



ERBFacility
EUROPEAN RAPTOR BIOMONITORING FACILITY
COST ACTION 16224

FIRST GENERAL MEETING (GM1)
&
Second Management Committee Meeting (MC2)

**Institute for Game & Wildlife Research (IREC), University of Castilla-La Mancha
(UCLM), Ciudad Real, Spain**

Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd February 2018

PROGRAMME



This event is organised by COST 16224 Action European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility and supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

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COST is supported by the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020.

WELCOME

Welcome to this first General Meeting (GM1) of the COST Action *European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility* (CA 16224).

GM1 brings together for the first time the ERBFacility community of Management Committee members and additional key resource persons active in the analytical, collections and field arenas in relation to the monitoring of contaminants in raptors.

Around 60 participants are attending from 22 COST Member and Near Neighbour Countries. This includes a multidisciplinary community of field ornithologists and ecologists, curators (from natural history museums, environmental specimen banks and others) and ecotoxicologists, as well as end users from the European Commission, European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The opening plenary on Day 1 (Mon 19 Feb) provides an introduction to the Action and the activities of the Working Groups, and reflections from the European Commission and EFSA.

Day 2 (Tues 20 Feb) is dedicated to sequential Working Group (WG) sessions, allowing all participants to engage in all WGs in which they are interested and thereby promoting the all-important cross-WG integration and understanding. These sessions will focus on discussing and planning WG activities through to the end of the second Grant Period (i.e. to 30/4/2019) including the establishment of Task Groups.

Day 3 (Weds 21 Feb) offers a fascinating field trip to view historic mercury mines and raptors in the region, and is an opportunity for participants to network and foster collaborations.

GM1 closes on Day 4 (Thurs 22 Feb) AM with a plenary bringing together the outcomes of the WG sessions, and considering cross-cutting issues such as dissemination and communications. The programme for the final plenary will be finalised following the outcomes of Day 2, but will include a presentation from ECHA.

The ERBFacility Management Committee meets on Day 4 (Thurs 22 Feb) PM. Participants who are not attending the Management Committee do not need to remain for Thursday PM.

Looking forward to a lively and productive meeting and benefiting from your knowledge and experience in taking forward the European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility.

The Organising Committee

Guy Duke, Chair ERBFacility
Al Vrezec, Vice-Chair ERBFacility
Richard Shore, Chair WG1
Antonio Garcia-Fernandez, Chair WG2
Paola Movalli, Chair WG3
Chris Wernham, Chair WG4
Blagica Sekovska, Science Communications Manager
Igor Eulaers, STSM Coordinator

Local Organiser

Rafael Mateo

ERBFacility
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FIRST GENERAL MEETING (GM1)
&
SECOND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (MC2)
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PROGRAMME

Date/time	Session	Speaker
Monday 19 February		
17:00-17:30	Welcome, Introduction to ERBFacility	Guy Duke , Chair ERBFacility
17:30-17:45	Reflections from the European Commission	Peter Korytar , Policy Officer, Sustainable Chemicals Unit, DG Environment
17:45-18:00	Reflections from EFSA	José Tarazona , Head of Pesticides Unit, EFSA
18:00-18:30	<i>Drinks and snacks</i>	
18:30-18:55	Overview of WGs 1 & 2 (Analysis Arena)	Richard Shore , Chair WG1 & Antonio Garcia-Fernandez , Chair WG4
18:50-19:10	Overview of WG3 (Collections Arena)	Paola Movalli , Chair WG3
19:10-19:30	Overview of WG4 (Field Arena)	Chris Wernham , Chair WG4
19:30-19:45	Plan for rest of the week	Guy Duke
19:45-20:00	Overview of COST reimbursement rules	Svetlana Voinova , Administrative Officer, COST Association
20:30	<i>Welcome Dinner, Hotel Dona Carlota</i>	
Tuesday 20 February		
09:00-11:00	Working Session, WGs 1&2	Co-Chairs: Richard Shore , Antonio Garcia-Fernandez
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee</i>	
11:30-12:30	Working Session, WGs 1&2 (cont)	Co-Chairs: Richard Shore , Antonio Garcia-Fernandez
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00-16:00	Working Session, WG3	Chair: Paola Movalli
16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee</i>	
16:30-18:30	Working Session, WG4	Chair: Chris Wernham
	<i>Free evening</i> <i>Optional City Tour with tapas</i> Core Group meeting	
Wednesday 21 February		
08:30-20:00	Field trip – see below	
20:30-22:30	<i>Field trip dinner, Almagro</i>	

Thursday 22 February		
09:00-10:30	The final plenary will be scheduled according to key issues identified during the Working Group Sessions on Tuesday. Issues are likely to include: building the network; optimising impact; inter-WG collaboration; short-term scientific missions, planning for future meetings, dissemination and communications. It will also include a presentation and Q&A by video-link from the European Chemicals Agency (Anna Mazzolini, Risk Management Implementation Unit)	Speakers to be confirmed
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee</i>	
11:00-12:15	See 09:00-10:30 above	
12:15-12:30	Wrap up	Guy Duke
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00-17:00	Second ERB Facility Management Committee Meeting (<i>Invited Management Committee Members only</i>)	
	<i>Free evening</i>	
Friday 23 February		
09:00-12:00	ERB Facility Core Group meeting (<i>Core Group Members only</i>)	
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>	

Working Session, WGs 1 and 2 (Analysis Arena)

Tuesday 20 Feb, 09:00-12:30

Outline

These WGs aims to develop a framework for a **European Raptor Biomonitoring Scheme (ERBiomS)**, using priority raptor species and deliver proof of concept for pan-European assessment of contaminant exposure trends (and, where feasible, effects) in raptors. The separation of these two WGs is by compounds where WG1 will focus on industrial pollutants and WG2 on plant protection products and biocides.

We aim initially to undertake critical meta-analyses and reviews of published data to demonstrate state-of-the-art capability to detect temporal and spatial trends without any new coordination between monitoring programmes and, importantly, identify key areas of weakness. Candidate contaminants for review include: (a) in relation to the Stockholm Convention, REACH and OSPAR, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), flame retardants (FRs) and poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs); (b) in relation to the Minamata Convention, Mercury; (c) in relation to ECHA, Lead; (d) in relation to the PPP Regulation, neonicotinoids; (e) in relation to the Biocides Regulation, second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs); and, finally, (f) in relation to the medicinal products regulations, parasiticides, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and livestock antibiotics.

Building on this, we aim to develop the framework for a pan-European monitoring scheme by identifying candidate raptor species (and read across methods for species

within trophic guilds) and sample matrices. We will seek to build analytical capacity by enhancing networking and collaboration among ecotoxicologists and collaborating laboratories, by development of a framework capable of delivering pan-European surveillance and monitoring, and by undertaking limited proof of concept studies that will demonstrate the nature of the outputs of such monitoring. In addition, we plan to run a training and guidance programme that will help inform and enhance the collection of biological samples suitable for contaminant analysis by both non-specialists (WG4) and the collection activities (WG3).

The aim of the workshop is to discuss how WGs 1&2 can be realised. Specifically, we will capture ideas about the major scientific and practical issues that need to be considered during the WG programmes, discuss outputs from the work, identify interested participants for elements within the WGs (including leading, participating in core working groups, proposing and hosting scientific missions) and outline action plans for the WGs in order to meet the set milestones.

Schedule

09:00 - 09:35	Evaluation of current capacity for pan-European monitoring (delivery months 1-24) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will this work entail (exemplar by Igor Eulaers) • Identification of 4-6 candidate substances for WP1&2 • Expected outputs • Volunteers to lead and next steps 	Richard Shore, Igor Eulaers, Antonio Garcia-Fernandez, Rafael Mateo
09:35 - 10:00	Species and trophic guilds for pan-European monitoring (delivery months 18-36) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways to approach the issue including links to previous issue and WP3&4 • Expected outputs • Volunteers to lead and next steps 	Nico van den Brink, Richard Shore, Igor Eulaers, Antonio Garcia-Fernandez, Rafael Mateo
10:00 - 10:30	Collaborating laboratories (delivery months 12-48) – information capture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which laboratories can participate • Current pollutants that laboratories work on • Identification of key issues and next steps 	Richard Shore, Igor Eulaers, Antonio Garcia-Fernandez, Rafael Mateo
10:30 - 11:45 <i>including coffee break from 11:00 to 11:20</i>	Proof of concept of pan-European monitoring (delivery months 36-42) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemplar of live bird monitoring from Norway (IE-5 mins) • Visceral gout and wider health indices status (RFS-5 mins) • Candidate chemicals (link to previous item) • Regulatory interactions • Identification of key issues and next steps 	Richard Shore, Igor Eulaers, Antonio Garcia-Fernandez, Rafael Mateo
11:45 - 12:10	Training and guidance (delivery month 33) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture of key elements where people would need training • Identification of key issues and next steps 	Antonio Garcia-Fernandez
12:10 - 12:25	Other areas of work? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of wildlife poisoning (RM) • Others (suggestions from the floor) 	Richard Shore, Igor Eulaers, Antonio Garcia-Fernandez, Rafael Mateo
12:25 - 12:30	Closing and next steps	Richard Shore

Working Session, WG3 (Collections Arena)

Tuesday 20 Feb, 14:00-16:00

Outline

WG3 focuses on the Collections Arena. This workshop will address the main tasks and deliverables of WG3:

- T3.1 Review of existing raptor collections in Europe (M1-24, Oct 2017 to Sep 2019) [**D3.1 Report & Peer reviewed paper** – due M24, Sep 2019]
- T3.2 Development of framework for a distributed European Raptor Specimen Bank (M12-36, Sep 2018 to Sep 2020) [**D3.2 Technical specs and peer-reviewed paper on ERSpeB** – due M36, Sep 2020]
- T3.3 Design and construction of a meta-database (linked to IPChEM) of existing raptor specimens and any related contaminant data (M18-45, Mar 2019 to Jun 2021) [**D3.3 Meta-database on raptor specimens, linked to IPChEM** – due M42, Mar 2021]
- T3.4 Develop guidance on use of raptor specimens in collections for biomonitoring (M30-45, Mar 2020 – Jun 2021) [**D3.4 Guidance on use of NHM and ESB collections for contaminant monitoring** due M45, Jun 2021]

The focus of the workshop will be on T3.1, T3.2 and T3.3, as T3.4 is not scheduled to start until later in the Action. The workshop will provide for:

- discussion of these three tasks and their deliverables;
- linkages with other Working Groups;
- planning of activities to take forward these tasks through to the end of the second Grant Period (end month 18 = end April 2019); and
- identification of who wishes to be involved in the various activities.

The workshop will first briefly introduce the tasks and deliverables, their relationship to those of the other Working Groups, and the ways in which we can deliver them using the activities (Task Groups, meetings, missions, etc) available to us in the COST Action. Collections (natural history museums, environmental specimen banks and other collections) are poised between the WG4 field arena (which supplies specimens to collections) and the lab arena (WGs 1&2) (which analyses specimens held by collections). WG3 is designed to support the needs of lab analyses for regulatory applications but must also serve the interests and needs of collections to ensure strong engagement.

T3.1 is a key initial task underpinning development of the planned distributed European Raptor Specimen Bank (T3.2) and the related meta-database (T3.3). It involves **gathering information** on (a) existing collections; (b) current collecting activities; (c) storage facilities; (d) current provision for research access to collections, samples exchange; (e) constraints to collection, transport and storage of samples. The workshop will hear about plans for a first short-term scientific mission (STSM) (scheduled Mar-Apr 2018) and discuss how the work and output of this mission may be optimised through the engagement of collections. The workshop will also discuss what further activities will be required to complete Task 3.1 by month 24 (October 2019).

The workshop will then discuss what we mean by a **distributed European Raptor Specimen Bank (ERSpeB)**, and what the proposed ERSpeB framework would include (Task 3.2). Elements of the framework cited in the MoU include: (a) collecting priorities (in relation to needs emerging from the frameworks being developed by WGs 1&2); (b) potential for collections to accept new specimens from the field arena; (c) sources for new specimens (in relation to WG3 field arena); (d) storage needs; (e) potential to establish new (regional) collections; (f) enhanced provision for research access to

collections; (g) measures to resolve constraints to collection, transport, storage of samples. Work on the ERSpeB is scheduled to start half-way through Grant Period 2 (1/4/18-30/3/19). We will consider what the initial activities should be to start work on this Framework in months 12-18 (Nov 2018 – Apr 2019).

A **meta-database** of existing raptor specimens and any related contaminant data (D3.3) will be a key element of the ERSpeB. Development of this meta-database (T3.3) involves: (a) developing standards for the digital description and online publication of raptor samples and related data; (b) developing systems and protocols for web-based exchange, analysis and mapping of this data; (c) stimulating digitisation of collections. While this work is not scheduled to start until the end of GP2 (month 18, April 2019), we will discuss key issues related to its design and construction including links to a single European collections portal (currently under development by major NHMs), to [IPChem](#) and [GBIF](#) and how database considerations might inform Tasks 3.1 and 3.2.

Finally, we will summarise the planned activities through to end of GP2 (April 2019), laying out next steps, and ensure everyone understands how they will be involved and has a way of providing the input they wish to make. We will consider whether we have enough help committed to allow us to deliver the work, or whether we need to seek more resources/help.

Schedule

14:00-14:15	Introductions, overview of WG3 tasks, deliverables and methods of delivery	Paola Movalli
14:15-14:55	T3.1/D3.1 Review of existing collections in Europe. Discussion of scope of work, links to other WGs, activities (in particular to end April 2019), who wants to engage.	Paola Movalli & Rene Dekker
14:55-15:25	T3.2/D3.2 Development of a distributed European Raptor Specimen Bank (ERSpeB)? Discussion of what it is, scope of work, activities (in particular to end April 2019), who wants to engage.	Paola Movalli & Rene Dekker
15:25-15:50	T3.3/D3.3 Design and construction of a meta-database of raptor collections in Europe. Discussion of scope of work, links to other WGs, activities (in particular to end April 2019), who wants to engage.	Paola Movalli & Rene Dekker
15:50-16:00	Summary and next steps. Have we missed anything? Who else is willing to help?	Paola Movalli & Rene Dekker

Working Session, WG4 (Field Arena)

Tuesday 16:30-18:30

Outline

WG4 focuses on the Field Arena:

1. We will give an introduction to WG4 activities, their dependencies on other parts of the work programme and the ways in which we can deliver them using the structures available to us in the COST Action. We need to understand that WG4 is a programme designed to support the focal contaminants work (WG1&2) but also that participants in WG4 activities will need to derive benefits for themselves in order to engage them and for them to take part enthusiastically. We will discuss how we plan to organise the work to ensure inclusiveness but also efficient delivery (using Task Groups with Leads, a proposed Core Team for management, STSMs, workshops etc).
2. We will reiterate the structure of the ERBFacility and discuss what we mean by the European Raptor Sampling Programme (ERSamP). We need to be clear for

which parts of ERBFacility WG4 is responsible and, therefore, what elements the ERSamP framework will include.

3. We will discuss the importance of setting priorities – the need to select a reduced suite of raptor species and sets of accompanying contextual parameters (population parameters/demographic rates etc) on which the activities of WG4 will focus. We will discuss what information we will need from the other WGs to allow us to set final priorities but also how we can deliver helpful recommendations to WG1&2 based on existing knowledge.
4. We will then work through more detailed planning of the first part of the WG4 programme, focusing on the activities to be delivered by the end of Grant Period 2 (by end of April 2019). This is currently expected to include two STSMs and a Workshop in the autumn of 2018.
5. Finally, we will summarise, lay out next steps and ensure that everyone understands how they will be involved and has a way of providing the input that they wish to make. We will ensure that we have enough help committed to allow us to deliver the work, or whether we need to seek more resources/help.

Schedule

16:30-16:40	Introductions, overview of WG4 tasks and methods of delivery	Chris Wernham
16:40-17:00	What do we mean by the European Raptor Sampling Programme (ERSamP)? Its structure and dependencies on other parts of the COST Action.	Chris Wernham, Rui de Lourenco
17:00-17:30	The need to set priorities (species and contextual parameters) – how will we do this and when can/must we achieve it?	Chris Wernham
17:30-18:15	Planning work for Grant Periods 1 and 2 (to end of April 2019; timescales; who will be able to help and lead activities). Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two planned STSMs (summaries being prepared) • Planning for Workshop 2 in autumn 2018 (summary of objectives being prepared) 	Chris Wernham, Al Vrezec
18:15-18:30	Summary and next steps Have we missed anything? Who else is willing to help?	Chris Wernham

Field trip - Wednesday 21 February

Mining District of Valle de Alcudia-Sierra Madrona

08:30 Departure from Hotel Doña Carlota

On Wednesday 21 we will have field trip to the **Almadén Mine District** (historically, one of the most important mercury mining areas in the world) and the [Natural Park of Valle de Alcudia y Sierra Madrona](#).

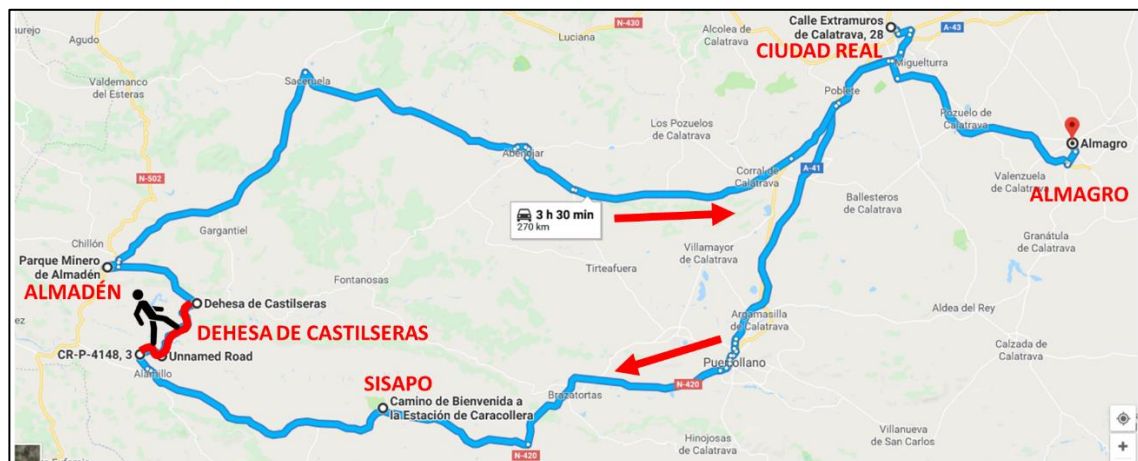
We will make a first stop at the ruins of the ancient Roman town of [Sisapo](#), which was the capital of the mercury, lead and silver mining business more than 2000 years ago. This is located in the Alcudia Valley in the north side of Sierra Madrona.

We will continue to [Dehesa de Castilseras](#), an estate managed by the company of Minas de Almadén y Arrayanes for livestock production, game and wildlife observation. The estate has a feeding station for vultures, so we may observe some of them during the visit. **We will take a c. 9 km walk¹ across the estate** (please wear suitable clothing!), where we can observe birds of prey (griffon and cinereous vultures, golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, Spanish imperial eagle, black-shouldered kite) and other species (blue-winged magpie, red-billed chough, black-bellied sandgrouse, black stork).

Around Sisapo and Dehesa de Castilseras we will see several abandoned lead and silver mines.

After this, we will have lunch at the restaurant of the [Park-Museum of the Mercury Mine in Almadén](#). In the afternoon we will visit the mercury mine, the [museum](#) and the [Mercury Technological Center](#).

We will finish the trip with dinner in the town of [Almagro](#) (Restaurant [El Corregidor](#)), close to Ciudad Real, and related to the mercury business in the XVI century because of the settlement there of German bankers of the [Fugger family](#).



¹ The walk is along relatively gentle tracks/trails. For those unable to make the walk, a vehicle will take you to the end-point of the walk to rejoin the group.

INTRODUCING THE ERBFacility LOGO

The logo shows a stylised raptor on three overlapping circles, representing the three arenas of the Action (analysis, collections, field) within a benzene ring, representing the focus on contaminant monitoring



Special thanks to



Universidad de
Castilla-La Mancha

