

MAMMAL
CONSERVATION EUROPE

Annual Report 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Mammal Conservation Europe aims to conserve and restore thriving populations of native European mammals and their habitats.

We will achieve this by exchanging knowledge between partner organisations, and by building capacity for mammal conservation across Europe. Through working together, we can provide a much stronger voice for mammal conservation. We will also be more effective at conducting research, and be in a better position to apply for funding to benefit all partners. Such a model has been used effectively for many years for bird and butterfly conservation, and we believe that it is time for the mammal conservation community to come together in a similar way.

History

MCE was initiated and founded by eight Non-Governmental Organisations, and builds on the collaborative network established through the European Mammal Atlas II project. The founding organisations were: Mammal Society (UK), European Mammal Foundation, Dutch Mammal Society (Netherlands), Hellenic Zoological Society (Greece), Italian Mammal Society (Italy), The Mammal Protection Working Group at The Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society (Hungary), German Society for Mammalian Biology (Germany), and Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (Albania).

MCE became legally registered as an independent not-for-profit, non-governmental association in the Netherlands in November 2021. A copy of our statutes can be found on our website www.mammals.eu.

Mission

Mammal Conservation Europe uses evidence-based advocacy to achieve thriving populations of European mammals. We are therefore establishing and maintaining a network of mammal experts and NGOs, ensuring an efficient flow of information to policymakers, lobbyists and the private sectors, and facilitating improved surveillance and conservation action for mammals across Europe. The network is highly inclusive, and we aim to involve mammal conservation partners from across Europe, with members of the network supporting each other to achieve our common goals with all legal means available.

STRUCTURE

There are **currently** 15 member organisations of MCE. Other organisations that share our aims and ambitions are welcome to join us. In addition, people and organisations who share or sympathise with the goals of MCE, but do not wish to become a member, are invited to support our work by making a donation via the MCE website. Other contributions, including research equipment, literature, advice and/or other specific help are also welcome. Please, contact us on: info@mammals.eu

The board comprises members of each of the eight founder organisations, and meets monthly to oversee the activities of MCE. The structure of the board is as follows:

Chair:	Fiona Mathews
Hon Treasurer:	Svetlana Miteva (previously Daan Jacobs)
Hon Secretary:	Wilmar Remmelts
Ordinary Members:	Gabor Csorba, Frank Zachos, Sandro Bertolino, George Mitsainas, Bledi Hoxha.

Board members are eligible to serve for a maximum of 4 years, after which time they may be reappointed for a maximum of one further term. To avoid simultaneous change of the entire board, members will resign by rotation. Member organisations are eligible to propose new board members when vacancies become available.

Frank Zachos stepped down from the board at the end of 2024, and Wilmar Remmelts plans to resign in March 2025. New members are therefore required in 2025 to fill these spaces. In addition, the board has also agreed that two additional board members should be sought to improve the capacity to develop MCE as an organisation.

ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR

This year our activities have focused on three areas:

1. Establishing the Garden Dormouse Restoration Initiative

The garden dormouse *Eliomys quercinus*, is one of Europe's fastest declining mammals. The goals of the initiative are to identify the main drivers for the decline of the species, develop a systematic monitoring protocol applicable across its range, and to identify sustainable conservation strategies.

A Working Group has been set up, involving about 50 researchers and conservationists from 20 countries, representing almost the complete geographical range of the species. Two very well attended online meetings were held in the first half of the year to discuss monitoring techniques, and consider potential funding opportunities. Various options were considered, and a letter was sent to the European Commission to explore the likelihood of funding via that route. It was concluded that funding would stand a much higher chance of success if the species were added to the Bern Convention — something that was made more likely by the publication of the new European Red List in autumn 2024, which now lists the species as Vulnerable. Effort has therefore focused on informal discussions with those in a position to help propose this addition to the Bern Convention.

The online Garden Dormouse recording platform on [iNaturalist](#), through which citizen scientists and researchers can report sightings, has continued to gather evidence on garden dormouse distributions. More than 1,100 records have now been obtained (600 this year), and these are verified by a panel of the Initiative's members. In addition, data and reports have been collated from

experts from each country, and a scientific paper to provide an update on the species' status has been drafted.

2. Working with partner organisations in efforts to influence policy

Our main activities this year have been to support other NGOs in objecting to the EU's proposal to the Bern Convention to downgrade the protections given to wolves.

We also supported the European Habitat Forum in urging the new European Parliament to prioritise biodiversity conservation, and have been part of a consortium of environmental NGOs promoting the EU's Nature Restoration law.

3. Sharing information through a) establishing our website and social media and b) organising meetings to provide future opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange.

Our website (www.mammals.eu) and includes regular updates about our work. We stopped making social media posts on X at the end of 2024, and have been focusing our efforts on creating a following on BlueSky. Support in this has generously been provided by students working for the German Society for Mammalogy.

We held an extremely well-attended General meeting in March 2024. The open session of this meeting, which was attended by more than 150 people, included a talk from Prof John Linnell on the future of large carnivores in Europe. In addition, there was a closed session which provided a forum for each member organisation to give a short introduction to their activities, and to discuss future developments of MCE. It was agreed to set up working groups similar to that for Garden Dormice, to address other species or issues.

A meeting of members with an interest in bats was held to identify priority activities for MCE for 2025. It was agreed that a key theme with wide relevance across Europe was the management of

woodland and the conservation of woodland bats (some of which, such as Barbastelle and Bechstein's bats, could act as flagship species for funding bids). The group also suggested that MCE should work to identify synergies and conflicts between the needs of woodland-dwelling bats and other woodland mammals such as squirrels, dormice, and pine martens (potentially also birds).

A workshop has therefore been arranged at the 9th European Mammal Congress in Patras, Greece (April 2025) which will draw participants working on a range of woodland species, and consider the themes of:

- Managing forest fire and tree disease risks: can we make more wildlife-friendly strategies?
- Where are the conflicts and synergies between the habitat needs for different species – can we talk with a unified voice?
- Tree veteranisation and nest boxes – do they enhance the conservation value of woodland, or are they a distraction?



**Financial Report and Budget
2024- 2025**

INTRODUCTION

This Financial Report summarises the overall financial performance and outlook of the Mammal Conservation Europe (MCE) for the calendar 2024.

The document presents and explains the MCE's financial performance until the end of FY 2024 and includes the MCE's budget for 2025.

The document also contains information regarding the agreements we have with the members organizations.

The financial information summaries are based on the MCEs' bank account transactions exports per the end of December 2024.

This report is prepared by Svetlana Miteva, treasurer of MCE.

The document can be used to present the financial situation of MCE to third parties.

LEGAL AND BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

The Mammal Conservation Europe (MCE) was registered in the Netherlands on 19.11.2021 by the Notary Bruggink & van Beek in Wijchen, The Netherlands, with case N 102.7745/JV/LR and the legal name *vereniging* Mammal Conservation Europe, where *vereniging* means society or association.

MCE is registered as a not-for-profit organization and we have RSIN number. The RSIN number is the Legal Entities and Partnerships Identification Number in The Netherlands (*RSIN:Rechtspersonen en Samenwerkingsverbanden Identificatie Nummer* in Dutch).

MCE does not have a VAT number, as it is not VAT registered.

MCE is registered in the Chamber of Commerce of the Netherlands under the KvK N 84553332 and RSIN NL 863256983.

More about the numbers in NL: <https://business.gov.nl/starting-your-business/registering-your-business/lei-rsin-vat-and-kvk-number-which-is-which/>

The official mail address of MCE is:

Mammal Conservation Europe
p/a Toernooiveld 1
NL-6525 Nijmegen
The Netherlands

MCE has a bank account in ING bank, operational since May 2022.

MCE bank account details:

Name: Mammal Conservation Europe
BIC/SWIFT: INGBNL2A
IBAN: NL59 INGB 0675 7681 79

MCE MEMBERS

MCE has currently 19 members and they have different level of financial contribution to the budget of MCE.

The 8 MCE founding members are: Mammal Conservation UK, The Dutch Mammal Society, The Italian Mammal Society, The European Mammal Foundation, The Mammal Conservation Group at BirdLife Hungary, The Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania, The Hellenic Zoological Society and The German Society for Mammalian Biology. Representatives of these organisations constitute the current MCE board.

The MCE members who join later, normally also pay membership fee based on their annual budget, except if they demonstrate that they are financially unable to pay it.

1	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Säugetierkunde/ The German Society for Mammalian Biology	DGS	Germany
2	Associazione Teriologica Italiana	ATI	Italy
3	European Mammal Foundation	EMF	International
4	Dutch Mammal Society	DMS	Netherlands
5	Mammal Conservation Group of the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society/ Birdlife Hungary	MCG-BL Hungary	Hungary
6	The Mammal Society	MS	UK
7	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment (PPNEA)		Albania
8	The Hellenic Zoological Society	HZS	Greece
9	Ecology and Research Association (EID)	EID	BIH
10	Wildlife Montenegro	WL	MNE
11	Mustela	Mustela	Serbia
12	ASOC ESPANOLA PARA LA CONSERVACION Y EL ESTUDIO D (SECEMU)	SECEMU	Spain
13	Morcegos.PT	Morcegos	Portugal
14	Centre for Bat Research and Conservation	CBRC	Romania
15	Pro Bilche	PB	Switzerland
16	BatLife	BatLife	International
17	Vincent Wildlife Trust	VWT	UK
18	Verein Minimus	VM	Switzerland
19	Peoples Trust for Endangered Species	PTES	UK

MCE BUDGET 2024

Operating surplus 2023	3.632,27
Incomes:	
Donations MCE website	€ 200,00
Membership Fees	€ 1.450,00
<i>Seed</i> donations MCE members	€ 3.000,00
Total incomes:	8.282,27
Expenses:	
Website maintenance	€ 300,00
Website hosting	€ 100,00
Bank transaction costs (UK)	€ 50,00
Bank account fees	€ 250,00
Travel costs*	€ 1.000,00
Mammal Conservation Europe Conference	€ 3000,00
Total expenses:	€ 4.700,00
Expected balance per 31/12/2024	3.582,27

Remarks on the budget realisation

The maintenance of the MCE website was kindly done on a voluntary basis by George Mitsainas.

* The travel costs were meant to cover expenses for attendance of Bern Convention or other relevant parties' meetings by MCE representatives. There were not significant meetings MCE had to attend during the 2024.

Mammal Conservation Conference was not organised. The intention was to combine such a meeting during the IX European Congress on Mammalogy (IX ECM), but the IX ECM was moved to 2025.

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2024

MCE 2024 Credit and Debit Summary

Operating surplus at the end of 2023	3631,39
Credit/Incomes:	
Donations via the MCE crowdfunding/Geef.nl	€ 183,86
MCE Membership Fees	€ 300,00
Total Incomes 2024	483,86
Debit/Costs:	
MCE Website hosting	€ 39,00
ING Bank account taxes	€ 243,80
Total expenses 2024	€ 282,80
Operating surplus at the end of 2024	3.832,45

MCE BUDGET 2025

MCE 2025 Budget

Description	Debit/Costs	Credit/Incomes
Operating surplus at the end of 2024		3.832,45
Expected incomes 2025		
Donations via the MCE website		€ 200,00
Membership Fees 2024 (still to be paid)		€ 1.750,00
Membership Fees 2025		€ 2.100,00
Expected costs 2025		
Website maintenance	€ 1000,00	
Website hosting	€ 100,00	
Bank account fees	€ 243,80	
Social media assistant	€ 1.000,00	
Protection of the Blind Mole-rat/Croatia	€ 2.000,00	
Travel to Bern Convention or other relevant meetings	€1.000,00	
Total	€ 5.343,80	€ 4.050,00
Operating surplus at the end of 2025		€2.538,65