

40th Board meeting of EBCC in Nijmegen (Netherlands), 11-12 November 2010

Present: Ruud Foppen (RF, Chairman), David Noble (DN, Vice Chairman/Treasurer), Anny Anselin (AA, BCN Editor), Åke Lindström (ÅL, Delegate Officer), Hans-Günther Bauer (GB, Secretary), Henning Hjelldberg (HH), Lluís Brotons (LB, SMOG/SCALES), Mikhail Kalyakin (MK), Oskars Keišs (OK), Verena Keller (VK). Observers: Ian Burfield (IB, BirdLife International), Mark Eaton (ME, RSPB), Jana Škorpilova (JŠ, PECBMS), Francesc Sardà (FS, SCALES), Petr Voříšek (PV, PECBMS). Additional guest during TOPs 16+17: Henk Sierdsema.

TOP 1: Chairman's welcome to the Nijmegen meeting.

Chairman welcomes all Board members and observers to the new SOVON headquarters. He expresses his special gratitude for the fact that all 10 elected Board members and 5 observers could make it to the meeting. Since quite a few members see each other for the first time, an introduction round is held. The Nijmegen agenda has been rearranged, with TOPs 18 and 19 moved forward, and TOP 16 and 17 moved to later on in the second day. A picture of new Board is planned for Friday, during one of the breaks.

TOP 2: Minutes of 39th Board meeting, checking back on Action points

- The two parts of the paper on the Articles of Association have been merged (Top 2 in minutes of 39th meeting); the papers are put on the website
 - The paper on the financial situation of EBCC is still missing, but a financial report will be provided by RF under TOP 6
 - AA will report on BCN under TOP 9
 - The registration of new Board members will be carried out during the day
- All other actions of the last minutes will be dealt with under the respective TOPs below

The minutes of the 39th Board Meeting are agreed upon unanimously.

Action: GB has to provide a short version of the last minutes (of both Board and Annual General meetings) for the website

TOP 3: Looking back on the Cáceres Conference

Agreed that the Cáceres conference was very good. Programme very fine, venue perfect, organisation very professional at the venue itself, but in the initial stages, especially with respect to acceptance of oral or poster presentations, communication was insufficient ("mix-up"). Next time the conference committee should be more stringent about time schedule and paper acceptance and deliver several months before the conference starts. Also, the poster session did not work particularly well, as people did not really attend it at the set time. The session was not dedicated enough, more effort is needed to allow for discussions; all depends on time schedule, because competition with birding excursions could spoil the session; probably best to shorten poster sessions or put them in between important conference items, and provide extra incentive (e.g. wine, snacks or other refreshments). But good to stick to two parallel oral sessions if possible, as this has worked fine.

Profile of EBCC has been raised by the conference. Problem that the increased profile could interfere with the "familiarity" of the meetings. In order to keep this familiarity, a maximum of 250 participants at EBCC conferences would be called for. However, given the rising profile of EBCC, and since the waterbird monitoring should be introduced into the scope of the next conference, we need to discuss our priorities again at the next Board meeting.

Committee of Cáceres conference reports that proceedings are almost completed, 11 papers were accepted for ARDEOLA, and in November all papers will be given to the editors in order for publication early next year (this would make it one of the fastest published proceedings so far).

Wolfgang Fiedler and VK (plus other EOU colleagues) have produced a “bible” on how to prepare a conference, which is always passed on to future EOU conference organisers, who update it in the light of their own experience. VK will check with EOU, but thinks it would not be a problem to share this potentially very valuable resource with EBCC. Important to separate Conference committee from the Scientific committee, which is solely responsible for the papers presented and their publication (if need be). But also important that these two committees work closely together.

Action: VK to check with EOU and hopefully provide this “conference bible” to EBCC Board for discussion and comments and then to the Conference organisers of Kayseri, Chiavenna, Cáceres for further comments.

TOP 4: Proceedings of Chiavenna Conference

News from Lorenzo indicates that the publication of the Chiavenna Proceedings is well on its way. The printing process apparently started in October.

Action: ME shall ask Lorenzo, when Proceedings are likely to appear.

TOP 5: Next EBCC Conference 2013, first preparation

Zoltan Szabo will prepare next conference, currently chooses venue within Cluj and about to fix the time period etc. Conference will probably take place in autumn rather than in spring 2013, as students will be on holiday during autumn. But beware, there will be an EOU conference end of August 2013 (undisclosed venue yet) which could clash with EBCC’s conference.

So far, Zoltan didn’t get back to RF, who will ask him to join next Board meeting to discuss these items.

Action: VK to decide whether to invite Zoltan to the next meeting, RF to send important discussion items around beforehand.

TOP 6: Financial situation, expenditures in 2011, new Treasury Commission

RF distributes short note for Board members; not a lot has happened since last meeting. Financial situation of EBCC is virtually unchanged and the balance positive.

Current budget runs to some €6,500, part of which is available for expenditure in the upcoming months.

RF will ask some institutions for small contributions towards EBCC and expects some income from this.

But currently there are not many more options to raise any money. Discussion arises (by LB) about

EBCC being more strongly involved in the project groups by arranging conferences, coordinate work, provide expertise etc. and be financially compensated for this work. Opportunities like these could arise

from LIFEWATCH, SCALES, SMOG, NEW ATLAS etc., but RF reports that some of these (especially

LIFEWATCH) now seem less promising to deliver any resources than was anticipated after discussion

session at ECCB in Prague (2009). IB noted that EURAPMON (ESF-funded raptor monitoring programme)

might be a possibility, as might the COST budget line (also managed by ESF) – but both of these aim to

build and support research networks by covering the costs of expert meetings, etc. rather than funding

core staff capacity. Nevertheless, it would be worth checking COST guidelines to see if/how EBCC might

apply (this should be done by the Development/Funding Officer).

In future, EBCC will only ask for a voluntary contribution with respect to small data requests for the old

atlas, so the expected income from this will be low. Well-funded institutes requesting the whole data set

should still be asked to pay a larger sum.

Are large costs/expenditures expected for EBCC in the near future? To be discussed under other TOPs, e.g. TOP 9 (BCN Conference issue).

Action: RF to ask the old Treasury Commission, if they would like to continue their commitment.

TOP 7: New structure of Board

Positions of Secretary, Delegate Officer and BCN Editor will remain unchanged, but there are further tasks to be occupied by Board members, and the discussions focused on who would like to take over which positions. Outcome extremely positive.

(1) Treasurer: position was taken up by RF, as he is familiar with the Dutch system. He could remain in charge of the practical issues (bookings, etc.), but the general supervision, the transactions and the annual financial report have to be organized by somebody else. **DN** volunteers to fill this position.

(2) Data Request Officer: **LB** (and FS) will take over this position and keep close contact with the two data managers (Henk Sierdsema at SOVON, Stuart Newson at BTO).

(3) The Twinning Officer should facilitate the development of projects, improve partnerships, help schemes to get going etc., but his/their job could also include raising sponsorship, raising awareness and such like. Could be called "Development Officer". **HH, ME** and **OK** volunteer to fill this position jointly.

(4) Treasury Commission: as pointed out under TOP 6 we should get back to the old treasury commission and ask them again, if they would like to continue; if not, somebody else e.g. Arco van Strien should be asked.

(5) Webmaster: decided to fill this position as a joint activity within Board.

(6) Conference Officer: **VK** volunteers for this position, as she had already worked out the "conference bible".

(7) Eastern European Liaison Officer: **MK** agrees to take over this position.

Thus, the new line-up of **EBCC Board (ten members)** now reads as such:

RUUD FOPPEN	Chairman
DAVID NOBLE	Vice-Chairman/Treasurer
HANS-GÜNTHER BAUER	Secretary
ANNY ANSELIN	BCN Editor
ÅKE LINDSTRÖM	Delegate Officer
VERENA KELLER	Conference Officer
LLUIS BROTONS	Data Request Officer
HENNING HJELDBERG	Twinning/Development Officer
OSKARS KEIŠS	Twinning/Development Officer
MIKHAIL KALYAKIN	Eastern European Liaison Officer

co-opted:

MARK EATON	joint Twinning/Development Officer
FRANCESC SARDÀ	joint Data Request Officer
FRANK SARIS, KOEN DEVOS and/or ARCO VAN STRIEN	Treasury Commission

observers:

IAN BURFIELD	BirdLife International
JANA ŠKORPILOVA	PECBMS
PETR VOŘÍŠEK	PECBMS
MARK EATON	RSPB
FRANCESC SARDÀ	SCALES

EBCC archives should be filed at a reliable (and safe) place. It is suggested to have the minutes and other official papers placed with RSPB, as recent archives are already there (as a result of EBCC being chaired by RSPB staff for the last 12 years), and because RSPB is much less likely than other possible hosts to change location in future.

Action: ME to confirm whether RSPB has enough space and is prepared to host EBCC archives. If so, GB will send copies of the recent Board and AGM minutes to ME for filing them at RSPB. ÅL will see that IBCC minutes go from Sören Svensson to RSPB as well. RF will ask Goetz Rheinwald and Frank Saris for materials from EOAC.

TOP 8: Registering new Board members at NL Chamber of Commerce

During the lunch break RF had new members of Board and those with new positions within Board sign official documents and fill in their personal data. These documents have to be sent to NL Chamber of Commerce for official registration.

TOP 9: Bird Census News

AA distributed a short report on BCN before the meeting including a proposal on how one could further develop BCN; also included was a list of papers from the Cáceres conference that shall be published in BCN rather than in ARDEOLA. The 16 articles received (and reviewed by Board members) will fill a double issue of BCN Vol. 23 together encompassing some 100-120 pages. The majority of papers have not finished the reviewing process by Board members yet. In order not to lose the BCN publication budget of €500, reviewing will have to be finished rather quickly so that publication can take place until end of January at the latest. The publication shall be in a similar form as the Parnu conference proceedings of BCN Vol. 13 (1-2). Extra costs shall accrue from additional participants at the conference which make a larger number of prints necessary. Additional costs of some €200 might have to be covered by EBCC. Currently there is still a need for a native English speaker to read through some of the articles.

Action: AA will send some of the papers to ME for correction of the English.

There are not many contributions for the subsequent issue (Vol. 24/1) yet. Any papers or ideas for papers are welcome.

In a questionnaire among BCN readers it became clear that virtually all still wanted to have a printed version rather than an e-journal.

Agreed to introduce clear sections within BCN, i.e. "Original papers", "reports", "forum", "reviews" etc., further "cosmetic" changes include to introduce EBCC Board as the editorial board; also add a passage that helps to encourage people to publish in BCN. Add colour, if possible, but no real structural changes necessary as yet. Also include an advertisement once the cosmetic changes have been introduced, including a request for all recipients to effectively become subscribers, by giving a donation to EBCC (mentioning the bank account of EBCC).

Action: PV to provide information on how many times BCN is clicked at (and papers read from) the EBCC homepage, to inform discussion in Solsona about which direction BCN should go in.

AA to get information about the prices of introducing colour in BCN; she shall also prepare a proposal for Board on the editorial changes she envisages.

TOP 10: Newsletter

ÅL is currently preparing the next issue of the Newsletter – presenting the new Board and the offices they were elected for. All other items shall be collected and finalized during the next few weeks.

Action: ÅL to issue next Newsletter as soon as it's ready, probably in December. RF will check with Zoltan about the next EBCC conference to make sure that it is announced there correctly.

TOP 11: Delegates list

ÅL sent the new list out before the meeting. Currently the list contains 40 countries with two delegates, 3 with one and 3 with zero. Altogether 9 gaps need to be filled, with major difficulties existing in Albania, Andorra and Georgia, where there are currently no delegates (even though possible contacts have been identified). Change of delegates likely to happen in Greece and Turkey, this shall be dealt with at and announced after the next AGM.

Action: ÅL to follow up contacts with proposed delegates in Armenia, Georgia, etc. and ensure due process is followed in Greece, Turkey, etc. as needed.

TOP 12: EBCC Website, new Web Champion

We will not (have to) change the whole website, but shall create a structure where all of Board will be responsible for (parts of) the webpage, mainly by renaming and categorizing existing items. In future, should list individual items from the website and ask the responsible Officers if their news has been incorporated. These have to be listed as action points in the minutes.

In the Newsletter we should ask Delegates and other correspondents to provide paragraphs for the website.

DN provides a list of main items of the website, which looks as follows (those responsible for these items are listed at the right):

1. What is EBCC?
2. PECBMS PV, JŠ
3. Atlas/SCALES LB, RF, GB, VK...
4. Delegates list AL
5. List of publications with EBCC affiliation
6. Bird Census News AA
7. Country information
8. Conferences VK?
9. Plans for New Atlas
10. Old Atlas
11. Development/Engagement
 - others
 - SEED
12. Research
 - SMOG HS?
 - SCALES LB?
 - Climate Change Working Group, etc.
13. Useful Information
 - Ringing references
 - Software
14. Links

.....

JS and PV propose to merge information on the country and PECBMS pages of the website. Board agrees fully, and accepts the structure as presented in a paper disseminated before the meeting.

Actions: All Board members responsible for particular fields/"offices" shall check the main web items before the next Board meeting and see that the section of their field is updated.

All to make a wish list for the next meeting of items that should in future be included on the website.

AL and RF to act as "test rabbits" and check if the new structure proposed by PV and JŠ works well, subsequently reporting back to Board. PV and JŠ to take the subject further.

TOP 13: Recent data requests

Eight data requests have reached us in the first part of the year and have been processed and agreed upon. The requests will be dealt with according to our data policy, a final agreement for most of them has yet to be found. In cases of requests from (phd) students and related scientific projects we do have the opportunity to waive the financial compensation in exchange for engagement in publications. We can decide this case by case:

- David Storch (Prague CZ)
- Mike Todd (Open University UK)
- Simone Tenan (Trento/Pavia IT)
- Susana Suárez-Seoane (Léon, ES)
- Kerstin Jantke (MPRSESM, DE)
- Christa LeGrande (Baltimore, Maryland)
- Peter Sogaard Jorgensen/Magnus Tuvendal (Copenhagen, DK)
- Paul Gale (CERA, UK)

The following additional requests were discussed by Board, and declined in the first case, accepted in the second

- Eimear Rooney (Belfast, IRL): declined by Board, since data are not available in the requested format
- Inês Martins (Lisbon, PO) : accepted

Decision made to keep up the EBCC data request guidelines for any commercial requests (none this year), but not to continue them for students (see above), for the latter case by case decisions shall be applied. Involvement by members of Board (in publication etc.) to be decided upon in the course of the assessment process. In future introduce strict time frame (deadline) for communicating back to the requesters.

Action: LB and RF to draft a standard data provision letter which shall then be provided with the data to explain EBCC policy and guidelines.

TOP 14: List of publications with EBCC affiliation

This list should be going back until the publication of the EBCC atlas. It shall include all papers that were based on EBCC atlas data or on PECBMS data.

Action: DN and RF to collect the list of EBCC-affiliated papers and respective pdfs, and best to send out a first list to Board members for comments and improvement.

TOP 15: Report on PECBMS

The PECBMS report was distributed to Board before the meeting. The Project is secured through EU funding until June 2012. Current main activities are concentrated on updating the indicators – which will be published mid next year. This year the data from a new record number of 26 countries are expected to be involved in index production.

Detailed description of the methods to calculate indices etc. will be published and also put on the website together with FAQs and appropriate answers from PECBMS group.

Special contact has been taken up with coordinators and government in Latvia in order to help improve the monitoring scheme's budget and allow continuation of their programme. Bulgaria and Romania are both going to receive longer-term government funding for their monitoring programmes (previously support delivered by RSPB), and Greece and Cyprus are on the way to achieve this.

Next PECBMS workshop planned between early autumn (September 2011) and mid-winter (January/February 2012), the team is currently exploring venues outside the University of Prague or even in neighbouring countries. If there were any clashes with already existing conference plans, Board members should utter these a.s.a.p.

Simon Butler and CAER group at University of Reading to work on improvement of the forest indicator, i.e. forest bird risk assessment study similar to farmland one published in AGEE in 2010. The new project will be funded by ACE, the European association of beverage carton manufacturers (including Tetrapak), through BirdLife Europe. PECBMS and Forest Task Force will be involved through advisory group. Need to be more specific with respect to some questions raised. Probably at the beginning improvement needed particularly to increase the power of identifying the drivers of changes. There might in future be a system of indicators rather than one general indicator. (This might help solve problems such as the "biodiversity indicator" discussion raised by Martin Flade in Cáceres).

Currently no updated long-term plan for PECBMS available, needed for next technical meeting to solve the current indicator problems and discussions. Strategic paper should be prepared until the next workshop.

TOP 16a: Russian breeding bird atlas

MK sent out a paper on proposed atlas work in European Russia before the meeting. A new EBCC atlas needs to involve eastern European data at a much wider scale than was possible in the old one.

The budget calculation should include a clear outline on how many collaborators have to be paid for which part of the work and for which time scale. What shall be the minimal data basis for the modelling work, i.e. at least one visit per square or more (1800 squares of 50x50 km in European Russia). More stress needs to be put on new and recent rather than old (often unpublished) data, since the latter are often not reliable enough for modelling work.

Best to find a good database describing all Russian squares and then stratify the area in a model (Henk) in order to derive a minimum number of representative squares. Cover as many of these squares as possible and check in a sample of the modelled squares, if the data could be reproduced by modelling techniques. The EBCC team will help preparing the lay-out for the stratification and the field work.

Pilot project (first year) to calculate how much the data gathering of an average square would cost. The stratification process should be part of the pilot project. This pilot project could form the basis of a real proposal, which should then be submitted at a larger funding organisation. Divide project into several stages, depend each stage on the budget available.

Connection with WORLDBIRDS database possible and required to successfully build up a functioning network of collaborators in all eastern European countries.

Action: IB, DN, RF etc. to contact EBCC Delegates and other national contacts in order to achieve that similar initiatives are evolved in other (south)eastern European countries such as Ukraine, Belarus, Turkey etc. MK to prepare pilot proposal and send the first draft to Board.

TOP 17: Report on SMOG/ SCALES

LB gives an overview on the current work of the SCALES group which is producing pan-European distribution maps from monitoring data. HS describes possibilities to create maps with the help of statistic programme "R", currently working on an interface which allows using R without knowing it in any details. Better maps can be produced when local information on habitat structure, land use etc. is available. General "language" shall be provided by a "map mosaicing" process which scales the different map types in order to combine them. Same data structure currently used for TRIM can be used to produce a huge range of different-type maps (so-called "TRIM maps").

Intention of HS is to organise a course for national coordinators in Nijmegen to teach working with these tools and develop a manual, probably in 2011. Prior to this there should be a phase where the coordinators could test the system, best in a workshop, which should take place in early 2011.

Integration of different methods to produce one map is also an issue to be solved in a workshop.

FS provided a report on the SCALES project prior to the meeting. He expands about the (5) different work packages of the project and the current state of the art; SCALES currently has 28 partners. The project approaches the first reporting period.

One specific outcome of the project could be range maps for the new Birds Directive reporting process, which would be valuable for the EU countries. (This might also be the first stage of the New Atlas project).

TOP 16b: What steps are necessary to reach the New Atlas goal?

Need small group of people to make a proposal on New Atlas with respect to (a) technical points (data gathering, computation, coordination etc.) and (b) budget; in parallel should collate ideas on (c) the structure and layout of the New Atlas (resolution, abundance estimates etc.).

Special problem could be comparability between regions, but also with previous atlas.

Make sure that the Atlas working group at this stage starts to make decisions in order to put the ideas and aims of Board and the Cáceres discussion on paper → proposal paper.

Time line necessary now to improve and quicken the process.

The potential uses of this Atlas have to be discussed first and lined up with the questions above; the old Atlas was used very widely and was a huge success. Have to create a similar (or stronger?) demand for the new one.

Agreement that an Atlas workshop shall be held in winter (around February-March 2011) to move the New Atlas further more quickly.

Action: GB+VK+PV to produce and circulate first suggestion of what shall be discussed at the New Atlas workshop in winter and structure future discussions.

TOP 18: Strategic direction, “2020 vision/target”, EBCC leaflet

Ensuring its future positive development and raising the profile of EBCC could be reached by improving the quality of its projects. This is especially true with respect to the New Atlas, to PECBMS and to SCALES. Of great (but lesser) importance are good publications and presentations at conferences and meetings. Could get in touch with professional profiling or communication officers, once projects and plans are more clearly defined.

Other suggestions:

A. General

- Define possible strategic aims
- Develop a priority list of future actions, i.e. a “policy paper”
- Define target groups for our actions
- Set up three- and six-year project plans to achieve the aims
- Professionalisation of work by installing (one) full-time staff member(s). Board agrees that it is important to implement a secretariat/have a fully-employed secretary. Could use synergy effects, especially the atlas coordination could be dealt with by the same fully-paid person(s)

B. Specific

- Introduce a questionnaire to Delegates and representatives, which would provide a mandate for future programmes
- Form a joint European platform with important bird specialist groups (including BirdLife International, Wetlands International, Euring, Wader Study Group, raptor and seabird groups, etc.) in order to develop common plans
- Sell merchandising materials and promote these
- Expand the PECBMS project in areas where monitoring is weak, i.e. moving it east (raise Eastern European systems to western standards); also necessary to widen the species coverage to include rarer species
- Maintain high profile conferences
- Improve the engagement with science, and increase involvement in scientific papers
- Develop new tools, which others (probably) can't develop – but this is often reliant on project partners outside EBCC

C. 2020 Vision

- EBCC forming the pan-European centre of monitoring schemes and monitoring-related science

Actions: RF to summarize the written 2020 visions of individual Board members in due course. RF and DN to set up draft a work plan/strategic plan for another Board meeting. GB to distribute Richard Gregory's “EBCC vision” text to new Board members, for their info about outgoing chairman's views on this.

It would be good to ask Delegates (and other important players) in a questionnaire about how they see Board activities and what kind of future actions and strategies they would favour after the draft strategic plan has been discussed.

TOP 19: BirdLife International update

A two-day conference on bird conservation in the EU will be held in Brussels in November, through an EC-funded project implemented by BirdLife and FACE - focus on globally threatened species on Annex I of the Birds Directive for which Species Action Plans have been produced, and huntable species on Annex II which have (or need) Management Plans. IB and others will stress importance of monitoring and EBCC's role. Other Board members involved: RF, ME.

Globally threatened bird forum – this winter's Red List topics include species whose action plans were reviewed in 2010: Lesser Kestrel, three Macaronesian laurel pigeons and Blue Chaffinch, as well as some other rare European species. IB to send relevant material around.

Foreword of new edition of HBW refers to PECBMS and climate change impact indicators.

New brochure on bird indicators developed and distributed at the CBD Nagoya conference.

Reporting under Birds Directive shall be changed to 6-year schedule and an outcome-based document rather than a 3-year schedule and an implementation-based document (adoption hopefully in May 2011). For these reports, national monitoring programme data are needed and thus existing programmes which provide such data should be strengthened. Final data provision planned for 2013. The data collection shall overlap with and be used in Birds in Europe 3 provided that funding for this project is granted/secured. However, the requested range data, ideally on a 10x10 km grid, have not been collected before, and is thus very challenging. EBCC possibly to take on the role of providing such spatial data, as it has the trust of the network. Once data collected, an open use by all national and international groups might be possible. If this system proves successful in 2013, it could be prolonged and repeated on a six-year cycle.

Conflict could arise between free data availability envisaged by the EC and the fact that many national atlas data holders rely on selling their data as an important source of income, and thus may be reluctant to pass on to governments for them to report to the EC. IB acknowledges this and will raise with EC, suggesting that such data are only published at e.g. 50 x 50 km scale.

If Member States adopt proposed new system in May, EC expected to issue call for tender for coordination of work, which BirdLife will apply for. Board feels that EBCC should be partner of BirdLife in the tender bid to acknowledge their important role in data provision on the pan-European level. This would raise the profile of EBCC too. IB confirms that BirdLife intends to involve EBCC (and possible other key stakeholders) in bid for tender, which may require EBCC assistance in developing the application. EBCC involvement would most likely involve collation of existing information as basis for future atlas. In some regions, modelling will be necessary to transform monitoring data into range data. Potential to identify gaps in data during the Birds Directive reporting process which could be used to improve Atlas project.

Action: IB to take Board concerns into account, promote EBCC's role in ongoing discussions with EC and Member States, and keep Board informed of progress. HS, IB + LB to expand on the specific plans of the EBCC Atlas and the synergetic effects with respect to the Birds Directive procedure and report this back to Board.

TOP 20: Eurapmon

IB circulated a paper before the meeting. *Eurapmon* has received funding for 5 years from the European Science Foundation (ESF). A meeting took place recently with representatives from over 30 countries in Sicily. Current plan involves various deliverables, including developing a meta-database. The project can be seen as a means of meeting Birds Directive obligations. One suggestion is to use some of the money from Eurapmon to expand the data set available at the MEROS group in Halle (DE), possibly in collaboration with PECBMS.

For EBCC this could be seen as an opportunity to remind people that EBCC is equally interested in the monitoring of scarcer or rarer (or more difficult to monitor) species, beyond the common and widespread ones covered by PECBMS. Board in general is supportive of this project, and could provide technical (also methodological?) support. Could also help develop the project further, but it is still unclear how the Eurapmon group will proceed and if they are capable of expanding the project in the way the EBCC network might appreciate (e.g. still unclear how data holders in other countries will be convinced to take part; the Eurapmon group is currently not known well enough in other circles, making success less likely). Part of work package of Eurapmon is to expand its network (opportunity for EBCC to complement this), and also to set methodological standards. EBCC cannot indulge in data gathering for the time being.

Aim to apply for further funding after 2015 to develop the raptor monitoring further after Eurapmon ends, e.g. via EU Framework Programme research funding.

Action: IB to report Board (and PECBMS SG) views to Eurapmon SC meeting in Feb 2011.

TOP 21: Date and venue for next Board meeting in spring 2011

Board agrees meet in Solsona in spring 2011; LB will send a list of possible dates around, but beginning of April would be preferred by Board members.

Preferably would combine subsequent Board meeting with the autumn PECBMS workshop, whose date should be known soon; alternatively combine Board meeting with the EOU conference in Latvia (with the Board meeting scheduled after the EOU from 31.8. till 1.9.).

TOP 22: Any other business

- In order to ensure yourself the subscription rate of €69 for the new German breeding bird atlas (which will be officially published mid-2011 for the price of €99) please see the homepage of German Ornithological Umbrella Organisation DDA under www.dda-web.de
- favouring one ornithological online system not useful, but EBCC should set minimal standards (even with atlas codes a European standard is currently lacking – despite the recommendations by EBCC); RF will try to follow up on the EBCC workshop on data collection that was held during the Cáceres conference and check with Klaus Henle on funding possibilities for a future workshop and connection with Lifewatch

RF closes the meeting on Friday at 5.30 p.m. and thanks Board members and observers very much for their participation and manifold contributions.

Ruud Foppen
Chairman

Hans-Günther Bauer
Secretary

