and their relatively large population sizes, which facilitate genetic population studies. We welcome contributions that analyze population and community level responses of bats to habitat disturbances.

BATS AND URBANIZATION

As human intrusion into the natural environment increases, bats and other wildlife are forced to share their habitat with us and may even feel attracted to some man-made structures. **Buildings** may offer valuable roosting sites for bats, but unfortunately, this can sometimes lead to conflicts that often end up tragically for bats. Another concern that begins only recently to be investigated is the effect of **light pollution** on bat activity. We encourage discussions on these and other challenges that bats face in an increasingly urbanized world.

EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN BATS

Over the past years and decades, bats have emerged as an important reservoir for **infectious agents** with a zoonotic potential. It is yet unclear how relevant the human encroachment into natural habitats is for virus spillovers, and to what extent bat populations suffer from emerging viral diseases. A drastic example for a devastating effect of a disease agent on bat populations is the fungus *Geomyces destructans* that continues to spread across North America. It is yet unclear if and at what geographical border the **white-nose syndrome** may come to an end in this region, and whether other continents are under threat as well. Therefore, we would like to provide a platform to discuss the most recent developments in the field of bat infectious diseases.

BATS AND WIND ENERGY

Wind energy is currently being promoted worldwide as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. However, large numbers of bats and birds are killed at wind energy facilities globally. How this source of mortality will affect bat populations in the long run is still unclear. In recent years, advances have

been made in understanding the causes for the high number of bat fatalities at wind farms, which bat species are more likely to be affected, and what environmental variables trigger fatal events. There is still an urgent need, though, to elaborate clear guidelines for mitigating bat fatalities at wind farms and to make these guidelines legally binding for wind energy developers and governments. We wish to provide room for discussion on these important challenges.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF BATS

Ecosystem services provided by animals are increasingly considered to be of economic value and essential for the well-being of humans. Yet, despite representing the second largest mammalian taxon, bats are largely neglected in their relevance for ecosystem functioning. Recent studies underline that insect-feeding bats are important for the top-down control of herbivorous insects. Seed-dispersing bats are important for forest regeneration and thus ecosystem health. Finally, nectar-feeding bats are highly relevant for cross-pollination of economically important plants in agriculture and silviculture. We would like to discuss the most recent findings in this rapidly developing field of bat research.

INTEGRATING RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO PROMOTE BAT CONSERVATION

The public awareness of bats, their conservation status in a dramatically changing landscape, and their zoonotic potential has a large impact on bat conservation. Stakeholders, conservationists and politicians should all be involved when strategies against declining bat populations are planned. Also, bat conservationists should improve the public perception of bats, for example via outreach programs in schools. This session will focus on how to reach the public opinion to mitigate the conflict between bats and humans in a rapidly changing world.

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

We encourage participants to take part in a discussion about current challenges and future perspectives for **Bats in the Anthropocene**.