



# 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.

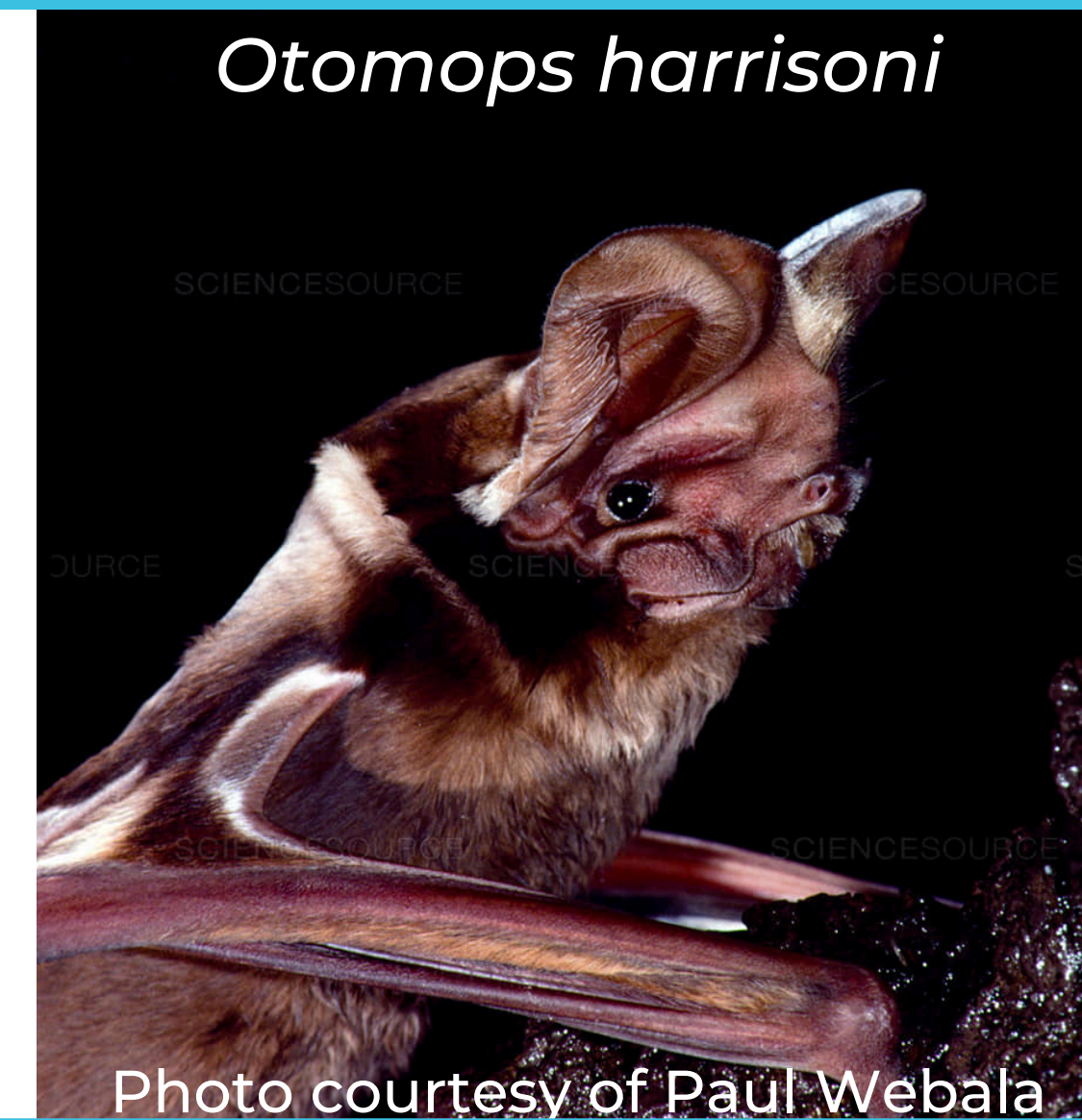


Photo courtesy of Paul Webala

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](mailto:dwaldien@gmail.com)  
Dr Sergio Solari (New World Bats) [solari.udea@gmail.com](mailto:solari.udea@gmail.com)



## Bat Trade Working Group

### vision

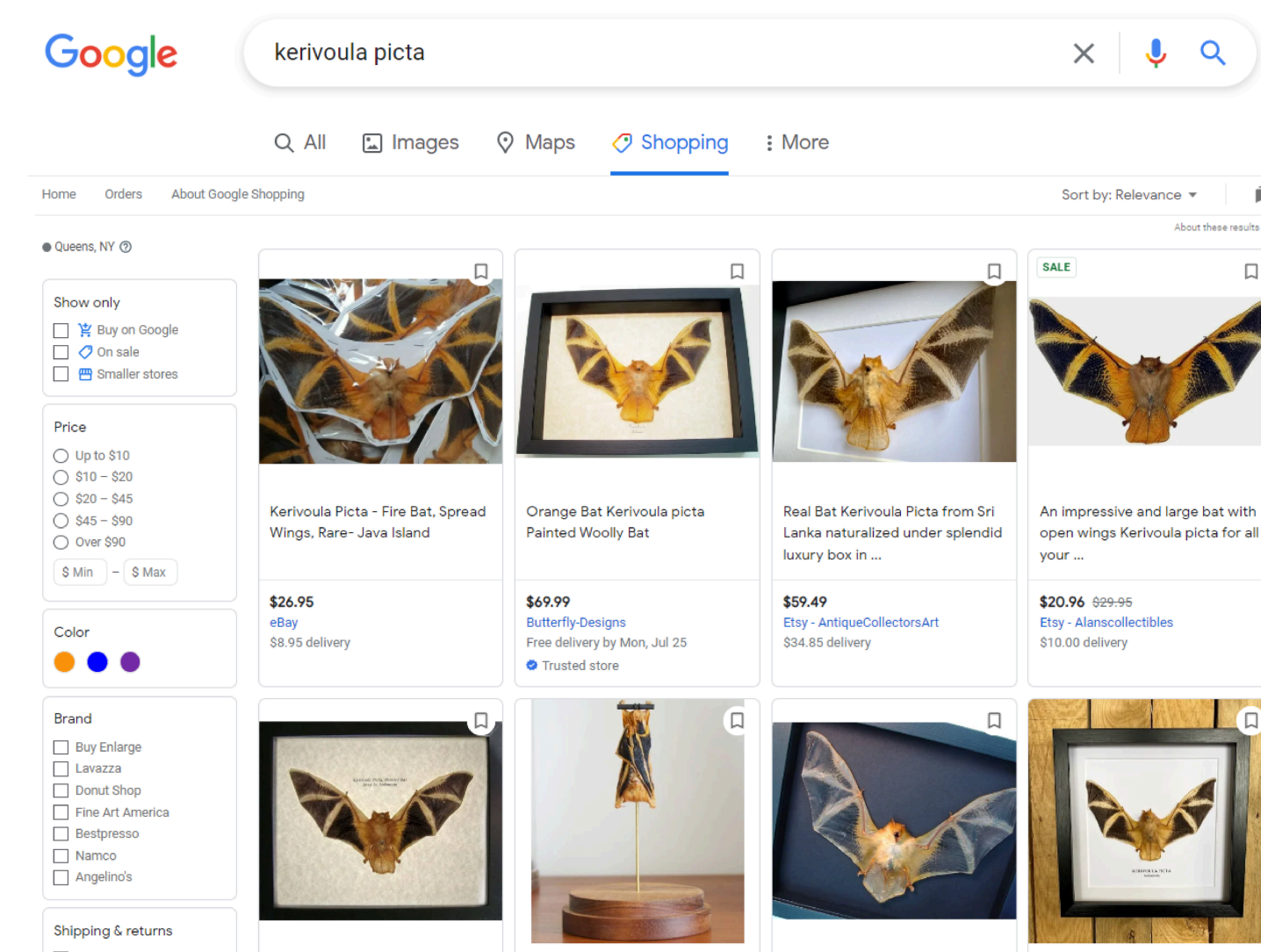
A world in which bats are protected from illegal and/or unsustainable exploitation and trade.

### 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 ornamental trade is believed to account for a suspected 25 % global population decline—hence this bat's recent Red-List uplisting from LC to NT.



Our Animal-Welfare-Institute funded study of online, ornamental trade in *K. picta* revealed an alarming pattern of trade indicating the need to add *K. picta* to CITES, which will allow for systematic, global monitoring of trade. Thanks to an IUCN SSC grant, we are now starting an on-the-ground study of the supply chain in Vietnam. Both studies, combined will generate the evidence needed for a CITES petition by Vietnam.

**Co-Chairs** Dr Joanna Coleman & Dr Chris Shepherd

**Members** Dr Joe Chun-Chia Huang, Dr Tigga Kingston, Dr Joy O'Keefe, Dr Nistara Randhawa, 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 promoting a better understanding of the full spectrum of human-bat relationships. Using social-science theories & concepts, we study antecedents of human-bat conflicts and suggest, based on this knowledge, solutions. We are also interested in the antecedents of bat-related conservation behaviours and human-bat coexistence.

### projects

We found that most bat researchers use field-hygiene practices when working with bats. Norms, especially if set by mentors, are key drivers. Beliefs that the practices are uncomfortable or impractical are key barriers.

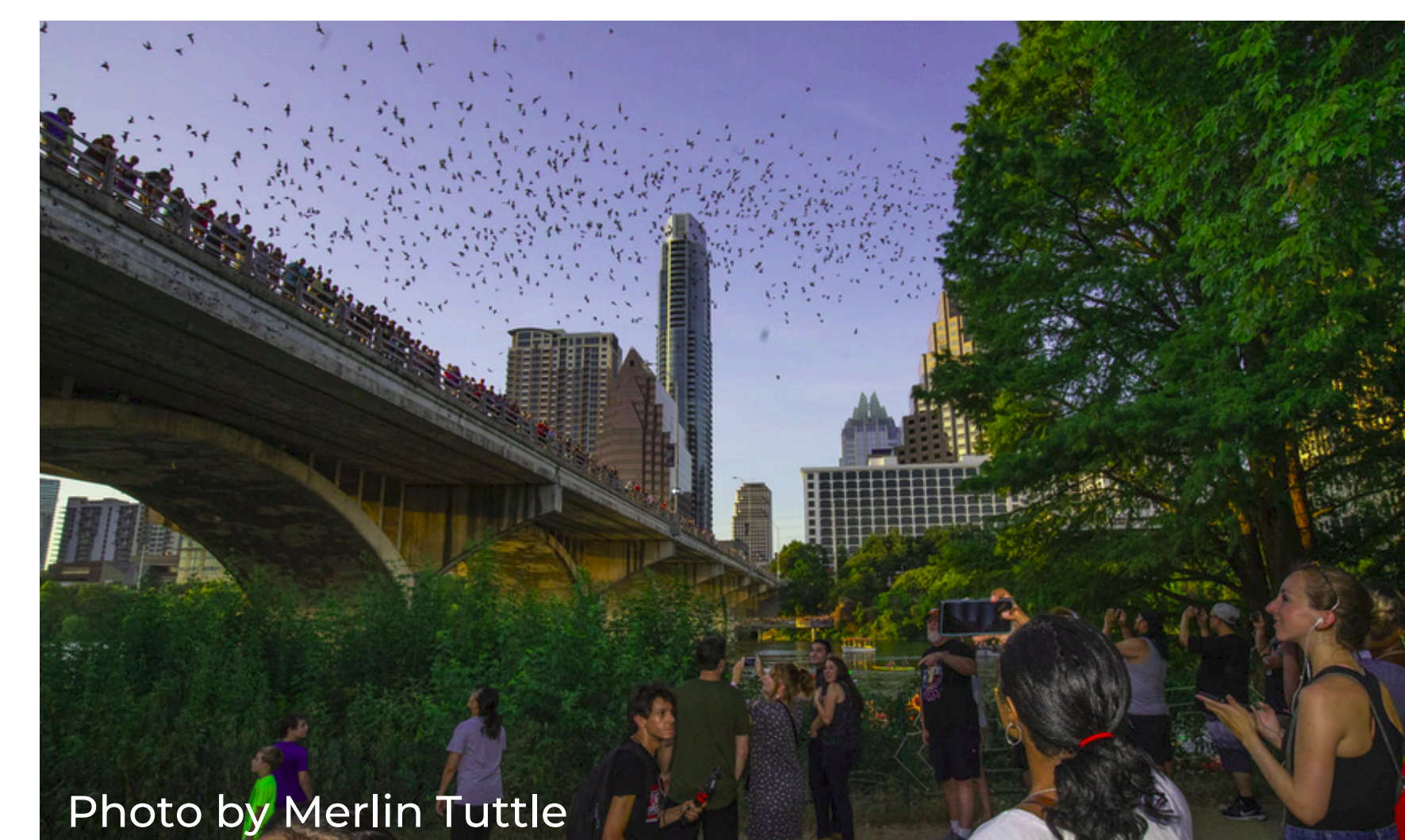


Photo by Merlin Tuttle

### outputs

Straka et al (2024) Beyond biophobia: positive appraisal of bats among German residents during the COVID-19 pandemic - with consequences for conservation intentions. *Biodiv Conserv*, in press.

Straka et al (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 & outputs

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

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

FAQs on COVID and bats

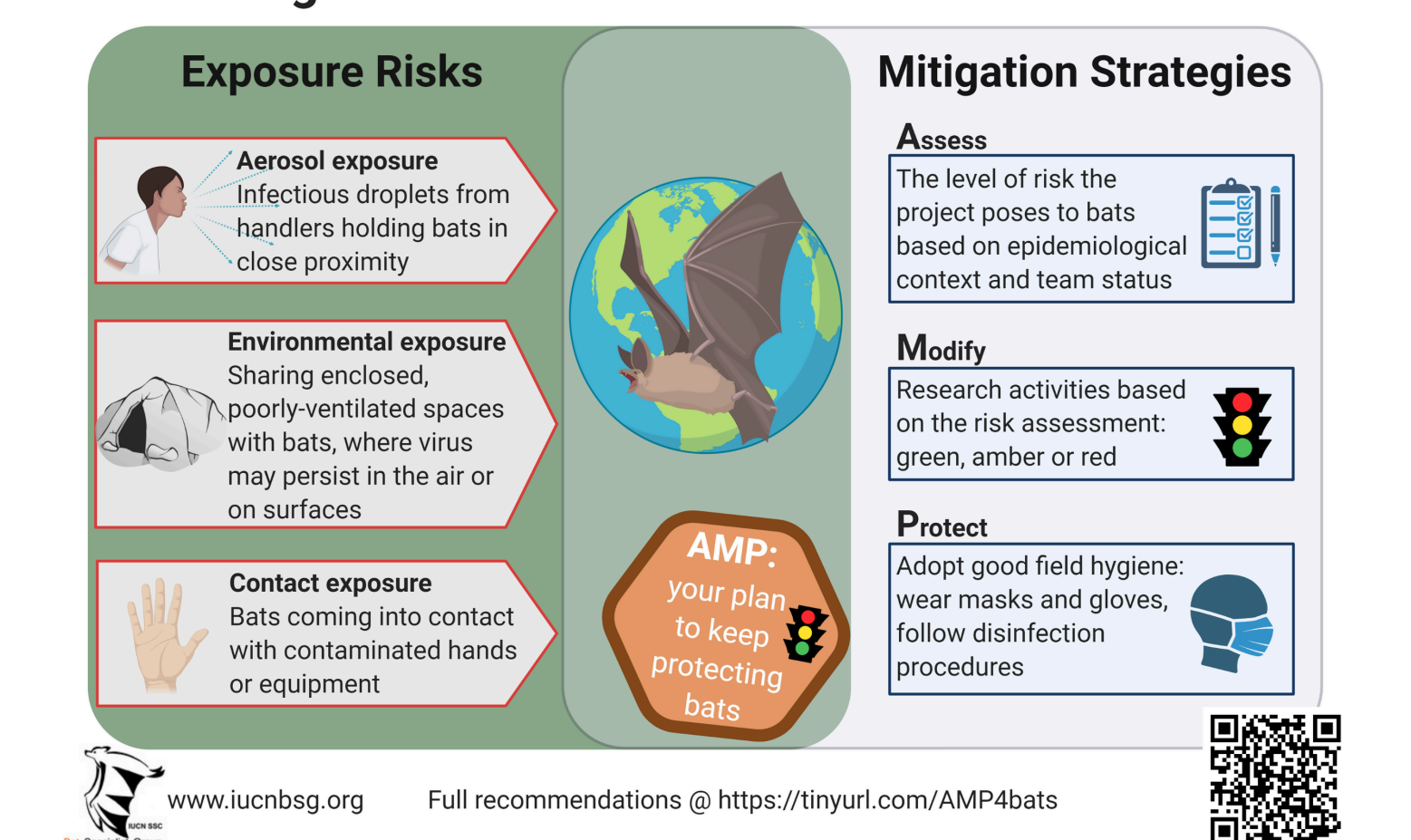
Recommendations on terminology for zoonotic diseases (Shapiro et al. 2021. *Viruses*)

Survey of guano collectors to understand global guano collection practices

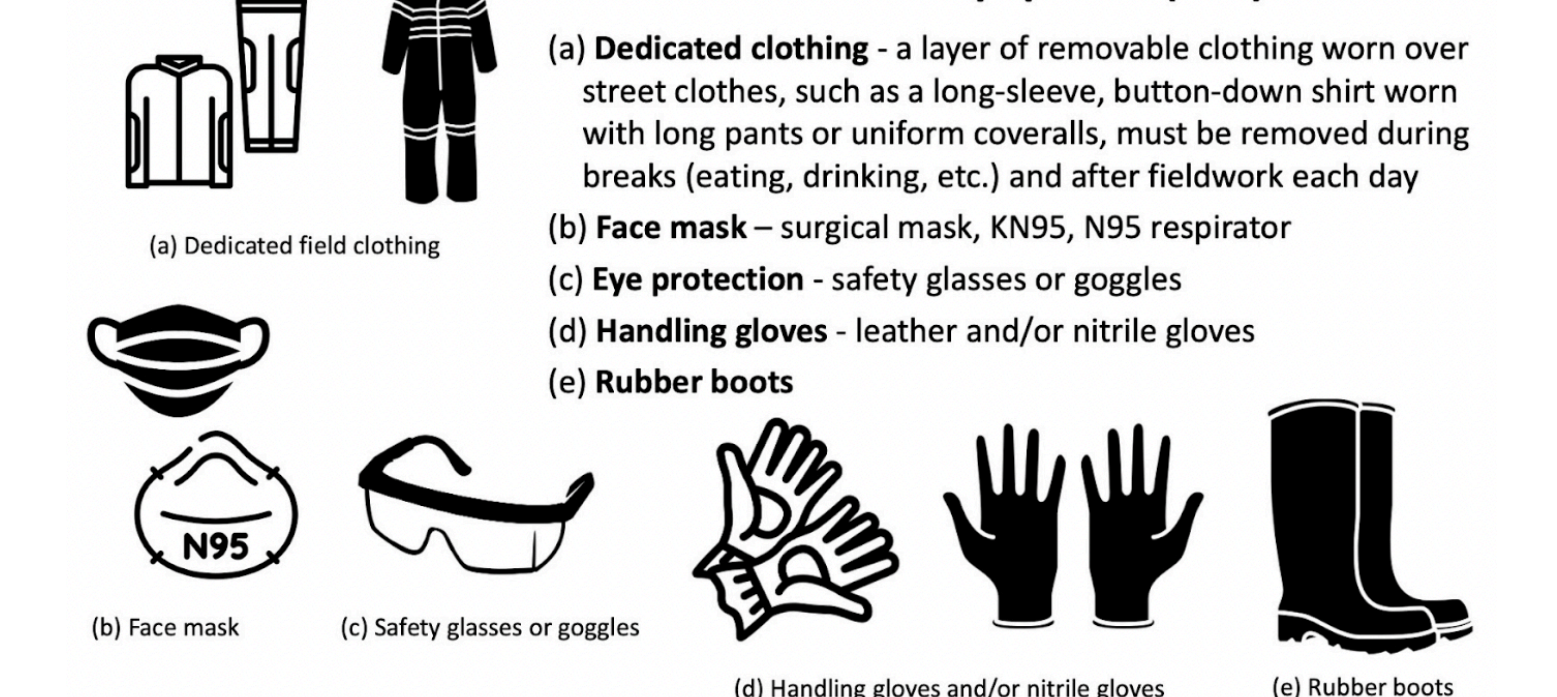
**Co-Chairs** Dr Tigga Kingston, Dr Ian Mendenhall, Dr. Julie Teresa Shapiro

**Members** Dr Sasan Fereidouni, Dr Winfred Frick, Dr Rebekah Kading, Dr Stefania Leopardi, Dr. Wanda Markotter, Dr Rodrigo Medellín, Dr Stuart Parsons, Dr Kendra Phelps, Dr Paul Racey, Dr Vu Dinh Thong, Dr Amanda Vicente-Santos, Dr Luis Viquez-R, Dr. Allyson Walsh, Dr. Maya Weinberg, Dr Luz de Wit, Lisa Worledge

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



### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



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](mailto:Tigga.Kingston@ttu.edu) to obtain a code.