



Trafikverket, Swedish Biodiversity Centre and Swedish IENE invite to Seminar in Stockholm Tuesday 27 November 2018

New: optional bat specialist meeting Wed 28 Nov in Uppsala, see below

Bats are impacted by roads and railways through barrier effects, collisions, noise and light disturbance, and direct loss of habitats. The general knowledge is however limited about these nocturnal mammals. Bats occur in basically all habitats and landscape types, but for most species we know little about demography and population density or the significance of the above impacts.

In the same time, **bats have an extraordinary position in conservation** with all species listed in the EU Habitats directive (in Sweden implemented by the Species Conservation Ordinance, *Artskyddsförordningen*). Any development – urban, industrial, infrastructure – is prohibited if it can jeopardize the conservation status of bats.

Accordingly, bats **are often a particular limitation** to infrastructure development. Because of the limited knowledge of bat population ecology, it may be difficult to prove that a **new road or railway** does not have a significant effect on bat conservation status. Also it is difficult for the developer to propose appropriate mitigation or compensation measures. There is an obvious risk for erroneous decisions, either allowing new developments that compromises bat conservation or inducing conservation action that lacks foundation.

Moreover, conservation guidelines from the Swedish Transport Administration state that important conflicts with bat conservation along **existing roads and railways** should be known, and measures taken to minimize this conflict.

Legislation and guidelines hence point out the urgent need for better knowledge of bat ecology and of the impacts from road and railways. Recent research may help filling that need.

The goals of this seminar are to:

- present current knowledge about impacts from roads and railways on Swedish bats,
- present useful decision tools to minimize and mitigate these impacts,
- discuss when and where conservation action is needed and when not.

Focus is on the Swedish situation, but because the impacts and legislation is largely similar in all EU countries we give the seminar in English to allow international participation (however with an opportunity to ask and discuss in Swedish).

Program

A detailed program will be available by the end of October, including the following speakers:

- *Anna Berthinussen (Conservation First, UK)*
- *Johnny de Jong (Swedish Biodiversity Centre, SLU Sweden)*
- *Fabien Claireau (Muséum national d'Histoire Naturelle, France/Greifswald university, Germany)*
- *Morten Elmeros (National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark)*
- *Manisha Bhardwaj (SLU Sweden and University of Melbourne, Australia)*

Part of the day will be dedicated to a discussion around questions such as:

- *How has recent research helped assessing the impacts of roads and railways on bats?*
- *How can noise and light disturbance be mitigated?*
- *Can bat research provide any functional tool to guide decisions on new infrastructure and on retro-fitting of existing infrastructure?*
- *Can any proxy (“stand-in”) be used until better population data is gained?*
- *What risks do we face with the lack of knowledge?*
- *What are the most urgent knowledge gaps that remain?*

Time and place: Tuesday 27 Nov 2018 from 9.30 to ca 16.00 at Norra Latin, Stockholm City Conference Centre (www.stoccc.se; 5 min walk from the central station). Drop-in with coffee buffet from 8.30.

Registration: at <http://sweden.iene.info/nyheter/seminar-on-bats-and-infrastructure-27-november-2018/> no later than 9 Nov. Cost price 450 SEK will be billed in connection to the seminar. The number of participants will be limited.

Additional meeting Wednesday 28 November at Campus Ultuna, Uppsala

In connection to the seminar, we invite all bat specialists and other interested to continue the discussion in the day after. There are many issues of importance for bat research and monitoring that cannot be covered in the first day. This second's day meeting will be open for questions and presentations about new field methodology, analysis techniques, planning tools, research needs, international cooperation and knowledge exchange. The contents of the meeting should be defined by the participants, and we propose to have prepared talks and questions in the morning and continue with a free discussion after lunch. We invite anyone that wants to make a presentation or bringing up a subject to let us know, so we can make a draft agenda.

This second day is optional and free of charge, but all pay their own lunch at the university restaurant. We end in time for everyone to make it home in the same day. No additional registration is required – we warmly welcome all seminar participants to “us” at the SLU!

Welcome!

J-O Helldin, Swedish Biodiversity Centre, SLU & coordinator IENE Sweden

Johnny de Jong, Swedish Biodiversity Centre, SLU

For questions and more info, please contact J-O Helldin, +46 70 607 53 22, j-o.helldin@slu.se