

PR1: CA16224

First Progress Report from Action

Submitted on: 31-10-2018

This report was submitted by the Action Chair, on behalf of the Management Committee of the Action, in fulfilment of the requirements of the rules for COST Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment. The first Progress Review (PR1) enables the monitoring of the Action's implementation of the SC Recommendations from the proposal stage and the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

Throughout this document Early Career Investigators and Inclusiveness Target Countries, as defined in the "Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities" (COST 132/14 REV), are referred to using the acronyms "ECIs" and "ITCs".

Proposal							
	Participating countries	Main Proposer			% in Network of Proposers		
	% ITC	ITC	ECI	Female	ITC	ECI	Female
Proposal OC-2016-2-21594	45	NO	NO	NO	45	43	25
SC Recommendation							
The contingency plan takes into account potential participants who showed interest; this needs to be firmed up and enacted in order to realise involvement from the wide range of stakeholders proposed. The roles and involvement of early career investigators needs to be clarified and better efforts need to be made to involve female participants.							

Action: Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)				
	Participating countries % ITC	MC Members % ITC	Leadership roles % ITC	Relative representation of ITCs in leadership roles
Action CA16224	46	40	25	63
All Actions	49	47	23	49
Participating countries & ITC is similar to the All Actions average. Relative representation of ITCs in Leadership roles for our Action is well above the All Actions average. ITC members hold the Vice Chair and Science Communication Manager positions.				

Action: Early Career Investigators (ECIs)			
	MC Members % ECI	Leadership roles % ECI	Relative representation of ECIs in leadership roles

Action CA16224	31	0	0
All Actions	27	20	74

MC Members % ECI is above the All Actions average. Our Action does not have any ECI in a leadership role as no candidates put themselves forward. We plan to provide opportunity for ECI members to gain leadership experience by appointing at least two ECIs as Deputy WG Leaders.

Action: Gender Balance

	MC Members % Female	Leadership roles % Female	Relative representation of females in leadership roles
Action CA16224	29	25	86
All Actions	39	41	105

MC Members % Female is below the All Actions average. This reflects the male dominance in raptor research and monitoring. The figure for 'Leadership roles % Female is not correct - we in fact have 3 females in leadership roles (WG3 Lead, WG4 Lead, Science Communication Manager), giving 37.5% for 'Leadership roles % Female' and 129% for 'Relative representation of Female in Leadership roles. Relative representation is well above the average for All Actions.

Action comment on its implementation (achievement and/or effort) of SC Recommendation(s) to date

The ERB Facility Management Committee has expanded to 45 members (and 21 substitutes) from 26 countries ensuring involvement from a wide range of stakeholders as planned in our proposal. This includes ecotoxicologists, laboratory technicians and statisticians, curators of NHMs, ESBs and other collections, and those working on raptor monitoring in the field (NGOs, academics) and officials from National Competent Authorities. The European Commission (DG ENV), European Chemicals Agency and European Food Safety Authority each participated in our first General Meeting (GM1) in February 2018. The Siberian Environmental Center (Russia) was approved by the Management Committee as a NNC participant at MC2 (February 2018). The Secretariat of the CMS Raptor MoU, and representatives of relevant US organisations, were invited to GM1 but were unable to attend. We have good links with human biomonitoring as the German Environment Agency which is represented on our MC coordinates HBM4EU. We have successfully involved 3 females in leadership roles.

Action description of plans to implement SC Recommendations and COST policy in the future

We will continue to be attentive to COST policies and the SC recommendations in the future. In particular, we plan to appoint Deputy WG Leads and ensure that at least half of these are ECIs and at least half are from ICTs. We will also continue to engage with the European Commission, ECHA and EFSA. This includes plans for a Working Groups 1 & 2 meeting with ECHA and EFSA representatives in March/April 2019 to explore ECHA and EFSA needs in relation to monitoring data for contaminants in raptors and EC chemicals management. We will continue to welcome participants from those COST member countries that are not yet parties to the Action and in this regard will encourage in particular the nomination of ICT, ECI and female members. We will continue to be attentive to ITC, ECI and female participation in science meetings and STSMs. To date, we have awarded 7 STSMs, all of which are female and all of which are ECI.