

## PECBMS workshop February 2012 Draft conclusions

Quick overview and reminder  
First the presentations

## Workshop purpose was to guide strategic development

Looking backwards  
Looking forwards  
Checking we are on the right path

A word about PECBMS funding

### Production of species indices & indicators

- Current approach geometric mean of species is relevant and OK - continue with current approach – '*Prince of indicators*' - 'not broken don't fix' - 'geometric mean is best'

But we need to make additional improvements in content, scope and communication

- Indicators with standard errors; sensitivity measures; consider scale: logarithmic versus arithmetic; satellite information and indicators
- Consider using data from other schemes and broadening species' scope
- Consider development of habitat-specific indices and indicators

### Species selection

- Harmonize and improve species selection for national/international indicators
- Consider using national species classification for national Farmland Bird Index and other indices delivered to Eurostat (clarify benchmarking needs)
- Develop guidelines for species' classification and quality control (e.g. which species to be included, number of species in an indicator, statistical issues and biases) at national level
- Consider use of results of the risk assessment approach & develop further
- Improve communication

### Develop satellite indicators & information

- Specific indicators for old-growth/boreal forest, broadleaf, coniferous forest - continue development of boreal forest indicator
- Continue in development of inland wetland indicator as a state indicator, consider use of data on more species from other sources
- Include more rare species in the indicators, at least consider implications of inclusion/exclusion
- Consider development of indicators of processes – PRESSURES/DRIVERS (intensification of forests, eutrophication climatic change etc)
- Improve communication

### Communication of indicators

- Clarify purpose in each case: key question/message/assessment/background
- Use extra information (% species declining/increasing, abundance, single species trends) along with indicators
- Show variation of trends within an indicator in some fashion – 'enrich' indicator presentation with extra information
- Develop guidelines on how best to communicate indicators at national level
- Improve communication

### **Policy use**

- All current indicators are state indicators, except for the indicator of impact of climate change
- Current indicators fit for purpose, aligned with the 2020 targets (EU and Global), part of the recommended CBD set (Wild Bird Index is listed), recommend by the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership, in GEO BON's 'Essential Biodiversity Variables' (EBV) etc
- Wild Bird Index widely recognised
- Policy need and use is clear

### **Just do more research – our dataset is highly unique**

- If possible extend & expand research interests, collaborations, opportunities, as appropriate with data policy and co-authorship as is
- Further development of an indicator of climate change
- Drivers of changes in bird indices and indicators
- Consider birds and ecosystem services
- Consider target based indicators

### **Increase in geographical & species coverage**

- Birds of rivers/streams and canals – inland wetlands index
- Urban birds (habitat-specific)
- Alpine species
- Owls (nightjars) and bird of prey ?
- Game birds (grouse and partridges) ?
- Colonial nesting Seabirds (???)
- Modify and augment existing schemes/relax PECBMS 50k pairs rule
- South and eastern countries - meeting our criteria where this is a priority

### **Conclusions**

The big picture is bird conservation in Europe

What we do is unique

We can and we must!