



Bat Specialist Group

Co-Chairs: Dr Tigga Kingston & Dr Rodrigo Medellín

vision

The world's bats are represented on the Red List of Threatened Species with updated taxonomy and quality assessments that are no older than 5 years. Bat experts are trained and proactively engaged in the assessment process.

update

The Red List is the world's most authoritative source on the extinction risk of bats and forms the basis for species conservation planning and action. Currently, 1 332 bat species are represented on the Red List, and a global collaboration of scientists, conservationists and students over the last five (5) years yielded 927 published assessments.

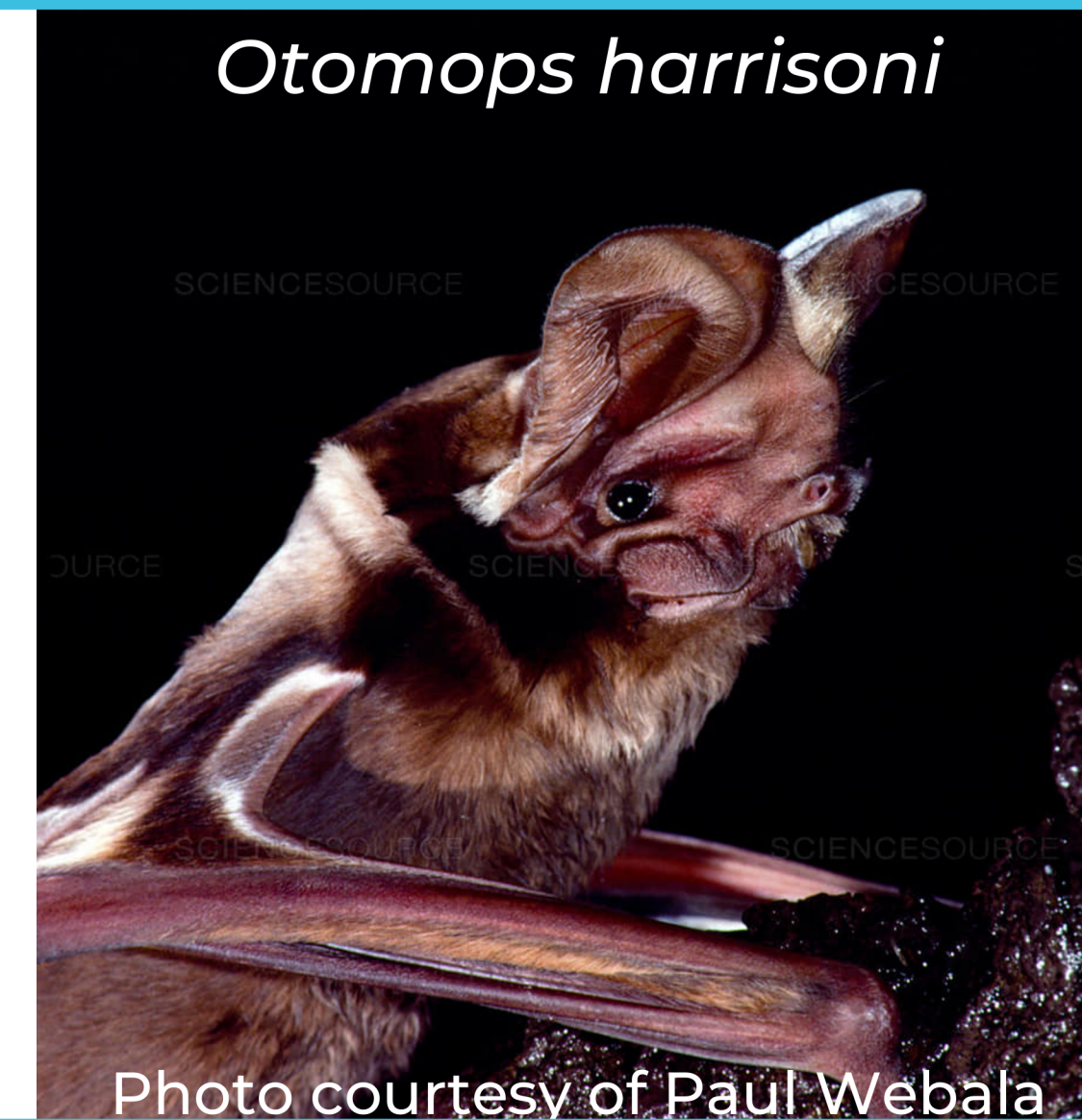


Photo courtesy of Paul Webala

At least another 120 "new" species have been recognised on the batnames.org website (official taxonomic resource of the BSG), and more species are formally described annually. Conservatively, we estimate a continuing need for at least 200 assessments each year, which will require greater involvement of bat experts from around the world. Free Red List Assessment training course (<https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/online>).

Join Our Effort

Contact the Red List Authority Coordinators

Dr Dave Waldien (Old World Bats) dwaldien@gmail.com
Dr Sergio Solari (New World Bats) solari.udea@gmail.com



Bat Trade Working Group

vision

A world in which bats are protected from illegal and/or unsustainable exploitation and trade.

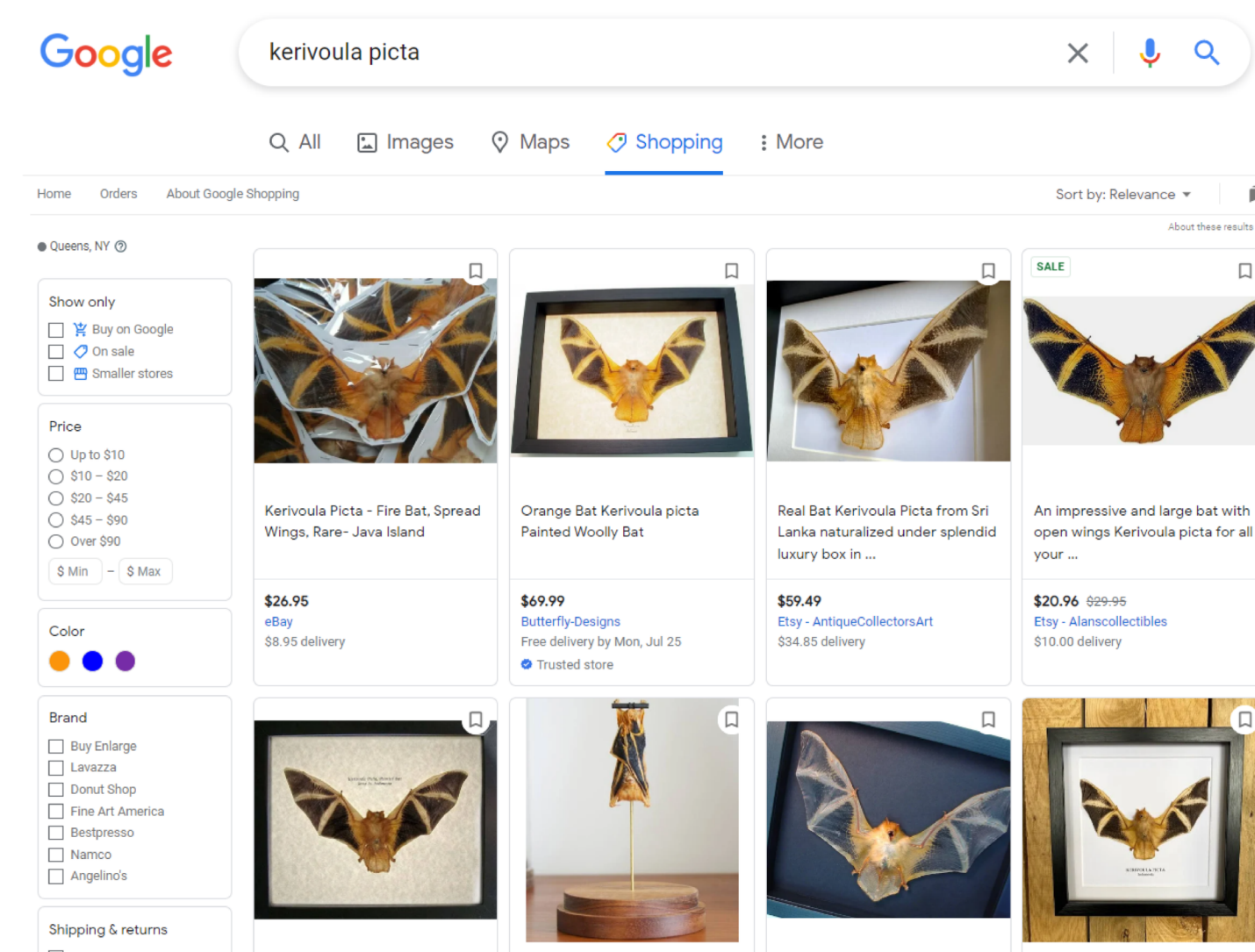
mission

To inform and support evidence-based interventions to end the illegal and/or unsustainable domestic and international trades in live bats and bat specimens.

As such, we conduct interdisciplinary research, catalyse legislative change and advise and assist with on-the-ground conservation efforts.

projects

Kerivoula picta, with its striking colours, is popular with collectors. So popular that the trade in specimens is believed to account for a suspected 25 % global population decline – hence this bat's recent Red-List uplisting from LC to NT.



But the extent of trade remains poorly understood. We are using data science to quantify the global online trade (volume, dynamics, economic value). We aim to generate findings that we can use to strengthen a proposal to list *K. picta* on CITES – a legal intervention that will allow for systematic, global monitoring of the trade.

Co-Chairs Dr Joanna Coleman & Dr Chris Shepherd

Members Dr Joe Chun-Chia Huang, Dr Tigga Kingston, Dr Joy O'Keefe, Ms Abby Rutrough, Dr Vu Din Thong, Dr Susan Tsang

Human Dimensions Working Group

vision

A world with evidence-based measures to foster coexistence between bats and people..

mission

To conduct and facilitate multidisciplinary research to gain a better understanding of the full spectrum of human-bat relationships in different contexts.

Using social-science theories & concepts, we study antecedents of human-bat conflicts and suggest, based on this knowledge, solutions.

projects

We are currently studying the uptake of field-hygiene practices by bat researchers. Our overall aim is to understand the factors that motivate and hinder these behaviours.

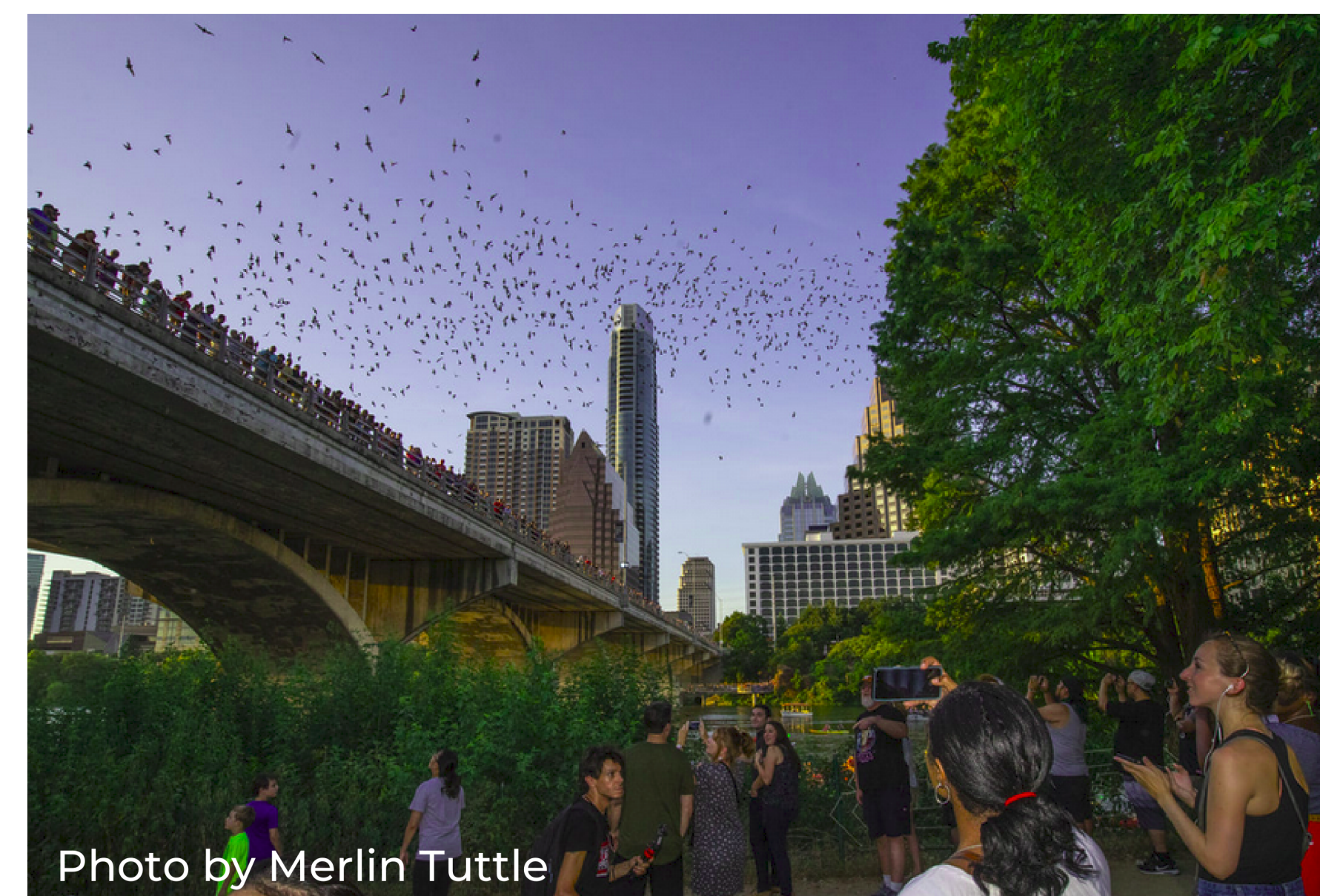


Photo by Merlin Tuttle

Straka, Coleman, Macdonald & Kingston (2021) Human dimensions of bat conservation – 10 recommendations to improve and diversify studies of human-bat interactions. *Biol Conserv* 262, 109304.

Co-Chairs Dr Tigga Kingston, Dr Joanna Coleman, Dr Ewan Macdonald, Dr Tanja Straka

Members Dr Kristen Lear, Dr Ricardo Rocha, Dr Will Tuladhar-Douglas

One Health Working Group

vision

A world with science-based understanding of the connections between the health of bats, people and ecosystems.

mission

To advance multidisciplinary integrative research and informed communication to promote bat conservation as essential to One Health.

projects

Guidelines & recommendations for researchers, bat rehabilitators, and cavers to reduce the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from humans to bats

Recommendations for "field hygiene" to prevent transmission of potential pathogens between people and bats

FAQs on COVID and bats

Recommendations on terminology for zoonotic diseases (Shapiro et al. al. 2021. Viruses)

Survey of guano collectors to understand global guano collection practices

Co-Chairs Dr Tigga Kingston & Dr Ian Mendenhall

Members Dr Germán Botto Nuñez, Dr Andrew Cunningham, Dr Sasan Fereidouni, Dr Eric Moise Bakwo Fils, Dr Winfred Frick, Dr MdNurul Islam, Tracey Jolliffe, Dr Rebekah Kading, Dr Andrzej Kepel, Dr Stefania Leopardi, Dr Rodrigo Medellín, Dr Stuart Parsons, Dr Kendra Phelps, Dr Paul Racey, Dr Danilo Russo, Dr Julie Teresa Shapiro, Dr Amanda Vicente-Santos, Dr Luis Viquez-R, Dr Vu Dinh Thong, Dr Luz de Wit, Lisa Worledge

Preventing human-to-bat transmission of SARS-CoV-2

Exposure Risks

- Aerosol exposure**: Infectious droplets from handlers holding bats in close proximity
- Environmental exposure**: Sharing enclosed, poorly-ventilated spaces with bats, where virus may persist in the air or on surfaces
- Contact exposure**: Bats coming into contact with contaminated hands or equipment

Mitigation Strategies

- Assess**: The level of risk the project poses to bats based on epidemiological context and team status
- Modify**: Research activities based on the risk assessment: green, amber or red
- Protect**: Adopt good field hygiene: wear masks and gloves, follow disinfection procedures

AMP: your plan to keep protecting bats

www.iucnbsg.org Full recommendations @ <https://tinyurl.com/AMP4bats>



Join us in our collective effort to conserve bats, by becoming a Red List Assessor or joining a working group.

Email Tigga.Kingston@ttu.edu to obtain a code.