

9th Meeting of the Standing Committee
19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Heraklion, Greece, 7 – 10 April 2014



Record of the Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Attendance

This is listed at **Annex 1** to the Record.

2. Opening Remarks

The Chair of the Standing Committee, Mr. Michel Perret, opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants to Heraklion. He invited Dr. Eleni Hatziyanni, the Coordinator of European Projects in the regional government of Crete, to address the delegates first.

Dr. Hatziyanni greeted all the participants of the meeting, also on behalf of the Regional Governor of Crete, Mr. Stavros Arnaoutakis, and the Vice Governor, Mr. Nikos Kalogeris. She highlighted the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development through research and innovation and stated that the region of Crete participates in many national and European environmental projects. Dr. Hatziyanni expressed to the delegates her wishes for a productive meeting and a nice stay in Heraklion.

The participants were also greeted by the representative of the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Dr. Charalampos Ververis. He stressed the necessity to protect biodiversity and to manage ecosystems in a wise and sustainable way. Additionally, he expressed his wishes for productive work in the next three days as well as his hope that he would be able to gain knowledge and experience from the delegates in terms of guidelines on forest management and building of wind farms.

The Chair of the Standing Committee thanked Dr. Hatziyanni and Dr. Ververis for their statements. He also thanked the government of Greece as well as the regional government of Crete for their hospitality. Mr. Perret then pointed out the importance of this meeting in preparation for the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) and expressed his hope that the Standing Committee will find a solution for the budget taking into account the financial situation of all the member countries. Additionally, he

emphasised the importance of the work of the Advisory Committee, which had been recognised by the European Union through the joint development of an EU-Action Plan for Bats. He thanked the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Peter Lina, for his work and wished him a fruitful meeting. He thanked the Greek hosts for the wonderful, very well organized and very informative excursion on Sunday.

The audience was then welcomed by the Chair of the Advisory Committee who also underlined the significance of this meeting for the preparation of draft resolutions and thanked the governments of Greece and Crete for hosting the meeting.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Andreas Streit, welcomed all the participants, and particularly the representative of Kazakhstan, which was being represented for the first time. He also expressed his gratitude to the government of Greece and Crete for hosting the meeting and noted that this was the first time that the Greek government was represented. Mr. Streit uttered his hope that after this meeting Greece would consider becoming a party. He thanked the delegates for the excellent work they had already done in the intersessional period and wished them a fruitful meeting.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair introduced the provisional agendas for both committees which were adopted by consensus without further discussion.

4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure were unanimously adopted for both Committees.

5. Summary Reports by Parties, Non Parties and NGOs ¹

¹**Albania** reported that since the last AC meeting the following developments related to bats have taken place in Albania:

In accordance with the National Legal Framework the Review of the Red List of Fauna and Flora species of Albania was done and has been approved by a Minister Order No. 1280 dated 20 November 2013 (the Red List is updated and reviewed every 5 years). Bat species are protected as endangered species. Officially in Albania 24 species occur and 16 of them are included in the Red List. On-going studies have discovered new species which will be validated and certified and will be reported in the coming months in the national report that will be prepared for the Meeting of Parties in September 2014.

In the framework of the KfW project “Integrated management of Prespa Lakes” (funded by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)) a trans-boundary study was carried out on

¹ These summary reports were submitted in written by the country and NGO representatives and included with minor editing by the Secretariat.

those bat species that are present in the areas concerning three countries involved in the project: Albania, TFYR of Macedonia and Greece. The First Albanian Bat Night was organized on 10 September 2013 at the artificial lake of Tirana. The event was a great success and it opened the door for a lot of other events in the coming months and years. Albania is revising the law "On Biodiversity Protection". The aim of this draft law is to ensure the establishment of a network for conservation of natural habitats and the wild flora and fauna in the territory of the Republic of Albania. This law will be the legal basis for the establishment of the ecological network "Natura 2000". It is the implementation of the Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, as well as the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC on wild bird conservation. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan revision and update has started in 2013 and will be done till the end of 2014. Bat species as biodiversity indicators will be included.

Belgium reported for the 3 regions competent for nature policy on bats.

Under Art.17 of the Habitats Directive, Belgium reported on 19 bat species for the Atlantic and Continental Regions. The overall picture is of a relative status quo, with respect to the 2007 reporting. 40% of the species are in a favorable conservation status, 40% remain unfavorable, including many tree dwelling species. For 20% the situation is unknown. Most species that depend on underground roost for hibernation are stable or still increasing. With the exception of *Myotis daubentonii* which population seems to be in decline, at least for the Atlantic biogeographic region. The International Bat Night, led by the NGOs Natuurpunt and Natagora remained a major success, with activities all over Belgium, with thousands of participants. Belgium completed the submission of 97 sites to the EUROBATS list of important underground sites. Belgium is actively contributing to the writing of the EU Action Plan for Bats. With a lot of efforts the preparations of the EUROBATS MOP7, which will take place in Brussels in September 2014, are ongoing. The full scope of winter census counts is done on a yearly basis for all major and smaller bat related underground sites. The Walloon Region made recent advances in avoidance and mitigation of bat fatalities at wind turbines, providing developers with wind-speed and temperature thresholds for temporarily shutting down the turbine. A full year study on the topic of bat fatalities and wind farms was conducted: relation to weather conditions, carcasses predation and observer efficiency has been studied. Belgium will submit a full and updated country report for the MOP 7.

In **Bulgaria** during the past few years, there has been significant progress in terms of "inclusion" of bats in Environmental Impact Assessments. Currently, bat diversity is

taken into consideration in an increasingly higher number of Environmental Impact Assessments of investment proposals. Numerous bat surveys were carried out last year. Until now, there have no independent post-construction monitoring on the impact of wind farms been conducted. With regard to the reporting required by virtue of Article 17 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive), reports on all species listed in Annexes II, IV, and V have been prepared. Within this project all 12 Annex II bat species were reported with freshly updated national population estimates. The updated list of internationally important underground sites for bats in Bulgaria includes 87 multispecies underground roosts. The monitoring of underground habitats and sites continued in 2013-2014, realized entirely with the voluntary contribution of experts and NGOs. Bat information signboards were installed at 11 show-caves. Bat gates in 3 show-caves were replaced. In 2013 and 2014, bat surveys were carried out in several nature parks and reserves in Bulgaria. Based on these surveys, bat conservation measures were planned to be implemented within the territories of these protected areas as well as to be incorporated into the relevant Management Plans. The development of the first cave management plan in Bulgaria (for Devetashka Cave) was launched. 3 new protected areas were designated to protect important areas for bats. The International Bat Night 2013 campaign was financed from the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) and celebrated with a series of events, involving 14 towns and more than 2150 participants. Experts and volunteers of 24 organizations contributed over 220 man-days of voluntary efforts to organize the most successful International Bat Night in Bulgaria (for the moment).

Croatia became a new EU member state on 1st July 2013. Main changes in legislation concerning nature protection are Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013), Regulation on the Ecological Network (OG 124/13) and Ordinance on Strictly Protected Species (OG 144/2013). An interactive map of the Natura 2000 sites can be found on the website of the State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP, <http://natura2000.dzpp.hr/natura/>) with standard data forms available in English. Overall 74 Protected Sites of Community Interest (PSCI) for 12 bat species have been recognized. Inventory of bats in continental region will start this year and is financed by EU NATURA 2000 Integration Project – NIP (World Bank loan). Croatian fauna database as a part of the National Information System is still under development. Bat monitoring programmes and protocols are also under development and a certain number of nurseries and hibernacula are visited each year. Several research or monitoring projects are planned for 2014 by Public Institutions responsible for management of protected nature. Regular winter monitoring at the Veternica Cave didn't report on new cases with White Nose

Syndrome (WNS) suspected bats. During the winter monitoring 2014 seven different caves were sampled for *Geomyces destructans* according to the protocol prepared by Dr. Sebastien Puechmaille for the pan-european project. The first report on wind farm bat mortality in the period from March till October 2013 recorded 148 bat carcasses of at least 5 species. The final report was submitted in March 2014 and mitigation measures will be prescribed. 13th European Bat Research Symposium will be held in Solaris, Šibenik, 01-05 September 2014. It is organised by the Croatian Biospeleological Society (CBSS) in cooperation with 5 other organisations under the patronage of the State Institute for Nature Protection (<http://13ebrs2014.com/>). The International Bat Night and other bat-related events were conducted by the Zagreb ZOO, Osijek ZOO Krka National Park, Brijuni National Park, Medvednica Nature Park, City of Rijeka, town of Koprivnica in cooperation with SINP, BIUS, Tragus and CBSS. Each activity was covered by the media on both national and regional levels, as well as in social networks on the internet.

In the **Czech Republic** 27 bat species have been recorded. *Hypsugo savii*, so far found rarely only in the south-east of the country, was found in Prague in winter 2013, also winter records of *Pipistrellus nathusii* increased. Long-term monitoring continues in hibernacula (600 sites together with basic *Pseudogymnoascus (Geomyces) destructans* monitoring), maternity colonies (with special emphasis of NATURA 2000 species covers 120 localities), biotops (in 10 localities in protected landscape areas) and at swarming sites (9 localities). Short-term monitoring continues for bat populations in block of flats, which are not insulated. Massive insulation threatens mainly noctules, parti-coloured and pipistrelle bats. Short-term monitoring also continues for gas heaters that are occupied by bats. Bats use tubes and surroundings of tubes (eventually they roost inside heaters) as roosts during summer or autumn and when winter starts, the risk of bats get injured or burned rises. The brochure „Bats in forests - Guidelines for foresters“ was published by ČESON (CBCT) in 2013 as an output of national project „Bats in forests“. We took part in the preparation of the draft Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bat Species in the European Union 2014 – 2020. The International Bat Night (IBN) was celebrated at 43 localities with more than 5,000 participants. Additionally NGO ČESON (CBCT) had 29 bat events, NGO Nyctalus had 76 bat events (mainly primary school and kindergarten programs).

In **Estonia** a new national action plan for the protection of bats passed the first round of reading at the Environmental Board. There is a will to take into account the recommendations of the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bat Species in the European Union before the second reading. Estonia is also participating in the

preparation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bat Species in the European Union. In addition to the new bat action plan a new monitoring program is in preparation. In connection with that the Environmental Agency which is now responsible for organizing monitoring programs in Estonia has indicated that they are interested in and willing to provide input also to the pan-European indicator project. During the year many bat talks and walks have been offered, the International Bat Night was celebrated in several places around Estonia. The Estonian Museum of Natural History is developing a special program of bat events to celebrate the Bat Night. The interest in bats is slowly increasing in the general public and also in the business sector. The need for carrying out surveys and assessments has also increased. Estonia is therefore in the need of capacity building to deal with this increase of interest. One of the latest cases in connection with bats in East-Estonia concerned the city of Narva, which hosts several man-made bat hibernation sites and several important summer habitats. The attention is turned to renovating the parks and also the under-ground sites. Lately there have been several actions that can be considered violations against bats in Narva fort underground sites. The case has got a lot of publicity and there is an active debate on bat protection and mitigation measures. The Environmental Inspectorate has opened a case and is carrying out an investigation. In parallel discussions on finding a compromise and setting up mitigation measures are ongoing between parties involved, including Narva city government and bat conservationists.

Finland has finally submitted a list of important underground sites to EUROBATS for the European database of sites: It only includes 6 sites as there are not many sites known with big numbers of hibernating bats in Finland. A bat atlas and updated distribution maps are being prepared, based on the data collated during the reporting process of the Habitats Directive Article 17. The increase in the numbers of surveys and other observations has been great during the recent years. The distribution area of some species nowadays reaches further north than previously known. Nathusius' pipistrelle is a good example for this phenomenon. However, whether the range expansions are real or a result of increased observation activities is presently unknown. Concerning research, the monitoring of bat migration is continued especially along the coastal areas. The results from a collaborative study conducted by the countries around the Baltic Sea are accepted for publication in an article in *Acta Chiropterologica*. The results of the active sampling study on European bat lyssaviruses were published last autumn. In this study circa 700 bats were sampled and no viruses were found in saliva samples but antibodies were detected in southwestern Finland. No more active sampling is planned; instead passive sampling is encouraged in order to get a sufficient

number of samples yearly. At the University of Turku, research on the diet of bats has been conducted and the first interesting results of dietary research using next generation sequencing of fecal DNA appeared. Regarding public outreach a theme exhibition on bats in the Museum of Natural History took place until the beginning of this year and the exhibition is now touring other museums in Finland. It has gained very positive feedback. Hopefully the exhibition together with the activities of the bat NGO Chiropterological Society will raise interest in bats and help recruiting new volunteers to participate in monitoring activities.

In **France** for its last year the second National Action Plan for bats was implemented in all 22 French regions and the first meeting of the coordinators of these regional action plans was very successful. The list of important underground sites for bats is in process of updating (this is a huge work regarding the number of French roosts already listed in the EUROBATS database). The qualification for catching and handling bats is now strictly ruled. A workshop was organized to promote discussion between bat workers and roadbuilders, guidelines and examples will be issued early soon. A booklet has been published on the legislation of wind farms regarding the conservation of species. Another action was to establish in the Museum of Natural History in Bourges a library for all French documents on bats (including reports, master's theses, etc.). The list is available on the website of the museum and everyone can order pdf files of these documents. At last, during 2014 the third National Action Plan for bats will be prepared with possibly new actions regarding agriculture, light pollution and any other topic suggested by EUROBATS resolutions adopted by the MoP7.

Georgia: the National Report about the implementation of the EUROBATS Agreement in will be submitted in time for the Session of the Meeting of the Parties. Since the last Advisory Committee Meeting the following activities in Georgia shall be highlighted: in March 2014 a new wintering colony with 350-400 specimens of *Rhinolophus euryale* was found in Georgia. About 20 bat boxes have been installed in the Kolkheti National Park. *Myotis alcathoe* was found in Georgia with help of our colleague from the EUROBATS Secretariat – Dr. Suren Gazaryan. Georgian National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) initiated the project “Emerging Zoonotic Pathogens in Georgian Bats”. This project will be implemented in close cooperation with bat specialists in Georgia. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia developed a five-year biodiversity monitoring program, which includes bat species as key indicator group for biodiversity monitoring. Recently several species were selected for starting monitoring in the field and bat species were among them.

Germany: The third National report under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive was submitted end of 2013 to the EU Commission. 23 bat species have been assessed. In comparison to the last report of 2007 only little changes in the conservation status of bats were found, most of them resulting from a change of the method in monitoring the species or from improved data. Only two changes in the conservation status can be identified as “real changes”, i.e. the deterioration of *Eptesicus serotinus* and *Pipistrellus nathusii* in the continental biogeographical zone from a “favorable” conservation status to “unfavourable-inadequate”. The research projects of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN) and the Federal Ministry of Environment (BMUB) concerning bats and wind turbines are still on-going; some detailed information will be presented by a delegation of the project partners during the afternoon session. A Federal Program on Biological Diversity (Bundesprogramm zur biologischen Vielfalt -<http://www.biologischesvielfalt.de/bundesprogramm.html>) was established to support the implementation of the German National Strategy on Biological Diversity in 2011, offering funding for two bat species, *Barbastella barbastellus* and *Myotis bechsteinii*. For Bechstein’s bat a new project was launched in 2013, aiming the conservation of maternity/nursery colonies by the development and implementation of efficient conservation measures for the integration into forest management. There are several other projects under this program which do not focus on bats but also comprise bat conservation measures.

Ireland completed and submitted its Article 17 report under the EU Habitats Directive in June 2013. This process required a thorough assessment of the conservation status of all nine resident bat species and was done with the assistance of the national bat NGO – Bat Conservation Ireland. In particular the distribution, range, habitat usage, population and future prospects of each species had to be assessed. As a result up to date distribution maps were prepared and the extent of range calculated. For the first time, population estimates are now available for almost all Irish bats. Population estimates range from less than 5,000 individuals for *Pipistrellus nathusii* and c.14,000 for *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, to over 1 million individuals of *P. pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*. More data are still required before population sizes can be estimated for *Myotis mystacinus* and *M. nattereri*. The detailed technical documents which underpin the assessments for all listed habitats and species in Ireland are available online here: <http://www.npws.ie/publications/article17assessments/>. A summary document will be published shortly and made available at the same location. Ireland has recently completed the questionnaire on Bat Rehabilitation and also updated its list of important underground sites and submitted this to the Secretariat. Monitoring programmes for six

of nine Irish species continue. The on-going participation of large numbers of volunteers in the waterways surveys is very encouraging. Meanwhile, the car transect survey, now in its 10th year, has progressed to using smart phones instead of mini-discs to record data from the bat detectors. The phones also provide GPS coordinates for recordings. Recent reports from both of these schemes can be downloaded here: <http://www.npws.ie/publications/irishwildlifemanuals/>.

In **Italy** a workshop on bat monitoring organized by the Italian Chiroptera Research Group took place in Sicily to inform the Italian bat workers on the ongoing project about the development of trend indicators for bat populations in Europe and explore options for Italy to join it. Participants followed 3-hr training on the use of TRIM software. From the research side, the Ministry of Environment funded a project to Naples University Federico II aimed to provide an updated picture of the distribution of cryptic bat species (especially from the *mystacinus* group) in Italy and apply modelling to improve the knowledge about the ecology and geographical range of selected bat species. Besides, ongoing research is applying presence-only models to generate risk maps for bats under scenarios of wind farm increase. This has led to two papers published on the subject (one in Biodiversity and Conservation, the other in press in Landscape Ecology). Further information on bat conservation in Italy is provided in the national report we recently submitted.

Latvia highlighted some of the activities being carried out during the last year as well as recent data. Searches of bat carcasses underneath six single wind turbines in the western part of the country resulted in 40 dead bats from 4 species. This is the first evidence on high mortality rate of bats at wind turbines in Latvia. First survey on bat rabies was carried out by the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR) in co-operation with the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES). In August-September 2013 203 samples of oral swabs and 102 sera samples of seven bat species were collected. Analyses of oral swabs were negative; the blood samples will be analysed soon. First hibernation records in Latvia are documented for Nathusius's bat and for the serotine. For the first species an alive male was found behind the window frame in middle of January in a five storey building in Riga. It is the most northeastern winter record of this species. At the same time the serotine bat was found in the city of Daugavpils in the southeastern part of the country. It is the third record of this species in Latvia. Latvian bat scientists continue international research collaboration on bat migration with the bat research group of the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research led by Dr. Christian Voigt.

In **Luxembourg** monitoring of bats is ongoing within a large monitoring program of species of the EU Habitats Directive, and also through some other specific projects. The current conservation status of bats in Luxembourg under the Habitats Directive (see below) has been reported to the EU. Re-evaluation of bat pass ability of abandoned underground sites and the corresponding protection measures is under work. In May 2013 the first case of bat rabies (EBLV-1b strain) occurred in Luxembourg. A serotine bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*) bit a man in the head while asleep. The bat was caught and sent to a laboratory in France for testing. The results were published in *Zoonoses and Public Health*. The first known maternity roost of the Western barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) in the east of Luxembourg was found. A study on the greater mouse-eared bat (*Myotis myotis*) to detect reasons for the ongoing decline and disappearance of known maternity colonies throughout the country was undertaken. Articles in peer reviewed journals on the Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), the greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) and the Geoffroy's bat (*Myotis emarginatus*) have been published. In 2012 the Luxembourg government bought the house and annex that give shelter to the most important maternity colony of Luxembourg, in Bech-Kleinmacher, consisting of 150 *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and 850 *Myotis emarginatus*, for 500,000 EUR. In 2013 works were being carried out for improving the existing roost building and creating new opportunities for roosting in the main building. The works also included the protection of the roost site against predators (cats and martens) and humans. The implementation of the Species Action Plan (SAP) for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* continues - creating accessibility to potential roost sites in the vicinity of the maternity colony. A model for determining potential movement and connectivity corridors for the greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) between the only maternity roost and the feeding habitats and potential/known wintering sites has been prepared. The SAP for *Myotis bechsteinii* with identification of priority forests for the species throughout Luxembourg, including practical guidelines for foresters has been elaborated. Efforts of opening church roofs for bats throughout the country continued. In 2013 construction perimeters (PAG) of all communes have been adapted or extended. In this process the conservation of bats and their habitats has been addressed. The Bat Night has been conducted at the nature visitor center Ellergronn to raise awareness of local people to bat biology and conservation. A brochure on urban bats has been published. A mobile exhibition on bats destined for museums, schools, nature visitor centers and other activities has been prepared. Several guided bat tours in different parts of the country have been conducted.

The situation for bats in **Macedonia** is slightly improving. Last year Bat Study Group (BSG), the only bat organization in Macedonia, thanks to the financial help of DEFRA from the UK and the EUROBATS secretariat, have implemented a project for training of new bat workers and strengthen national bat capacities. Necessary technical equipment has been purchased and enables bat workers to work efficiently. Unfortunately, we have also experienced problems with a power KfW Development Bank. It has disrespected both the national, and their own policy for sustainability, as well as international legislation, by financing the first wind farm in Macedonia without having any bat and bird baseline study conducted. With the assistance of Batlife Europe, BSG sent a kind letter to KfW and other relevant institutions, without success. Unfortunately it is for BSG not possible to organize some larger campaigns in order to draw attention to this issue on a larger scale. Bat Study Group and Bird protection Macedonia are afraid that if this practice continues, Macedonian bats and nature in general will be endangered, as several investors for new wind farms are in process of contacting relevant ministries for feasibility studies.

Moldova: Since the last meeting of the Advisory Committee in Moldova the following actions can be reported: all bat species in Moldova have been included in National Red List; the third edition of the National Red Book will be published until September 2014. A national bat working group has been established, with representatives from the Academy of Science, NGO, the Ministry of Environment and the media. The working group undertook several expeditions in order to evaluate the bat populations in the most important underground sites.

In December 2013, Moldovan bat specialists saved a colony of more than 300 specimens of *Nyctalus noctula*. The colony was found by workers of a construction company, which were changing the windows in a building. The Minister of Environment handed Diplomas to all of the people who contributed to the saving process. Thus, the Minister appreciated the efforts taken by non-bat specialists to save these bats.

In 2013, **Montenegro** focused on education, research and development of the monitoring system in the southern part of Montenegro. Namely, through the project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar", with the support of German Development Cooperation(GIZ), the platform for monitoring bat habitats - primarily roosts - has been established in the National Park Skadar Lake. Some equipment has been purchased and training on basic principles of monitoring, ultrasound and application in the field has been conducted in order to improve quality of the field research. Field research was carried out in

cooperation with the bat workers from Slovenian Biology Student organization (through project “Ecosystems of Balkan”) and from Serbian Institute for Genetic Research. Over 100 bats were banded, and samples of the patagium and parasites from the species were taken. During these joint actions for the first time several roosts were defined as important habitats for some bat species. All collected data were distributed to the Agency for the Environmental Protection of Montenegro. Based on the agency's initiative in 2013 the Government of Montenegro added bats to the national list of environmental protection indicators. The scientific paper about first evidences of bat traffic causalities in Montenegro will be available soon. Issues about constructions of wind turbines are still topical, but concrete plans for the planning still haven't been launched. Future plans in the national parks will be focused on cooperation with the international speleological societies and enlargement the monitoring system on at least one protected area more and to continue monitoring program in NP Skadar Lake.

The Netherlands have already submitted an extensive National Report which is available on the EUROBATS website and therefore an oral report is not given.

Poland: There are still 21 bat species confirmed to occur permanently in Poland, circa 50 % of them reached the favorable conservation status. In the largest hibernaculum of bats in Poland at “Nietoperek”, numbers of individuals in five of the seven monitored species increased, but declined in the case of two species. During the reporting period, 12 new areas and structures important for bat conservation were found and 16 research programs were completed. In the area of eight voivodeships monitoring and counting of bats (often annual) were carried out by the staff of national parks, landscape parks, regional directorates for environmental protection, NGOs and scientific institutes. Management plans for Natura 2000 sites crucial for proper bat protection are under preparation. In the framework of international cooperation Poland announced that Polish and Romanian Academies of Sciences have an agreement which should result in an “Atlas of bats of the Carpathians”.

Portugal prepared the report on the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive. In mainland Portugal, the ‘Year of the Bat’ campaign was closed with an exhibition. The inauguration of the event joined a representative of the Secretary of State, the President of Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) and EUROBATS Executive Secretary Andreas Streit. The “Atlas of Portuguese bats (mainland)” was published; this project was conducted by dozens of volunteers and coordinated by ICNF. A report on the analysis of the results of the monitoring program of important underground roosts (data 1988-2012) was prepared and is available online:

<http://www.icnf.pt/portal/naturaclas/patrinatur/resource/docs/Mam/morc/prog-abri-sub1988-2012v3>.

Romania: In 2013 Romania prepared the Article 17 report under the EU Habitats Directive about the actual distribution of bats in Romania, based on surveys of the most important underground sites and foraging habitats. A regional Action plan for 7 bat species has been finalized last year, in the frame of a Life+ Project of the Environmental Protection Agency Bihor, Romanian Bat Protection Association and Speleological Institute Cluj. 300 artificial bat boxes have been placed in 15 Natura 2000 sites. The occupation rate was above 22%, 224 individuals of 9 bat species have been identified. A 20 minutes documentary film on bats in general and conservation efforts for bats has been produced within the project. Educational activities in schools and universities have been conducted in the target area of the project. The Life+ project has had a great input for science, since new important underground sites were identified; connections between the feeding habitats and the roosts became much clearer for some species. 15 caves have been closed in a bat friendly way and the monitoring of these caves will continue. A report with 46 new important underground sites was contributed to the IWG on the conservation of key underground sites. Several leaflets and guidelines have been produced and distributed. An album "World of Bats" has been published in 3 languages. Ringing and recapturing of 4 species (greater and lesser mouse-eared bats, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*) has been conducted. Last year a conservation activity of known nursery colonies of building dwelling bat species has been started (building renovation in a bat friendly way, dialogue with building owners, etc.). This project will be continued in 2014.

The **Republic of San Marino** has the National report under revision and it will be finalised for the MoP7 including the collection of new information about the distribution and the status of bat species in the national territory. Awareness rising in schools and for the general public has been provided by the National Museum Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese that also supports a bat box campaign for schools for both birds and bats. Different national authorities have been involved in the protection and new awareness seems to be apparent in the different services. The main roosting tunnel Le Piagge is still of some touristic interest but the importance and numbers of the bats reproducing late and wintering inside are still well protected. The national group based in Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese has compiled the national atlas and has published annual reports.

Sweden: The Bat Center Taberg, the first Bat Center / Bat Museum in Sweden and probably in Scandinavia, is very active. The mine Taberg, nowadays closed for mining, is an increasingly important hibernation site for bats. Since more than ten years, there is an ongoing monitoring of hibernating bats in the mine. Next to the mine, there is a very good permanent interactive exhibition on bats. In the surroundings, there are bat walks organized – at certain times also into the mine itself. On top of that, there is a growing interest for groups for visiting the exhibition. The Bats Center also organizes bat detector training workshops. Last but not least, the Bat Center has its own web site and a very active Facebook group. In close cooperation with the Bat Center, there is also another bat group, “Fladdermöss i Skåne”, who is very active and supports each other with information and advice through an open Facebook group. On bat rabies, the active surveillance of bat rabies, in parallel to the passive surveillance since more than thirty years, continues. In the test results from 2013, there have been no antibodies at all found. The results of 2012 showed the presence of antibodies in a few *Myotis daubentonii* in the south of Sweden. No antibodies have so far been found in any other species and no bats with actual symptoms of bat rabies have been found. Bat rabies information in Swedish is well presented on the internet. The project Bat Forts, a cooperation of bat scientists, the WWF and Fortverket, a governmental agency for maintaining the buildings of the Swedish Armed Forces, is an ongoing success in protecting manmade underground hibernation sites owned by Fortverket. Some sites have up to five different species present each winter. A single barbastell bat has been found in one of the bat forts, hibernating in the same spot since at least four years. So far no barbastelles have been found in the area during summer, but considering that the nearest known colony of barbastelles is located more than 200 km to the south, some bats are likely to be found in the neighborhood but have not been found yet. The monitoring work is an ongoing business, including an increasing use of autoboxes and the studies on bats and wind turbines continues. There have been a considerable increase of bat talks and bat walks in Sweden by both scientists and bat amateurs. Together with good media coverage all this increases the public awareness of bats in a very positive way.

In **Switzerland** about 25'000 advices can be reported, around 300 renovations of buildings with a bat roost involved have been accompanied, approximately 1'500 roosts have been controlled and around 400 new roosts could be detected and have been integrated in the national database, about 700 measures were taken to protect objects of interest for bat conservation. With a very good media outcome, approximately 200 bat excursions, 200 presentations (at schools, local events) and 30 events during the

IBN with about 2'000 participants, have been conducted. The monitoring project on all nursery roosts of 3 species: *Myotis myotis/blythii* (100 roosts), *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (3 roosts), *R. hipposideros* (40 roosts) has been continued. Regarding efforts in animal welfare for bats about 2'000 advices and approximately 700 cases of guardianship can be reported. All these efforts were only possible by support of an educated team of about 600 volunteers. Specials in 2013: a new concept to protect and promote National Priority Bat Species (Konzept Artenförderung Fledermäuse 2013-2020) has been launched; the updating of the Red List on Swiss Bats could be finalized and the publication is expected in May 2014; the Swiss Bat Bioacoustic Group SBBG conducted a workshop and proposed standards to validate bio-acoustical data for two different data gaining methods, national guidelines to consider bats in wind farm projects are expected to be published in 2014.

Ukraine reported that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has substantially increased penalties for illegal taking from the wild or damage caused to the species listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine. All bat species recorded in Ukraine are Red Data Book species. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine has started a project on preparation and publishing of Encyclopedia of Migratory Species in Ukraine. The first phase of the project was completed in 2013 in cooperation with the Institute of Zoology of Ukraine. This publication is intended to present not only the latest information on migratory species occurring in Ukraine but to elucidate what factors affect these group of animals and what actions have been undertaken on both national and international levels to address those factors in the framework of CMS and associated agreements or MoUs as well as other international treaties. In cooperation with the Netherlands, Ukraine started passive surveillance on EBLV within its territory. Last year Ukrainian bat workers continued to develop the tradition of carrying out the International Bat Night in Ukraine. In autumn 2013 the IBN was celebrated in two cities of Ukraine (http://kazhan.org.ua/eng/projects/pr_ibn_2013.htm). One of the ongoing projects in Ukraine is the project devoted to bat education ("Awareness raising and education about bat biology and bat conservation in the region of Kharkov (Ukraine)"). The project was supported by the EPI. The executors gave education lectures, organized the photo-exhibition devoted to bats, gave many interviews to mass-media, prepared and published printing materials (calendars, booklets, posters). Among recent events conducted in the frames of that project was the public release of bats being rehabilitated during the last winter in Kharkov City. More than 600 bait individuals (mostly *N. noctula*) were released on 23th March. That releasing was organized as an education event. It was visited by more than 300 people. The short review of this event

is already placed on the EUROBATS web-site under news: (http://www.eurobats.org/bat_news/hundreds_bats_returned_wild_ukraine). Overall, in Ukraine, about 1300 bat individuals were received for rehabilitation during the last 5 months (mostly *N. noctula*). About 900 of them were released back to nature.

United Kingdom: A full report will be provided to the MoP7. Attention is drawn to progress on five research projects. Details of all the projects can be found on the Defra website using the relevant project number www.defra.gov.uk > [Homepage](#) > [Science and Research Projects](#) > [Science Search](#) > Firstly, “Mitigating the impacts of bats in historic buildings and houses, with a focus on churches.” This project has researched what happens to soprano pipistrelles *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* when they are excluded from roosts in buildings, and how to reduce problems caused by Natterer’s bats *Myotis nattereri* roosting in churches. The project has been completed and a report is available. Project number WM0322. The second project is on “The Impact of Wind Turbines on British Bats”. This project is investigating bat activity and mortality at large wind energy installations in Britain using a combination of fatality surveys and acoustic monitoring at height and at ground level. The objective is to gather enough quality data to establish whether bats are killed directly or indirectly by wind turbines and, if they are, whether this happens in only in certain conditions and to develop guidance to mitigate the risks. The project is due to finish in 2014 and we hope that a report will be available by the MoP7. Project number WC0735. The third project is “To develop a cost-effective method for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation where bats cross roads”. This project is developing a bat survey technique for pre, during and post-construction for road and rail infrastructure projects. This project is due to finish in 2014 and we hope that a report will be available for the MoP7 in September. Project number WC1060. The fourth project is on “Developing an effective method for the systematic surveillance of bats in woodland habitats.” The project will develop, test, critically assess, refine, document and publish a new survey method(s) for rapid and systematic monitoring of bats in woodland habitats. The project will provide a method that is repeatable and can be applied across a range of woodland types by trained and appropriately licensed volunteers, so that a regular and systematic assessment of woodland bats can become a component of the National Bat Monitoring Programme or be used as a standalone product, for example for site condition assessment. Data are currently being analysed and this project is due to report in 2014. Project number WC1015. The fifth project will evaluate the importance of artificial light in the environment as a threat to biodiversity. It will fund small scale investigations on the effects of light pollution, focussing in particular on new broader wavelength technologies on wildlife and their impacts at a

population/ecosystem level. This is due to report in 2015. Project number WC1011. The presence of the fungus associated with White Nose Syndrome, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, has been confirmed in England and has been found on a live hibernating bat. About a dozen samples taken from live or dead bats each year are tested and this is the first one to test positive. In addition environmental samples (sediment samples and wall swabs) were collected from 5 sites in south east England and 6 samples proved positive for the fungus. The work was undertaken as part of an Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA)/Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) pilot project. There have been no mass mortalities of bats at hibernation sites in the UK and although the fungus is present, there is no indication that the syndrome occurs in the UK.

Algeria reported that over the past year a paper on ectoparasites associated with Algerian bats was published. This study was a collaboration of Algeria, Tunisia and Jordan. Also two expeditions to the caves in the north and the south of the country were conducted and two videos on the life of bats in these caves were produced and broadcast on the national and regional television stations. Local media and newspapers made a good cover story on bats and their life histories. Algeria further reported that studies would be performed on bat diversity in eastern parts of the country – bat recordings, morphometric and molecular studies. This will be conducted in collaboration with Dr. Christian Dietz, Germany. In celebration of the International Day of the Environment on June 5, a public awareness session on bats, their diversity and importance in the environment will be organised. This will be coordinated together with the Tunisian counterparts. Lastly, it was reported that a capacity building project for training North African researchers on the use of bat detectors was awarded by EUROBATS EPI. The funds are being awaited to proceed and organize the training sessions.

Armenia mentioned that since the EUROBATS AC 18 meeting the short list of environmental efforts and activities in Armenia are the following: the approval of a law on amendments in the Law on Protected areas (new categories of protected areas, separate chapter concerning migration routes); preparation of the draft of a law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise; preparation draft of Strategy and Action Plan on protected areas for period 2015-2020; amendment of the list on natural monuments some of which are important sites for bat populations; the establishment of the first biosphere complex in south of Armenia. As activities in the framework of EUROBATS it can be reported that as a non-party range state Armenia is conducting a

study on the bat species included in the Annex of the Agreement and a comparison and analysis of species encountered in Armenia. Representatives from the Ministry of Nature Protection, research institutes, universities and non-governmental organizations are involved.

Belarus reported that during 2013 field surveys of bat breeding, migrations and hibernation continued. The data obtained will be used for the new edition of the Red Data Book of Belarus. It is supposed to include *Myotis mystacinus*, and *Plecotus austriacus* in the list of protected species and, thus, extend it to eight species. The work on the publishing the “Bats and Forestry” leaflet and the “Bats, trees and forests” brochure is coming to an end. “Bats and Forestry” is already available on the website of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus www.minpriroda.gov.by and APB-Birdlife www.ptushki.org. The Moldovan-Belarusian project “Wide awareness raising campaigns and International Bat Night fests - high impact initiatives for protection of endangered bat populations”, supported by REC (SECTOR, Cooperative Grants program), has started last year. The project of Frankfurt Zoological Society “Distribution and habitat use of forest dwelling bats in the Belavežskaja pušča National Park (Belarus)”, which was partly supported by EPI started this year. This work is supposed to strengthen the cooperation of German and Belarusian specialists. Educational activities, such as popular lectures and consulting, have been continued. The International Bat Night was held twice only in Minsk.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: with regards to the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats there has been no significant changes compared to last year. Research and conservation of bats are still taking place within caving organizations in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. This research has intensified in the past year thanks to the project “*Protection of Bats in the Neretva River Catchment Area*” funded by CEPF. One of the important results is detection and monitoring of maternity colonies of *Rhinolophus blasii* in a cave near Mostar, the discovery of colonies of *Nyctalus noctula* in Čapljina and also several new species in this part of Herzegovina. In the framework of this project, the International Bat Night was organized and for that opportunity we have made, among other activities, a brochure about bats and a short film that was shown on several local television stations. Monitoring of bats in caves in north-western part of Bosnia and Herzegovina has also been undertaken with the colleague from Slovenia Primož Presetnik.

Egypt reported that in 2013 Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE) continued its role in enhancing bat conservation in the country, with special attention on public awareness

and research. As a result of recent cooperation between Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE) and a newly established group “Egypt Geographic” (EgyGeo) articles about bats have been published in local newspapers in Arabic. The word of bat conservation also continued to be spread through the ‘Chiroptera’ internet groups and web pages. Moreover, new papers have been published and accepted for publication as a result of cooperation with the Czech Republic bat research team on the regional project of *Rousettus aegyptiacus*. A new study on the bat fauna of Egypt, to provide a better understanding of the distribution and priority conservation areas for the species, has been planned for this year by one of the NCE members.

Greece: Since 2012, a number of monitoring projects took place in several protected areas of Greece, some of which include bat species and involve a growing number of caving and environmental groups. Cooperation between experts, the Ministry of Environment and the regional administrations regarding bat protection is in a development phase. The feeding and roosting habits of *Pipistrellus hanaki* were studied with funding from the EPI and a summary report is now uploaded to the EUROBATS website. In response to the request of the IWG on Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats, the database was provided with information on the most important bat roosts in Greece. A considerable increase in the number of carnivorous mammals infected with lyssavirus in North Greece resulted in negative publicity regarding bats, since the State authorities, doctors, veterinarians and journalists are not aware that European bats are seldom infected by European bat lyssavirus. In order to restore the truth, communication was developed with the States’ competent authorities. A full report will be prepared and submitted to the EUROBATS secretariat soon.

During the last year **Iran** has focused on public education and awareness raising about bat conservation in Iran such as: a scientific group named "Persia Bat" for bat conservation was established; the International Bat Night was celebrated for first time in Iran in cooperation with “Simaye Noor” education complex; Bat Valentine`s Night was celebrated for the first time in the world; a live TV show was dedicated to bats for first time in Iran; an interview was given with Iranian Student News Agency (ISNA) press about importance of bat conservation; the work on a field guide for bats in Iran in 2 languages has been started; awareness raising in different school classes on bat conservation; Iran will suggest during this meeting that it will be useful and effective to establish a new working group entitled as EDUCATION Working Group to EUROBATS` and recommend to add Bat Valentine`s Night to other bat events.

Israel reported that the long term monitoring program on insectivorous bats in roosts and foraging areas throughout the country had been ongoing with the support of the Israel Nature and Parks Protection Authority and the Israeli Mammal Center. The program includes two visits per year during winter and summer to each of the selected sites, summer monitoring of roosts and foraging areas in the northern part of Israel and summer monitoring of roosts in the southern part of Israel. Furthermore, monitoring of bat populations in the army bunkers on the Jordan valley has been conducted as well as monitoring potential sites for wind farms in the northern part of Israel. Studies on the role of agricultural landscape as foraging sites for insectivorous bats have begun. In the sphere of education, lectures have been given to the public, including teachers and school students, around Israel. Israel Nature and Parks Protection Authority and the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel educated the public on the ecosystem services provided by bats and three public bat events took place in 2013. Over 2000 people participated in these events. Moreover, the last steps have been taken by Israel in order to become party to the Agreement.

Jordan reported that a survey on the coronavirus associated with bats, other wildlife, and camels was carried out during November 2013 – March 2014 in collaboration with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, USA. Blood and tissue samples from four species were collected. Initial results detected antibodies for the virus from sera obtained from camels. Besides, a research project on the daily activity of bats is currently being conducted in two nature reserves using a Bat Box detector. Jordan is also in the process of identifying important bat areas and caves used for roosting and hibernation country wide. So far over ten sites were located and identified and will be added to the EUROBATS data base. Additionally, serious efforts to adopt Jordanian criteria for wind energy projects and bats are in progress. Now all projects pertaining to wind energy are subjected to revision on their effect on biodiversity including bats.

Kazakhstan informed that 27 species of bats have been found in the country until now and that there are 4 more species found in the neighboring countries close to the borders with Kazakhstan. The last studies of bats had been conducted in the middle of the 1980s and after that period there haven’t been any regular research on bats and available data has been collected during studies of other taxa. Kazakhstan asked for advisory support for bat research and conservation.

Lebanon reported about a survey on the coronavirus associated with bats, rodents and livestock, carried out during November 2013 in collaboration with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital- Department of Infectious Diseases, USA. Blood samples and anal

swaps were collected from four bat species. Results are still awaiting verification. Lebanon also pointed out the success of the Bat Night, reaching more participants each year. Ongoing research on the effectiveness of public awareness programs on bat conservation has been evaluated. The program was directed towards grade 6 students and included two approaches: passive and active. The bat survey was not fully completed due to security constraints.

This is the fourth participation of **Morocco** in a EUROBATS meeting. The bat fauna of Morocco consists of about 30 species. At least 18 species (60%) are within the range of European bats. The EUROBATS meetings gave Morocco the incentive to focus more on bats and their conservation. An awareness program towards bat conservation was executed through the media. On the research side, Morocco is conducting research on the ecology and distribution of bats in Morocco Rif and Atlas Mountains. An initial list of underground sites has been identified and forwarded to the EUROBATS secretariat. A first Master thesis on bats was conducted. Currently Morocco is in the process of establishing a NGO with the main objective of bat conservation in Morocco. Since 2013 bats are protected by the environmental law in Morocco. All species are included in the local listings of the CITES Annex IV. The regulations implementing this law will be published very soon. Finally, in late March 2014, Morocco got in contact with the team of the Gibraltar Museum for a study project for the identification and migration of bats in the Strait of Gibraltar. Further research is required to update the bat fauna of Morocco, and more efforts are urgently required for awareness rising at different levels, makers and public, regarding the importance of bat conservation.

Saudi Arabia informed of research and public awareness raising activities. A comprehensive survey on domestic and wild animals including bats, covering most parts of Saudi Arabia, was carried out during 2013-2014 in response to fatalities caused by MERS CoV. This work will continue through the next few years with support from Saudi Ministry of Higher Education, King Saud University, and Saudi Wildlife Authority, and it resulted in more knowledge on distribution and status of the Saudi bat fauna. New roosting and underground sites in addition to caves were identified throughout the country. Data will be incorporated into the EUROBATS database very soon. On the conservation and public awareness levels, a campaign involving volunteers with interest in wildlife and bats was established to promote the conservation of bats. This resulted in fruitful plans for implementing man-made purpose built bat roosts houses which will be built in summer 2014

Serbia reported that the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection is still responsible for the environmental issues. Meanwhile, internal procedures within the Ministry in order to ratify the EUROBATS Agreement have been started. After the new government will be elected further development is expected to be efficient. Development of Natura 2000 Network has started in Serbia. An Ecological network in Serbia has been established by Decree on Ecological Network (Official Gazette RS no 102/2010). According to this Decree, Ecological Network consists of 101 ecologically important areas, ecological corridors and protective zones where necessary, covering approximately 20% of the Country's territory. The overall objective of IPA support in 2012 in nature protection sector is to identify potential NATURA 2000 sites based on scientific criteria and to contribute to the management of the EU ecological network. Also, due to major reconstruction of the Ministry's web-site, our national guidelines „Bats and environmental impact assessment: tools for implementation of the European Habitat Directive and EUROBATS agreement in Serbia“, as well as many other environmental legislation, is not available for download for a long time now. However, by courtesy of National History Museum, content is available on their web site at: http://www.nhmbeo.rs/upload/images/ove_godine/Promocije2011/bats_and_environmental_impact_assessment_web_lq.pdf. International Bat Night has been held during summer and autumn in Belgrade and in just 3 other larger cities. About 3500 participants took part in various events, this year also mostly focused on direct contact of participants with live captive (handicapped) bats. Media coverage was satisfactory for the fourth year in the row, but number of events and thus participants decreased for the first time. It can still be concluded that the International Bat Night is a well-established event in the Serbian public. No proper roost monitoring has been done for second consecutive year, which has never happened since the monitoring started 17 years ago. Bat workers training continued thanks to immense effort of WCS Mustela and Biology students research society “Josif Pančić” and volunteer engagement of the bat experts. Bat experts also collaborated in several international projects on species genetics, ecology and *Geomyces destructans*. The presence of *Plecotus macrobullaris* has been confirmed in Serbia for the first time, resulting in total of 30 bat species of national fauna. Several species have been recorded to spread their ranges. All of those are to be published very soon.

Tunisia: The following activities were conducted during the past 12 months: a Bat Night was celebrated on 24th of August, 2013, in Belvidere Park, Tunis. About 150 participants took part. Lectures and workshops for children were carried out, as well as a tour with a bat detector. Public media and social networks provided good coverage in the local

newspapers. It is anticipated that in future the Bat Night will be celebrated in three major cities with more participation. The field work on bat ecology in Djebel Serj was carried out to prepare a management plan for Djebel Serj National Park. Also, caves in this park were identified and mapped, and a total of nine bat species were identified. Drafts for regulations to control speleological activities were prepared and are to be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. This is due to the large-scale activities by the over 14 clubs and associations involved in cave exploration in Tunisia. Projects are being coordinated with Algerian counterparts in many avenues including capacity building in bat detection and public awareness. A short termed survey on the deserted dwellings and oasis in villages in southern Tunisia was carried out during May 2013. *Rhinopoma hardwickii*, *Pipistrellus kuhlii* and *Asellia tridens* were among observed species.

Turkey gave an update about two conflicts that bats in Turkey are facing in the last few years. The first one was about Havran Cave. The cave is now under water because of a dam and it was known to be inhabited by 20,000 bats representing 8 species. In order to protect these bats, a tunnel was built above the natural cave by the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works and recently it was reported that bats started to use the new tunnel. However, there is no independent research done at that site and unfortunately, there is no published report of the project. The other case is about an abandoned factory, which hosts up to 5,000 Egyptian Fruit bats *Rousettus aegyptiacus*. The factory is located in Adana, the fifth most populous city in Turkey, in a highly developed area. It is very likely that the site soon will be demolished for constructing new buildings, and now, universities, NGOs, and Nature Protection and National Parks Directorate are collaborating to prepare an action plan in case of a possible evacuation of that colony.

University of Tirana reported that for the first time, Albania added data to the EUROBATS database concerning Important Underground Sites. Six caves, bunkers and a castle have been underlined, due to the important quantity of bats using it, and also due to historical, and/or on-going monitoring. Several new roosting colonies and hibernation sites have been discovered in Albania during the last year. This has been possible most of the time by volunteer field trips, but also during Environmental Impact Assessments. The research project on Prespa area is going ahead. From eight stations known in 2012 on the Albanian side of the Prespa, 45 stations are now known, with several thousand bats discovered inside new important colonies. Also concerning fungal diseases, samples have been collected at five stations in Albania (most of them included in the list sent to the EUROBATS secretariat on Important Underground Sites),

as part of the study led by Sebastien Puechmaille. Regional collaboration has improved, especially in the area of Prespa, with Greek and Macedonian partners. Also, with the support of the GIZ, a regional workshop on bat detectors will be organised end of April 2014, with participants from Montenegro, Macedonia, Greece and Albania. The first ever Bat Night was organized in September 2013, and was a success, and most of the participants were students, which was very promising for bat protection in the future. Due to the lack of implementation of National laws concerning biodiversity protection, the conservation of the Albanian bats populations is still weak. The illegal logging, the disturbance of bats during hibernation, and destruction of habitats in general are the main issues concerning bats in Albania. It is also important to underline here the destruction of hundred of bunkers everywhere in the country, whereas these places are often used by bats. Several colonies which were monitored have been concerned by the illegal destruction of the bunker. To conclude, the lack of knowledge concerning bat populations in the country must be also underlined. Unfortunately, some data should be available concerning bats in Albania, as for the former EPI funded project on Albanian bats, but the information are not shared by the authors, and the national authorities do not have any information on it.

Tragus conducted the project “Monitoring of nursery colonies of *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Rhinolophus blasii* on selected sites” in July 2013. Aim of the project was to confirm presence of these two species at 13 localities in coastal region, gather data on possible threats for the colonies and sites and propose nursery colony monitoring scheme for the future. Monitoring protocols for nursery colonies were adjusted through the project. In February 2014, Tragus conducted the project “Monitoring of hibernacula of *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* on selected sites”. Aim of the project was to confirm presence of this species at 7 localities, gather data on possible threats for the colonies and sites. Hibernacula monitoring protocols were adjusted through the project. As a part of this project, 3 caves were sampled for detection of presence of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (*Geomyces destructans*) and samples were sent to the State Institute for Nature Protection. A project on field research and laboratory processing for collecting new inventory data for 9 taxonomic groups, including bats, was prepared for the financing through EU NATURA 2000 Integration Project - NIP (World Bank loan). Research is about to start in 2014 and will last two years in the continental part of Croatia, as data on bats is poorly known. This data will become a part of Cro-fauna database. As each year, Tragus was involved in organization of International Bat Night events with presentations, bat detector tours,

education etc. We are one of the partners of the 13th European Bat Research Symposium and our members are in the Organisation Committee.

SFEPM: In France the ministry of environment has commissioned the French Mammal Society (SFEPM) to compile data and to implement the reporting on the Habitats Directive for all mammal species. So maps for presence/absence of bat species in the 5 biogeographical regions present in France have been updated. Following the reporting the SFEPM is starting to set up a national database for bats as up to now we only had regional databases in different formats. The number of events for the International Bat Night is still increasing and has reached 200 events in 2013. The campaign “Refuge for bats” is showing a growing success with the general public. It aims to encourage people to keep and care for the bat colonies that live in their buildings. 216 private owners or local authorities have signed a convention with the SFEPM. SFEPM has also organized capacity building for potential tutors who, in the different regions, will train other bat workers in bat call identification according to Michel Barataud's method. Once their own capacity and expertise have been assessed, the tutors will receive their tutoring certificate. Regarding road impacts on bats, the Provence bat group tested a new type of tarmac (asphalt) on a stretch of road with a previously recorded high mortality of *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*. During the passage of vehicles, this tarmac produces high intensity noise in the low frequency range (20-22 kHz) to which this species is very sensitive. The horseshoe bat is therefore forewarned of the arrival of a vehicle and turns back instead of crossing the road. The first tests seemed promising. Reports on this pilot study will soon be available on <http://www.lifechiromed.fr/>. A new NGO, partner of the SFEPM, has been created to implement the protection of a network of roosts used by *Miniopterus schreibersii*. During the winter 2012-2013 what is probably the largest hibernation roost in France for *Rhinolophus hipposideros* with 1302 individuals was found in Burgundy. With the discovery of two breeding areas for *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, the growing interest in the study of this species all over central and southern France resulted in an increasing number of sites where calls of greater noctule bat have been recorded and authenticated.

NABU: As in each year, local NABU groups organized International Bat Night events at several locations all over Germany and special attention was given to increasing awareness of the public, especially concerning the tolerance of roosts in houses. Although no central event was organized last year, several thousand people were reached by those local bat nights. Beside International Bat Night, hundreds of smaller local bat events like bat walks, presentations and actions for school pupils were

organized by local groups throughout the year. Bat protection in settlements is further enhanced by the action “Welcome bats” established in most of the 16 Länder. This action mainly deals with the acknowledgement and encouragement of actions in favour of bat roosts mainly in private houses, such as tolerating roosts or making possible access to houses. Local NABU groups take responsibility for this action by giving advice to roost owners and monitoring important roosts. Bat rescue and rehabilitation is also a major task of local bat groups, emerging from the work with the public and the continuous contact with roost owners. In preparation of the upcoming MoP7, NABU experts contributed to the National Report of Germany by forwarding their data and sharing their experience on the targeted issues of the report. The use of wind energy remains a major threat for bats in Germany. Although guidelines exist in several Länder which implement most of the important recommendations of the EUROBATS guidelines, a major problem is the increased establishment of wind parks in woodlands. Since the relevant permits are issued by the authorities of the Länder, regional political opinions and pressures to implement renewable energies lead to less consideration and thus increasing threats especially for high flying and migrating bat species. The NABU bat group has produced a position paper highlighting those threats and is repeatedly presenting it to decision-makers. In October 2013, NABU together with BUND brought an action against the construction of a highway near a large bat winter roost in Bad Segeberg with more than 20.000 wintering bats because the pre-construction assessments did not take into account the migratory routes of bats to this roost of national importance. The Federal Administrative Court decided in November 2013 that the complaint was correct and stopped further construction of the highway. In March 2014 NABU and BUND published an analysis investigating the efforts of the Länder to improve biodiversity, including the situation for bats and their habitats. Unfortunately the situation for all Länder is not satisfactory and more efforts must be undertaken to stop loss of biodiversity. The results are available on the webpage of the NABU. On an European scale, NABU is a founding member and trustee of BatLife Europe. During the past year several internet conferences were attended. This report is given separately.

IZW has contributed to work in the scientific network dealing with the effects of light pollution on ecosystems, animals and humans. A first paper was recently published in Journal of Applied Ecology (Lewanzik & Voigt 2014) concerning the effect of artificial light on fruit-eating bats and thus seed dispersal. More information about this project and specifically about the work on temperate zone bats can be found at <http://www.verlustdernacht.de/about-us.html>. Our studies confirmed that European bats, using *Myotis myotis* as a model, seem to be immune-competent against infections by

the psychrophilous cave-dwelling fungus *Pseudogymnasces destructans*. This supports the notion that European bat populations are not in danger of suffering from diseases similar to white-nose-syndrome in North America. Recent work on migratory bats using endogenous isotopic markers revealed the importance of man-made hibernacula for the conservation of migratory bat species such as *Nyctalus noctula* (Voigt et al. 2014 Biodiversity Conservation). Additional work contributes to the description and solution of the issue of bat fatalities at wind turbines. Work focuses on the causes of mortality of bats killed by wind turbines, the population effects of increased mortality risks at wind turbines and finally on the origin of migratory bats killed by wind turbines. IZW was involved in capacity building by supporting financially an internship of a Latvian veterinarian student, Miss Ilza Brila, at the IZW to work on mortality causes of bats killed at wind turbines. In addition, IZW hosted Miss Kseniia Kravchenko from the Ukraine to support her work on bat migration in the Ukraine. Finally, CCVoigt of the IZW is co-editing a book about bat conservation inspired by the 3rd Berlin Bat Meeting (to be finished by the end of 2014). This book will cover all relevant aspects of bat conservation from a global perspective. This book will be available as an ebook. More information about the work of the IZW in the area of bat conservation is available on www.batlab.de.

BatLife Europe: A grant from the Rufford Foundation to the Bat Conservations Trust made it possible for BatLife Europe to survey the capacity building needs of our member NGOs but also opportunities to offer and share experience and knowledge. The barriers to conservation identified were lack of funding, lack of people to do work, lack of bat records and political and economic situations. BatLife Europe has recently started a Twinning scheme to allow members to support each other, financially and by exchange of knowledge and expertise. Currently twinned organisations are Dutch Mammal Society - Ukrainian Centre for Bat Conservation and Austrian Coordination Centre for Bat Conservation and Research (KFFO) - Green Balkans Bulgaria. The prototype indicator was produced in late December 2011, funded by European Environment Agency, and was cooperation between Bat Conservation Trust, Dutch Mammal Society, Statistics Netherlands and many BatLife Europe partner organisations. EEA published at the end of January, and the contributing partners worked together to promote the report across Europe. The full report is available here: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-bat-population-trends-2013>. BatLife Europe attended the European Habitats Forum meetings in Brussels in October, lasting for two days. On the first day the NGOs discussed policy together and on the second day they met with staff from the European Union DG Environment to lobby on topical

issues. Trustees and other members are working in different focal groups of the EHF on different topics, such as Emerald Networks and Monitoring. The European Union (DG Environment) is developing a Bat Action Plan, to support the European Biodiversity Strategy. The vice chair represented BatLife Europe at the workshop on 18 November in Brussels and entered information and views from our member NGOs. In January the EU/EEA held a consultation as part of the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES) initiative, asking for habitat preferences by species for each EU biogeographic region. The information will be used for targeting advice on bats and other protected species for agriculture and forestry in future, as well as reporting on progress of implementation of the Habitat's Directive (Article 17 reporting statistics). Members of BatLife Europe solved many inaccuracies in the lists the EU was using for bat habitat preferences. The chair attended the International Bat Research Conference, Costa Rica in August on behalf of BatLife Europe, with EUROBATs making her attendance possible. She co-chaired a session on Building a Global Network for Bat Conservation and gave a presentation about the work of BatLife Europe and Eurobats. BatLife will hold elections for trustees for the next 3 years at the European Bat Research Symposium. A number of active trustees intend to stand again, but there will be vacancies for trustees with the mix of skills needed to run BatLife successfully (conservation, research, education, communications, organisational development and strategy, fundraising, business planning, legal etc) and the time to help it to grow as an NGO. BatLife is on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/BatLifeEurope> and twitter <https://twitter.com/BatLifeEurope>.

Dutch Mammal Society: The national bat monitoring program (monitoring winter hibernacula and summer roosts) is ongoing and a new monitoring scheme of bicycle and car transects focusing on *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *P. nathusii*, *Nyctalus noctula* and *Eptesicus serotinus* is being expanded step by step. In a project with stand alone detectors called "Hopping detector", automated detectors are recorded in a participants garden for two nights and then forwarded in this person's network. In this way the detector hops through a city. It collects good scientific data and stimulates a lot discussion about bats among the public. The writing of a new national mammal atlas is in its final stage. It is to be published end 2014. The WUR/NIOO research program of effects of lights with different spectra is in its third year of field work. Effects of lights on bats are studied by volunteers of DMS using automatic bat detectors and bat boxes. Information can be found on www.lichtopnatuur.org. A light bat friendly colour was selected and tested on a flightpath of pond bats, this light is now used on approximately 7 sites in the Netherlands. Monitoring is ongoing. In 2011 a start was made in the

adaptation of an existing predictive model of the collision risk for bats and wind turbines, in cooperation with consultancy Bureau Waardenburg and in cooperation with German and Swiss colleagues. The study is finished and was published in <http://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/duurzaam-ondernemen/duurzame-energie-opwekken/windenergie-op-land/milieu-en-omgeving/vleermuizen>. The national bat workgroup also organized a well visited national bat symposium for 130 bat workers, and a well visited Bat Night with 54 excursions. There is a yearly Bats in Cities meeting, organised by city councils or cities' ecologists. The Dutch Bat workgroup started a LinkedIn-group for professionals. It publishes a newsletter twice a year. The field work group had its annual research camp in the Rhodopes, Bulgaria. The Dutch Mammal Society is very concerned about the lack of commitment of the Dutch government to Eurobats.

PTOP “Salamandra”: Most key information concerning bat conservation in Poland throughout the last year was included in the National Report on the Implementation of the Agreement on Bat Conservation, presented to the EUROBATS Secretariat by the Polish Ministry of Environment in April 2014. Currently a large number of plans of conservation tasks for Natura 2000 sites, which protect bat habitats, are under preparation. They are being drafted by many Polish chiropterologists, including those from NGOs. In 2013, chiropterologists from various research centres and NGOs, in cooperation with the State Forests authorities held two regional training sessions for employee of forestry staff responsible for nature conservation. One training session was organised in southern Poland, in the Małopolskie Province, and a second one in north-western Poland – in the regions of Wielkopolska and Pomorze Zachodnie. Between 28 and 30 March of 2014, the 23rd Polish National Chiropterological Congress was held, gathering a record number of 150 bat scientists and conservationists from Poland and two from Ukraine. During this conference, NGOs that form the Polish Agreement for Bat Conservation decided to create a voluntary certification system for persons and companies producing reports for the purposes of assessment of the impact of investment projects on bats. The objective of this system is to improve the quality of studies and reports provided. The system would include the creation of the expert panel who will serve as an advisory body for persons drafting and authorities reviewing reports for environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment. All the reports that assess the impacts on bats, prepared by the certified specialists, would be ultimately reviewed by the experts from the panel. The system is planned to be launched by the end of 2014.

Spanish Bat Society (SECEMU) reported that despite little official support, Spanish research groups and conservation NGOs have worked closely together to increase the knowledge on bat populations and to ensure bat conservation in the country. SECEMU has collaborated with research teams from Spain and Portugal in several studies in relation to Iberian bats particularly focused on the ecology and genetics of cryptic species complexes. SECEMU also cooperates in the monitoring of *Pseudogymnoascus* fungus on bats on a European scale. The Spanish Bat Society was deeply involved in designing and implementing regulation and assessment guidelines for wind turbines due to their impact on bat populations and following international recommendations. The NGO has worked together with regional administrations in several conservation and monitoring efforts on their regional bat populations. Work continued on active surveillance of bat diseases in collaboration between SECEMU, virologists and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers. As a result, one serotine bat was found rabies-positive in Catalonia from almost one hundred bats analyzed. Increasing efforts are focused on the International Bat Night celebrations and the past year activities were organized in more than ten regions with increased social impact. Finally, a special meeting has been organised in relation to the 25th anniversary of the Spanish Bat Society and focusing mainly on conservation of bats in Iberia.

Since the 18th AC highlights of work at **Bat Conservation Trust** have included: An International Symposium on artificial lighting and wildlife was held in March and was well attended by representatives from the ecological and lighting sectors. The conference was filmed and will be made available online and the proceedings will also be written up and made available. A conservation plan for the grey long-eared bat *Plecotus austriacus* was published through collaboration with Orly Razgour (University of Bristol). The action plan can be downloaded from the BCT website <http://www.bats.org.uk/publications.php?keyword=grey+long-eared&month=&year=&category=&search=Search>. A pilot project *Bats, Churches and Communities*, to improve guidance, support and engagement with church communities was completed and we will seek to extend and build on this work in the future pending the availability of funding. A pilot project to understanding the ecology, current status and conservation threats for Nathusius' pipistrelle in Great Britain has begun and fieldwork will be undertaken by volunteers during summer 2014. Ongoing and completed work has been done to develop GIS resources on bat distribution for bat groups, planners, SNCOs etc. BCT has been cataloguing our education resources, with the aim of making education resources more readily available for users outside the UK and we ran a meeting on education resources sharing at the IBRC in Costa Rica. The

list of resources is currently being reviewed and will be published on the BCT website in spring 2014.

The Vincent Wildlife Trust is prioritizing its research and conservation activities on greater horseshoe bat, lesser horseshoe bat, Bechstein's bat and barbastelle as its priority bat species in the UK and lesser horseshoe bat and Leisler's bat in Ireland. The Trust's work in Ireland has focused on lesser horseshoe bats with the publication in the Irish Naturalists' Journal of a review of its surveys for this species dating back to the 1990s. In addition, a new leaflet on lesser horseshoe bats and farming has been produced in conjunction with the Irish government. In the UK, VWT have just completed a very successful three year citizen science project called Our Beacon for Bats. Lesser horseshoe bats were also the target species for this project that used close to 100 local volunteers to produce a bat map of the area through detector records. It also saw the adaptation of WW2 pill boxes into night roosts and successfully trialed some new purpose built night roost designed. Habitat improvements in the area saw the planting of nearly 3km of hedgerows and 2ha of woodland. DEFRA funded research on the effects of artificial lighting on bats continues. This is showing significant negative effects on both greater and lesser horseshoe bats at a landscape scale. The initial finding of this study will be presented in two papers at the European Bat Research Symposium in Croatia. Also being presented at this meeting is analysis of the long-term ringing data for Bechstein's bat, looking at cohort variation and life history traits in the species. With the University of Exeter, the Trust is joint by funding a new PhD project researching the effectiveness of novel molecular techniques to monitor population change and demographics in Bechstein's bat. This project is due to start in September 2014. The Trust has donated surplus equipment to bat researchers in Montenegro and Iran. It partnered, in 2013, with the Croatian Bio-Speleological Society under the twinning arrangement with member NGOs of BatLife Europe.

6. Secretariat Report

The Executive Secretary introduced the new staff members Ana Thiel and Suren Gazaryan and highlighted the improved geographical balance within the Secretariat. He explained that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both the Advisory Committee and the Standing Committee had been closely consulted in the recruitment of the scientific officer.

Regarding the accession of new Parties to the Agreement it was reported that the accession of Switzerland had entered into force in autumn 2013 and hope was expressed that Israel will become a Party by the time of the 7th Session of the Meeting

of the Parties. Poland enquired about the status of the Spanish accession process. The Executive Secretary explained that Spain's will to become a Party remained strong but that some patience was needed until the effects of the economic crisis were overcome.

New CMS Family Web Portal: The CMS Family web portal had gone online just before the Meeting but was still undergoing some fine-tuning. It was explained that this will not replace the EUROBATS website but will complement it. Regarding the EUROBATS Online Workspace, the scientific officer would now be the moderator and was there to support all convenors of Intersessional Working Groups (IWG) and their members. The Executive Secretary encouraged the IWG to make more use of this very practical tool in the future.

With regard to the EUROBATS Project Initiative the Executive Secretary reported that in 2013 again very valuable projects had been supported and thanked Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and Luxembourg for their voluntary contributions.

Concerning the Joint Species Action Plan on Bats of the European Commission and EUROBATS, the Executive Secretary invited all delegates from EU member states to contact their EU representatives with improvements or comments on the draft. Range States were encouraged to also consider implementing the Action Plan in their countries once it had been adopted.

Regarding the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory species the Executive Secretary explained that for the first time a strategic plan for migratory species of the entire CMS Family was under development and invited delegates to provide feedback to the CMS focal points within their country.

Furthermore the Executive Secretary reported that a joint project between the CMS Family and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on the impact of renewable energies on migratory species has started. Germany highlighted that a recent study of the European Environment Agency stated that the positive trend in bat conservation in many European countries was linked to the existence of EUROBATS and other environmental agreements. The Executive Secretary added that the period covered by this new study exactly corresponded to the 20 years of the existence of EUROBATS. The Chair of the Standing Committee emphasised the importance of EUROBATS continuing its work and urged European countries that are not yet Parties to accede to the Agreement.

7. Report on the preparations for the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Belgium invited all present to Egmont palace, Brussels, for the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) in September. He explained that the field trip would include visiting ancient oak and beech forests important to bats and a visitors' centre for bats. The Chair of the Standing Committee thanked Belgium for offering to host the MoP7 and encouraged all delegates to contribute to a thorough drafting of the documents during this meeting in order that the MoP would be well prepared for.

8. Future Format of National Implementations Reports and possible introduction of an online reporting system

The Chair of the Standing Committee explained that a Working Group will present a new national reporting format. The Executive Secretary commented that the existing Working Group on the format of National Reports and the Working Group on Implementation will liaise on this. He encouraged the Parties to consider using an online reporting system in the future, similar to that being used by CMS and AEWA but adapted to the needs of EUROBATS.

Presentations

Cretan wind turbines expert Dr. Konstantinos Damianakis gave a presentation and highlighted the financial pressure on Crete to develop wind farms.

Ms. Johanna Hurst and Dr. Robert Brinkmann presented their research. The first research project dealt with the reduction of the collision risk of bats at on-shore wind energy turbines. The second project was the monitoring of the construction and operation of wind energy turbines in forests and the third project studied the reduction of effects of wind energy turbines on bats, especially in forests.

Dr. Christian Voigt from Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research gave his presentation highlighting the importance of proper mitigation measures for wind turbines. These presentations will be also made available online on the EUROBATS website.

9. Reports from the Working Groups

a. Conservation of Key Underground Sites

The convenor referred to the progress report of the working group (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.33) and mentioned that during the last AC meeting, Parties and Range States were requested to present updates for the list of internationally important underground habitats. To date, 20 contributions have been

received, consisting of 10 new site lists (some from Range States in the expanded EUROBATS area) and 10 updated ones. That brings the total number of sites identified across the Eurobats area to 1895. The convenor requested the group to convene during the AC meeting.

b. Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

The convenor informed the AC that the progress report of the IWG is posted on the EUROBATS website (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.35) and had mentioned the following key points:

The aims of this group are to emphasize the importance of forests and trees for bats; to provide examples of good practice of forest management and related guidance documents; to collect information on research as well as identify areas where research is required. A questionnaire was put on the Eurobats Working Space for this IWG at the last AC meeting. Any countries that have not yet replied or have additional information are encouraged to respond when they can. The list of references from the questionnaire has been updated and can be seen in the long report. Some case studies on good practice management have been submitted, but more are needed and a subgroup needs to be set up to take this forward. A matrix of the ecology of woodland bat species has been started (by BCT) but this has not progressed. The Group will discuss how to take this forward. The Group wishes to make information available via a specific page for this IWG on the EUROBATS website. The Secretariat has confirmed that this can be done providing that authors, publishers or copyright owners of these materials had authorized this. The website can post useful links and materials with a short foreword in the space of the IWG on forest management, similar to the one for the IWG on Underground Sites. The Group discussed starting a list of key questions for research, but this has not been progressed. The Group needs to consider if Resolution 6.12 should be recalled and a new Resolution proposed to MoP7. The convenor requested the group to convene and discuss above mentioned issues.

c. Monitoring and Indicators

The convenor referred to the progress report posted on the EUROBATS website (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.18). She highlighted that the work since last year has focused on the publication of the prototype pan European indicator of bats at hibernation sites as a European Environment Agency Technical Report and profile raising for the indicator and the report. The report was published on 30th January on the EEA website and generated enormous interest in the press, not only for indicators but

also for bat conservation itself. The convenor reported that the IWG would need to convene during the meeting.

e. Autecological studies for Priority Species

The convenor referred to the written report available on the EUROBATS website (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.33) He requested the IWG to convene during the AC meeting.

f. Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

A progress report (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC.19.12) on the work of the IWG can be found on the EUROBATS website. The group informed the meeting that the revision of the guidelines on wind turbines was being prepared and that there was already an almost complete draft document. The document would be discussed first among the IWG's members and then with all delegates. It was expected to discuss the final version of the document during MoP7. The convenor requested a meeting to discuss some details of the guidelines and the existing text of the draft resolution, and also to analyse the results of some projects presented during the AC Meeting and some documents on wind turbines submitted to the AC Meeting.

g. Light Pollution

The convenor informed that little progress had been made since the last AC meeting. Even if there might be more light in this topic, it would not make sense to prepare a resolution due to the lack of basic information. The convenor requested to convene the group.

h. Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

The convenor informed the AC that the draft of the guidance on conservation and management of critical feeding areas was prepared and is available as Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC.19.36. The group was asked to convene and discuss this document.

i. Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts

The convenor reported that the group had received not only examples of completely new roosts but also many where existing structures that had been adapted for bats. They were presented in a draft interim report (Doc.Eurobats.StC9-AC.19.34). This report should be discussed further during this AC Meeting.

j. Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

The IWG was established to look into methods to minimize the impact of roads and other infrastructures (railways, airports) on bats. The convenor referred to the progress report (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC.19.14) and highlighted several topics:

- The questionnaire had been put on the EUROBATS workspace. Any countries that had not submitted replies previously, or had new information were encouraged to complete it. A summary of replies and a list of countries responding were also on the workspace. There had been three additional responses since the last AC.
- The structure of the draft publication has been revised and additional authors asked to contribute. The Introduction and Scope and Chapter on EIA have been drafted. The Literature Review has been updated. The Group aimed to have a final draft available for MoP7.
- A draft resolution would be discussed for submission to MoP7.

k. IWG on Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health

The convenor informed that no report was needed at present and requested the group to convene.

l. Implementation of the Agreement

The convenors informed the AC about some progress in the IWG work and referred to their written report (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC.19.17). They underlined that the IWG do have a number of questions to discuss and needs a meeting. IWG will also need some discussion with the Secretariat.

m. Review of the Format of National Reports

The convenor of the IWG informed the meeting that no written report is available and no work had been done since the last AC meeting. He stressed that the work of this IWG strictly depends on the results of the IWG on Implementation of the Agreement. Meanwhile, IWG on the format of national reports had several issues to discuss and needed a meeting.

n. Bat rehabilitation

During the 18th Meeting of the Advisory Committee it was agreed that bat rehabilitation should be considered as a tool of bat conservation, public education and could also provide information about bat distribution and biology. All plans were fulfilled: reference list of publications, list of rehabilitators and the questionnaire were prepared and distributed. So far answers from 26 countries have been evaluated (five more

questionnaires were received after the initial evaluation). 19 out of 26 countries have bat rehabilitation centers. Only 7 countries have a regulation for bat rehabilitation in their country, 13 have databases on rehabilitated bats, but 16 countries used the data for faunistic research and 15 provide them for research purpose or give them to museums. 7 countries have their own national manual for bat rehabilitation. Individual persons and NGOs are the most important rehabilitators. Rehabilitation is funded mostly by private donors, NGOs and the government, but almost 40% of the countries have no funding. Species, which are most often rehabilitated, belong to bats roosting in towns and villages, such as *Nyctalus noctula*, *Vesperilio murinus*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *P. pygmaeus*, *P. nathusii*, *P. kuhlii* and *Eptesicus serotinus*. Bats, which were rehabilitated, were mostly found on the grounds, or in rooms, or during reconstruction or were caught by animals.

Concerning bat events: 15 countries used rehabilitated bats during bat events and 8 countries used also wild bats captured just for these occasions. Nevertheless, only 12 countries have some restrictions for using bats during bat events.

The written report of the IWG was available on the EUROBATS web-site (StC9-AC19.Doc.15).

The convenor expressed the opinion that IWG shall meet in order to discuss these results and encouraged participants to fill the questionnaire during the AC meeting.

o. Bats and Insulation

Dr. Helena Jahelkova kindly agreed to convene the IWG during the meeting in the absence of Dr. Martin Cel'uch. As decided at AC 18, a questionnaire had been drafted and soon would be circulated among the members of the IWG. In 2013 the preparation of the EU Bat Species Action Plan had started and the IWG had drawn attention to this problem (insulation versus bats). The IWG had explained to the EU Directorate General on Environment that one EU policy (promoting insulation of buildings) was clashing with another EU policy (environmental protection - species conservation: bats, swifts and other species reliant on buildings). Furthermore it was mentioned that in Slovakia and the Czech Republic efforts were concentrated on looking for technical solutions and measures to minimize the negative impact of insulation and reconstruction of buildings.

10. Reports from the Working Groups convened during the meeting.

For the list of the members of each IWG and persons to be informed on their activities see **Annex 2** to this Record.

a. Conservation of Key Underground Sites

Present at the meeting: Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (convenor, UK), Dr. Awatef Abiadh (Tunisia), Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Mr. Serghei Andreev (Moldova), Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Dr. Jasja Dekker, (Netherlands), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (France), Ms. Marina Djurović (Montenegro), Ms. Edmée Engel (Luxembourg), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Dr. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Dr. Christine Harbusch (Germany), Dr. Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Dr. Javier Juste (Spain), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Dr. Hubert Krättli (Switzerland), Dr. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Mr. Andrzej Langowski (Poland), Ms. Jean Matthews (UK), Ms. Mirna Mazija (Croatia), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Dr. Gunars Pettersons (Latvia), Mr. Aliaksei Shpak (Belarus), Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN, UK), Dr. Luísa Rodriguez (Portugal), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Prof. El Ayachi Sehhar (Morocco), Mr. Wael Shohdy (Egypt), Ms. Elena Stoeva (Bulgaria), Dr. Abigél Szodoray Paradi (Romania), Mr. Anatoliy Taran (Kazakhstan), Mr. Philippe Théou (UoT, Albania), Dr. Christian Voigt (Germany), Prof. Zihad Bouslama (Algeria), Dr. Hossein Zohoori (Iran).

The IWG met to review and finalise the draft Resolution on the Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats, prepared at AC 18. After a brief presentation by the Convenor, the draft was reviewed and some small changes made to clarify the timing of the update cycle. The draft Resolution referred to updated site selection criteria and the Convenor undertook to finalise the small changes to these and circulate them to the group after the meeting.

b. Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

Present members: Ms. Jean Matthews (convenor, UK), Mr. Aliaksei Shpak (Belarus), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Prof. Carmi Korine (Israel), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Mr. Andrei Ursache (Moldova), Dr. Aleksander Rachwald (Poland), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (UK).

There was a brief review of progress (as outlined in the report to the meeting) and a request to all who had not completed the questionnaire (which is on the EUROBATS workspace) or had new information to provide that information.

The list of references from the questionnaires had been updated. (The Convenor noted that the old version had been attached to the progress report circulated at the AC meeting, but that the newer version would be put on the workspace for this IWG.)

Case studies of good practice in forest management for bats would be placed on a specific page on the IWG section of the EUROBATS website. More case studies are needed. A list of those submitted so far would be put on the IWG workspace. Tony Mitchell-Jones offered to edit case studies.

There was a discussion about progress that had been made under Resolution 6.12 and whether there was a need to propose a new resolution.

- It was noted that in some cases national guidance had been produced, but was not put into practice. It was suggested that revised wording was needed so that the Resolution gave greater emphasis to the importance of forests in providing roost sites for bats.
- The Advisory Committee had been instructed to consider whether to update the review by Boye and Dietz (Boye, P. & Dietz, M. (2005): The development of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats, English Nature Research Report Number 661). The Group decided that it was not necessary but that the Group should collate literature references and to promote research relevant to bats and forest management.
- There was a discussion about threats from other types of development or projects to the integrity of forest habitats and the impacts on bat species dependent on the habitats. Although these were not necessarily directly concerned with forest management, it was considered that they should be mentioned in a Resolution from this IWG because of the reliance of many bat species on forest habitats.

The Group concluded that it would propose that Resolution 6.12 should be repealed and a new Resolution proposed to MoP7 to take into account the points above.

c. Monitoring and Indicators

Attendance: Dr. Karen Haysom (convenor, BCT), Dr. Jasja Dekker (co-convenor, BatLife Europe, DMS, Netherlands), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Ms. Elena Stoeva (Bulgaria), Dr. Martiros Nalbaldyan (Armenia), Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones, Mr. Philippe Theou (UoT, Albania), Ms. Triinu Torv (Estonia), Dr. Stéphane Aulangier (France), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Ms. Daniela Hamidovic (Croatia), Mr. Andrzej Longinski (Poland), Mr. Tony Hutson (UK), Dr. Henry Schofield (Vincent Wildlife Trust), Dr. Helena Jahelkova (Czech Republic), Mr. Emrah Coraman (Turkey), Dr. Javier Juste (Spain).

The convenors summarized the aims of the group (see IWG report on the EUROBATS website):

1. Develop a pan European population indicator based on existing data;
2. Build capacity for monitoring in countries which do not currently have national monitoring schemes;
3. Develop a data sharing structure for census data;

The IWG convenors briefly gave an overview of progress since the last AC (see report in Doc StC9-AC18-19). Next, the way forward was discussed.

For goal 1 (develop a population indicator) the plan is to include more countries, more species and more monitoring methods in an update of the prototype that was published this winter so that it becomes more representative of bat populations across Europe.

New prospective participants came forward during this AC meeting: Estonia, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Romania.

Together with the groups that the convenors have previously been in contact with, both within and outside EUROBATS this makes a total of around 20 countries that have expressed interest in participating in the next update of the indicator.

To make clearer what is expected from participants, the format of data required and methods used, the convenors were requested to put relevant information materials on the workspace of the EUROBATS website.

We also discussed how to ensure the indicator is used and gains a high profile, and IWG members were asked to provide advice on who within the EU should be made aware of the indicator and to take opportunities to promote its relevance for example, to the new EU Action Plan.

The convenors outlined their plans for developing a project proposal with which to seek funding to support the expansion of the indicator. To make this clearer for the IWG the convenors would draft a brief overview of the intended update of the bat indicator (which countries want to participate, where would workshops be held etc.) and would circulate this to the IWG members and potential participants inside and outside the AC. It was suggested that national bat conferences may also be places where more participants could be recruited.

The IWG then discussed the problems and challenges of goal 2: Building capacity in countries that want to/are starting monitoring programs. Examples of approaches were to invite volunteers or bat experts from other countries together with local volunteers or students, to build knowledge and exposure to surveying and monitoring methods. Notable examples of this approach are the researchers at Nietoperek hibernacula or the

Dutch Fieldwork Group of the Dutch Mammal Society field workshops. It is clear to the IWG that the process of building up a strong monitoring team is a long-term endeavor, and requires funding and manpower. Attention was drawn to a forthcoming post conference training workshop for Balkans delegates at the forthcoming EBRS in Croatia which will cover both field monitoring and training in TRIM and BirdStats.

Considering goal 3, this would receive more attention once the European bat indicator was well established.

The IWG will in the coming year strengthen ties with the underground sites IWG because of the importance of monitoring such sites.

The previously prepared overview summaries of monitoring that is in place will be placed on the Eurobats IWG workspace, and the IWG urges AC members to check these and send corrections/updates to the convenors.

After a thorough analysis, the IWG concluded that the last resolution on the topic of the IWG (Resolution 6.13) was still effective and should continue to be implemented. The IWG requested the Meeting of Parties to include the activities stemming from this resolution in the Conservation and Management plan.

d. Report on IWG Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements on Bats

Convenor: Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino). For members of the IWG and for the list of the people to be informed on its activities see Annex 2 to the Record.

Bat migration was a keystone characteristic in European bat populations and the daily and seasonal movements of bats were important points in a global conservation policy. Recently the publication of Hutterer et al. 2005, the Berlin 2009 Conference, as well as some new publications available about the use of isotopes and genetics (reported later in literature) highlighted how migratory species highly depended on long distance and sometimes transboundary movements, and their populations were a common heritage among the states. Smaller but important ecological movements were also critical for many bat species.

Flights between hibernation and maternity roosts, foraging areas and related commuting routes also revealed how species travel across borders, at times even beyond the actual geographical scope of the Agreement.

At the last Advisory Committee meeting, the group was tasked with the collection of migration data of species in the range of the Agreement. The data was to be obtained from literature and other specialists. Following a brief reminder on the need to collect

data from 'grey literature' and publications in foreign languages, clarifications were provided on the meaning of ecological movements, as well as the relation between bats, human health and several transboundary movements.

It was noted that point 4 of Resolution 6.8 required states to "Collect, with references, information concerning migration within their country, for inclusion in their national reports". A specific note in the future format of national reports should be included to capture this information.

From the German delegates it was recalled how very important on-going projects were on bat movements in the Federal States also in relation to wind turbine assessments and mitigation measures.

Finally, the IWG agreed that a new resolution was not needed but that it would continue to work in future to collect information and literature to support states in developing research about this fundamental topic.

e. Autecological studies for Priority Species

Participants: Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (convenor, France), Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN), Dr. Thierry Kervin (Belgium), Prof. Carmi Korine (Israel), Ms. Mirna Mazija (Croatia), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal) , Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino), Dr Abigél Szodoray-Parádi (Romania), Mr. Philippe Théou (UoT, Albania).

Firstly, the WG discussed the list of 16 species prepared at the previous AC meeting and circulated during the intersession period in order to collect information on knowledge relative to winter and summer roosts, foraging habitats and diet. The two former Priority Species that have been studied meanwhile were deleted, as well as species under study and, provisionally the two eastern *Myotis* species (*Myotis hajastanicus* and *M. schaubi*) pending the assessment of their distribution. Ten species were proposed to be listed as Priority Species for the next quadrennium, a list that will be revised before the following MoP.

Second, the WG revised the list of topics of autecological research that should be considered.

Third, the WG drafted a resolution including an Annex (Priority Species and topics).

f. Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Present in the meeting: Dr. Luísa Rodrigues (convenor, Portugal), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Dr. Hubert Krättli (Switzerland), Ms. Jean Matthews (United Kingdom),

Dr. Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Wael Elsheikh (Egypt), Dr. Christian Voight (Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Germany), Prof. Carmi Korine (Israel), Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Prof. El Ayachi Sehhar (Morocco), Prof. Zihad Bouzlama (Algeria), Dr. Awatef Abiadh (Tunisia), Ms. Mirna Mazija (Croatia), Ms. Zrinka Domazetović (Croatia), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Serbia), Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN, UK), Dr. Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Dr. Charalampos Ververis (Greece), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Ms. Johanna Hurst (FrinaT GmbH, Germany), Dr. Robert Brinkmann (FrinaT GmbH, Germany), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Gunars Petersons (Latvia), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Mr. Herman Limpens (DMS, The Netherlands), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), Dr. Javier Juste (SECEMU, Spain), Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Ms. Ruth Petermann (Germany), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU), Dr. Aleksander Rachwald (Poland), Mr. Anatoliy Taran (Kazakhstan).

The preliminary version of a draft resolution prepared during AC 18 was discussed and a draft resolution to be presented to the plenary was prepared.

g. Light Pollution

Participants: Dr. Ludo Holsbeek (convenor, Belgium), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN, UK), Dr. Christian Voigt (IZW, Germany), Dr. Jasja Dekker (BatLife Europe, DMS, The Netherlands), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Dr. Javier Juste (SECEMU, Spain), Mr. Herman Limpens (DMS, The Netherlands), Dr. Abigel Szodoray Paradi (Romania), Prof. Carmi Korine (Israel), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Dr. Daniela Hamidovic (Croatia)

The working group on light pollution convened twice. Given the increase in scientific data on the effects of light pollution on biodiversity in general, and on bats in particular, and of new technical evolutions in terms of public lighting, the WG proposed to continue its work. The WG would produce a living guidance document covering among other species specific and spectral specific effects of light pollution on bats, how to avoid or mitigate direct spot lighting on roosts and important feeding grounds and how to overcome barrier effects of roads and other infrastructures. The guidance document would concentrate on the state of the art of the technical progress in the field of public lighting, in order to tackle the problem at its source. The guidance document would be supported by examples of good practices, do's and don'ts, and by a species specific

table of documented effects on bats, enabling the identification of possible conflict situations, but also of gaps in the scientific knowledge.

As far as possible, the WG would link its activities with the ongoing process of the European Bat Action Plan. The WG on bats and light pollution wanted to be ready with its contribution in the event that the topic of light pollution should be addressed for the range of migratory species under CMS. A sharing of the work load was agreed between the members of the WG. The WG would not propose a new resolution to be adopted at the coming MOP, but to include the WG activity planning into the Conservation and Management Plan.

h. Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

Members (present in the meeting): Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (convenor, Finland), Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Dr. Jasja Dekker (DMS/BatLife Europe), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN, UK), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Mr. Branko Karapandza (Republic of Serbia), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Ms. Jean Mathews (United Kingdom), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), Ms. Ruth Petermann (Germany), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT, UK)

The group discussed two topics: The guidance document and the need for a resolution. The guidance document draft was almost completed, including all species texts done and most of the general chapters on habitat management. However, all species texts needed to be checked and revised, where needed, as new relevant literature might have become available since the species accounts were prepared. A few chapters on habitat management still needed to be prepared (see the table of tasks). It was agreed that the outstanding texts as well as the revisions of the species texts should be ready by mid-June or in July at the latest. After that the draft would be circulated among the IWG for comments. The guidance document would then be circulated to all focal points, in the beginning of August.

The need for a new resolution was discussed both in the working group and plenary. The group then agreed on preparing a draft resolution to be presented to the MoP as this provided a way to adopt the guidance document prepared by the group.

The remaining tasks were divided as follows (including outstanding tasks from previous report):

Guidance chapter / other task	Who
3. Summary of important habitats	all
4.2. Water bodies - amendment about marshlands as feeding areas?	Helena
4.4. Urban areas, parks	Jasja, Karen, Branko
4.6. Amendment: How to protect feeding areas that lie across national boundaries	Christine
4.9. examples of Life projects and agri-environmental practices	all
4.10. Finalising the summary of actions favouring and harming bats	Eeva
5. Species accounts - check specially own texts, new relevant references available?	all
6. Examples of successful habitat management cases - <i>Myotis dasycneme</i> ?	Jasja
6. Examples of successful habitat management cases - case from Germany	Martin to send the text (via Ruth)
6. Examples of successful habitat management cases - <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Henry to send the text

i. Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts

Members of the IWG present: Dr. Henry Schofield (convenor, VWT, UK), Dr. Abdulaziz Alagaili (Saudi Arabia), Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Dr Jasja Dekker (Netherlands), Ms. Edmée Engel (Luxembourg), Dr. Christine Harbusch (Germany), Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (UK), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Mr. Andrzej Langowski (Poland), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Ms. Elena Stoeva (Bulgaria), Ms. Kit Stoner (UK), Dr. Farkas Szodoray Paradi (Romania), Mr. Anatoliy Taran (Kazakhstan), Dr. Hossein Zohoori (Iran).

At AC18 it was decided that the scope of this IWG would be expanded to include examples where existing structures, not previously used by bats, had been adapted to provide roosting opportunities for bats. Before this scope expansion was undertaken, an interim report would be produced on those entirely new purpose-built man-made structures recorded to date.

The IWG discussed a draft of this report (Doc.StC9-AC19.34) and suggestions were made to improve and expand certain sections. Two examples of new roosts were reported by the members of the IWG from Germany and Turkey; these would be included in the interim report.

The IWG deliberated on the content, structure and extent of a new questionnaire to gather information and examples of the adaptation of pre-existing structures. A draft of this would be circulated to members of the IWG for editing before it would be sent to the Secretariat for distribution to scientific focal points.

j. Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

Present - members: Ms. Jean Matthews (convenor, UK), Dr. Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Mr. Wael Elsheikh (Egypt), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (France), Prof. Carmi Korine (Israel), Ms. Marina Misković (Montenegro), Mr. Herman Limpens (DMS, Netherlands), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Dr. Luísa Rodrigues (Portugal), Mr. Branko Karapandza (Republic of Serbia), Dr. Javier Juste (Spain), Dr. Awatef Abiadh (Tunisia)

The Group briefly discussed progress to date and noted that the questionnaire had been put on the EUROBATS workspace. Any countries that had not submitted replies previously, or had new information are encouraged to provide information. There have been three additional responses since the last AC.

The Group agreed to propose a draft resolution to MoP7 that would update and replace Resolution 6.14. The additional clauses in the proposed Resolution would make reference to the requirement to undertake appropriate environmental impact assessments and also to the request for publication of a EUROBATS booklet on this topic.

The publication was currently being developed and there was a short meeting of contributors following the IWG meeting. A draft version of the publication would be prepared for MoP7.

There was a request following the meeting from the convenor of the IWG on light pollution to include a recommendation regarding mitigation measures with respect to light barriers on roads and other infrastructure impacting on commuting bats. It was agreed that this would be incorporated into the guidance document rather than being mentioned specifically in a resolution.

k. IWG on Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health

An open WG session was convened by Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN, UK).

A list of government and NGO websites with information on diseases transmitted by bats had been compiled. This would be circulated together with details of sources of general information about bats and diseases, in the hope that more members of EUROBATS would provide information on this subject relevant to their countries on their websites.

I. Implementation of the Agreement

Attendance: Mr Tony Hutson (convenor, UK), Dr Ferdia Marnell (co-convenor, Ireland), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Ms. Ruth Petermann (Germany), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands), Ms. Kit Stoner (BCT, UK).

The Working Group met to review progress. Version 7 of the draft guidance document was discussed and some further edits agreed. The document was now well advanced; Version 8 would be circulated to WG members, and made available for general comments on the Eurobats Workspace, shortly after the AC.

A draft resolution for the MoP was prepared and submitted for the approval of the Plenary.

m. Review of the Format of National Reports

Participants of the meeting: Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (convenor, France), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN, UK), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Ms. Ruth Petermann (Germany), Mr. Philippe Théou (UoT, Albania), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Ms. Monika Lesz (Poland).

Firstly, the WG agreed the possibility of online reporting as suggested by the Secretariat but formulated some conditions. (i) The form should be printable before and after completing it in order to be prepared (to copy and paste texts) and stored (this excludes the submenus). (ii) A prefilled form should be available on the website before each reporting. (iii) Additional files (guidelines, reports...) should be possible to attach and website links possible to be included. This online reporting would be restricted to national reports preceding each MoP (and not the intermediate update reports to AC that should remain in a free format).

Secondly, the WG revised a proposal of guidelines including a table summarizing the information of the former part B and the merging of parts C and D under the title “Measures taken to implement Article III and the resolutions of the Agreement”. Then, for this new part C the WG proposed to provide open boxes suggesting short answers for each resolution after a possible answer Yes/No concerning its implementation. The new suggested format would be presented to MoP 7 for adoption.

n. Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation

Participation: Dr. Helena Jahelková (convenor, Czech Republic), Dr. Lena Godlevska (co-convenor, Ukraine), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Serbia), Ms. Elena Stoeva (Bulgaria), Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Mr. Aliaksei Shpak (Belarus), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Ms. Kit Stoner (BCT, UK), Ms. Marina Durović (Montenegro)

The IWG agreed to change its name to “Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation”, because of the ambiguous understanding of the word „rehabilitation“ and then concentrated on preparing a draft resolution for the next MoP. A possible Annex or a standard bat record protocol were equally discussed. For the years to come the IWG agreed to prepare guidelines for bat rehabilitators based on the recommendations mentioned in the draft resolution and to work on encouraging collaboration between bat rehabilitators and bat scientists for the purposes of data collection, other scientific research and exchange of knowledge.

o. Bats and Insulation

Participation: Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Dr. Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Dr. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Serbia), Mr. Herman Limpens (DMS, Netherlands), Dr. Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium)

The absent convenor of the IWG, Martin Celúch, was present on Skype during meeting, and Helena Jahelková agreed to be co-convenor.

The IWG focussed on preparing a draft resolution for the next MOP, because bat colonies were seriously endangered by insulation programs that did not take adequate account of the presence of bat roosts, and that some EU financed schemes to promote the installation of insulation are were conflict with policies to conserve bats.

For the forthcoming years the IWG planned to prepare a questionnaire to collect and share information on best practices for surveys, avoidance of fatalities and roost loss, as well as about effective mitigation and compensation measures.

p. Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Amendment of the Annex of the Agreement

Compiler: Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN, UK)

Following consultation with an Advisory Panel of taxonomic specialists and discussion with experts at this meeting, a draft Resolution was prepared to amend the existing Annex of “Bat species occurring in Europe to which the Agreement applies”.

An explanatory information document would also be produced.

France expressed an opinion that the AC could recommend the update of Annex 2 of Habitats Directive and IWG should prepare a resolution on that. After short discussion it was decided that EUROBATS can provide the updated list for the European Commission and ask the Commission and let the Commission decide whether to use it.

q. Establishment of new Working Groups

A new working group on Education was established based on the proposal of Dr. Hossein Zohoori from Iran (StC9-AC19.Doc.10).

r. Report of the WG on Education

Participants: Dr. Hossein Zohoori (convenor, Iran), Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN, UK), Ms. Kit Stoner (UK), Mr. Anatoliy Taran (Kazakhstan), Ms. Edmeé Engel (Luxembourg), Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Dr. Awatef Abiadh (Tunisia), Prof. Zihad Bouslama (Algeria), Dr. Abdulaziz Alagaili (Saudi Arabia), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (EUROBATS Secretariat), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Mr. Wael Elsheikh (Egypt), Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia)

The Convenor made an initial presentation and suggested questions which should be discussed. The participants agreed that there was a need to create an IWG on Education and the goals of the IWG were identified:

- Provide Guidelines on bat education programs and awareness that have to consider the different approaches, efforts and possibilities in education;
- Provide training and adequate materials for educators.

The IWG intended to:

- Collect experiences of best practices from all Range States.
- Focus on basic education (preschool, kindergarten and primary school).
- Ask the Secretariat for a dedicated space in the EUROBATS online work space.

- Contact experts and international organizations with relevant experience in education.
- Create a questionnaire and distribute it to party and non-party range states for collecting information on the topic.
- Eventually provide translation of documents in other languages and make them available in the online workspace.
- Customise the resource materials to make them relevant to the country concerned.
- Provide help in linguistic, stylistic and scientific editing of documents.

11. Draft Resolution 7.2: The convenor of the IWG Bats as Indicators of Biodiversity advised that there would be no new resolution. The previous resolution was still valid and it was agreed that the group should produce a wording to include in the Conservation and Management plan as to how the work should be taken forward in the next period.

12. Draft Resolution 7.3: Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement (Annex 3)

Poland raised the question as to whether changes to the Annex of the Agreement also have to be ratified by the parties and it was clarified by the Chair of the AC that every Session of the MoP had the mandate to amend the Annex and this would not imply any legislative follow up on a national level. Serbia noted that some of the authors' names were in capitals and some not and that should be changed. Greece asked if *Miniopteridae* should not be added as a separate family. France informed that it was preparing a report on the status of *Miniopteridae* in order to possibly amend the Annex at the following Session of the MoP. The convenor supported the proposal of Greece, but argued that this should first be checked with IUCN and CMS in order to stay in line with their policy.

13. Draft Resolution 7.4: Bats and Wind Turbines (Annex 4)

After a discussion on some technical details and re-phrasing, the text of the draft resolution was agreed upon. The Chair of the Standing Committee asked when the guidelines would be available, since it was important for each party to have internal consultations before the MoP, bearing in mind the importance of the topic for many governments. The convenor explained that there was no deadline for the submission of the documents, only for the submission of national reports, but that she would like to present it three months before the MoP.

14. Draft Resolution 7.5: Important Underground Sites (Annex 5)

The text of the resolution as presented by the Working Group was agreed upon without any further discussion. The only question raised was whether the previous resolution needed to be repealed. The Secretariat advised positive in this question.

15. Draft Resolution 7.6: Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management (Annex 6)

The draft resolution was equally accepted without discussion.

16. Draft Resolution 7.7: Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes (Annex 7)

The Chair of the Standing Committee again asked when the guidelines for this draft resolution would be available and reminded of the necessity for each Party to have internal consultations before the MoP. The Convenor explained that a draft version of the guidelines was already available on the website and that the WG had decided to finalize them by August 2014.

Portugal pointed out that in the Draft Resolution 7.7 there was a paragraph referring to the adoption of the guidelines by the MoP and that this was not the case for the Draft Resolutions on Wind Turbines (7.4) and on Roads and Traffic Infrastructure (7.8). Portugal asked the Secretariat to – if necessary – include this paragraph in the other two resolutions as well. The Draft Resolution 7.7 was then accepted.

17. Draft Resolution 7.8: Roads and Traffic Infrastructure (Annex 8)

Portugal raised the question as to whether this draft resolution was not too similar to the previous one, since even the request for the guidelines had been included in the previous resolution already. If this practice was to be adopted than there would be many similar documents. The Chair of the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to clarify this. PTOp “Salamandra” noted that this problem applied to many resolutions, as each time a resolution was changed, the old one was repealed and a new one adopted. PTOp “Salamandra” proposed not to repeal the old resolutions but, unless the resolution was completely different, to keep the original number and just add in the brackets during which MoP it was last amended (for example Resolution 6.11 rev. MoP7). The Executive Secretary explained that there was precedence – it was done through a resolution amending the previous resolution (for example Resolution 7.x, amendment of resolution 6.x). What had not been done in the past but should be done was to replace the older resolutions on EUROBATs website as amended.

18. Draft Resolution 7.11: Implementation of the Agreement (Annex 9)

The Chair of the Standing Committee stressed the importance of providing an Implementation Guide and asked when it would be ready. The Co-Convenor confirmed having the guide in an almost completed form, however, not intended to publish it before the MoP since the resolutions adopted at the MoP would have to be incorporated into the guide – otherwise the guide would immediately become outdated. The Chair of the Standing Committee also pointed out the need for a work program of the Agreement and recalled that the Secretariat had agreed to prepare such a document for the next MoP. It would be a good way to assess the work that had to be done and the means available.

The co-convenor further reminded the delegates of the second, almost forgotten reason for establishing this group, which was to assess setting up a mechanism to review requests for advice addressed to the Secretariat. This would be discussed with the Secretariat once the Guide had been in place. The Secretariat also highlighted the importance of such a mechanism and was encouraged by the Chair of the Standing Committee to make a proposal with this regard to the MoP. The Executive Secretary recalled having made such a proposal previously at MoP5, however, at that time it had not met great acceptance. The Secretariat would be glad to prepare new proposals in this regard.

After the discussion it was agreed to submit this Draft Resolution to MoP7.

19. Draft Resolution 7.12: Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation (Annex 10)

The Convenor wished to change the name to “Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation”. In the discussion Sweden stressed that training of bat rescuers/carers should be more explicitly encouraged in the resolution. After some discussion an agreement was reached on appropriate wording. France further proposed requesting rehabilitators to get licensed by their country and suggested including this requirement in the resolution. This proposal was also supported by Finland, as in many countries animal welfare regulations were in place, and the appropriate wording should be included.

The convenor agreed that the WG should meet again to decide on an adequate wording for the draft resolution.

The revised draft resolution was then again presented in the plenary session. The convenor explained that the WG concentrated on the items necessary for bat conservation and not for animal welfare or scientific research and that an annex had been added to the draft resolution. The annex was accepted without any discussion.

Portugal commented that there was no reference to the Annex in the Draft Resolution. BatLife Europe supported the proposal to use the same protocol for all over Europe – it reflected the ambition to gather this sort of information in the same way, but what was missing was the ambition to collect and analyse this data – not only nationally but also internationally. Further Finland pointed out that the wording already discussed to request licensing of bat rescuers was still missing in the Draft Resolution. The Chair of the Standing Committee summarised the discussion by saying that this was already a prerequisite in the EU countries, but that the non-EU and range countries should in the draft resolution be invited to consider “to strongly encourage” the authorisation of bat rescuers. The co-convenor from Ukraine as well as the representative of Estonia expressed their concerns that if this wording was to be included in the Resolution, it might interfere with and make the rescue of animals in danger very bureaucratic.

20. Draft Resolution 7.13: Bats and Building Insulation (Annex 11)

The WG met again after the plenary session and incorporated comments in an updated draft. The revised draft resolution was also presented to the delegates and there were still some reservations with regards to it. The Chair of the Standing Committee acknowledged the difficulty to practically implement certain points of the draft resolution, as they were – at least in the EU-countries – a matter of derogation and not of authorisation. However, he underlined the broader aim of the draft resolution, which was to raise public awareness of this subject. The Secretariat also commented on the expressed concerns by pointing out that there was no real conflict of interests in this matter – no side involved in building rehabilitation would deliberately want to harm bats. There had been a lack of awareness of the impact insulation programs would have on bats and this problem would be addressed through large scale awareness raising campaigns through the EU and other institutions. The convenor gave examples to the contrary. The Dutch Mammal Society (DMS) further pointed to the fact that normally, on the EU level or on the national level, a strategic impact assessment was done when new plans and policies were developed, which in case of insulation programs was missing. The DMS asked for this point to be included in the draft resolution. The Chair of the Standing Committee welcomed the proposal, but reminded that this point and the possibility of its implementation should be first considered within governments and the ministries in charge of building rehabilitation before it could be discussed at the MoP. Finally, it was recognized that the problem lied in the possibility to misinterpret the draft resolution as urging the Parties and Non-Party Range States to request preconstruction assessment of any building insulation work in terms of its impact on bat conservation.

Belgium proposed to drop altogether the words “preconstruction assessment” from the draft resolution and to adopt instead the proposal of the DMS: To invite the Parties and Non-Party Range States to include the impact assessment on bat conservation into strategic environmental assessment of larger insulation programs. BCT also expressed its strong agreement with the point made by the DMS and added that wide-scale policies affecting the building or energy sector should be scrutinised with relation to their impact on the environment – this should be captured as a general recommendation in this Resolution.

21. Draft Resolution 7.14: Priority Species for Autecological Studies (Annex 12)

The convenor of the working group, Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France) informed that the Draft Resolution would be passed on to the MoP without any major changes in the text.

22. Joint plenary session with the Standing Committee to mutually report on results and progress achieved

The Chair of the Standing Committee gave a report on the work conducted in preparation of the MoP regarding organisational aspects as well as different budget scenarios to be presented at the 7th Session of the MoP. He informed that the overall financial situation of the Agreement was in good shape which would allow EUROBATs to continue the important work. The Trust Fund reserve was also healthy due to savings in the previous years. The Standing Committee had agreed to transform the post of the Scientific and Project Officer into 80% until the end of the year in order to enable an efficient preparation of the MoP and a better wrap-up after it. The Chair stressed that this decision would not have any prejudice to the future percentage of post occupancy. Furthermore three possible budget scenarios for the following quadrennium had emerged from the discussions. Each of them would require a significant withdrawal from the Trust Fund Reserve.

Scenario A would imply no increase in the budget (for 2015) as well as the contributions of the Parties remaining at the same level and the post of the scientific officer would be kept at 50 percent.

In both versions of scenario B, the P2 post would be transformed to 80% instead of 50% and the scenarios only differed in respect to the amount that would be withdrawn from the reserve. B1 and B2 would also represent an increase in the contributions from the Parties. The scenarios would also imply certain modifications in the calendar of the AC meetings. There would be one AC meeting and one StC meeting in the first three years of the quadrennium. In the year of the MoP there would be no other meeting. The

reason for this was not only to reduce costs but to also increase the probability of countries to send a representative, as delegates of several countries could not take part in this meeting for time and financial reasons and in order to be able to attend the upcoming MoP. The Chair of the Standing Committee finished the report by again pointing out that the budget of EUROBATS was important and encouraged the delegates to discuss the budget scenarios with their governments to be able to present their positions at the MoP.

Portugal asked if the contributions would remain the same in the two versions of scenario B. The Chair answered that this would not be possible. The Executive Secretary explained that one scenario would imply an increase of 2.5 percent for all Parties except those at the minimum contribution, and the other one, an increase of 5 percent. The difference would also be in the amount that would have to be withdrawn from the reserve.

Portugal argued that the present model of AC meetings worked well; even though not perfect, it proved best. The first AC meeting after each MoP was very important because the AC Work plan had to be decided upon and the working groups were formed. According to the new solution proposed, there would be one year when there would be no AC meeting. Portugal also pointed out that the most efficient work was done in the lead of the meetings, so that if one meeting was lost, it would reduce the effectiveness of the AC. The Chair of the Standing Committee suggested that the scientific officer could fill the gap by assisting the AC in its work in this period but Portugal argued that there were many IWGs and their work was too specific and diverse to be covered by one scientist only.

The Chair of the Standing Committee explained that the proposed change would necessitate the modification of the calendar. As the MoP would meet in spring, to avoid the huge gap between two AC meetings, the AC would meet very soon in the year following the MoP-year and it would also take place in autumn in the year before the MoP. The Chair of the Standing Committee highlighted the complexity of the situation – having the AC meetings as they are at the moment presented a financial problem and it was worth examining the possibilities.

Germany argued that the time in between would not be dead time if it was used for preparations.

Serbia stated that it did not have the impression that the reason why some colleagues had not come was because there is the MoP this year, as the same was true even in the years where there was no MoP. This had rather to do with budget cuts.

Croatia supported Serbia and expressed its fear that by reducing the number of AC meetings the implementation of the Agreement would suffer.

The Chair of the Standing Committee explained that it did not mean that the work would be less efficient, as the proposals involved strengthening of the scientific post.

The Secretariat reported that it was the case that several countries would only send a delegate to the MoP, and therefore not to this AC meeting in addition. The Secretariat also informed that it had taken action to resolve this situation, especially for those colleagues who had contributed a lot to the work of the AC, but could not participate in the meeting for financial reasons. It suggested extending the MoP by one day to give the AC one full day to finalize discussions before the MoP begun, as had already been agreed for the StC.

The Senior Advisor supported the Secretariat's suggestion but recommended having a one day AC meeting after the MoP in order to set up the working groups immediately and to decide on the AC workplan for the next quadrennium. However, doubts were also expressed as to how many scientific focal points would be present at the MoP.

The Chair of the Standing Committee welcomed the proposal and expressed his certainty that the good work of the AC could be maintained.

23. Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bat Species in the European Union 2014 – 2020 (Inf.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.5)

The Executive Secretary introduced the latest draft of EU Action Plan on Bats and highlighted this very valuable and politically important initiative being the first formal cooperation between the EU-Commission and EUROBATS. He advised that further comments to the draft should be channelled through the appointed experts of the EU member states. He also invited the non-EU Range States to consider implementing the action plan once it would have been adopted.

24. CMS Family Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Inf.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.4)

The Executive Secretary then presented the latest draft of the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species which for the first time would cover the entire CMS Family. The delegates were invited to actively participate in this exercise and to provide feedback through the CMS focal point of their country.

25. Any other business

Germany requested to avoid that a large number of questionnaires from the IWGs be circulated individually in a short period of time before meetings since this made consultation with the relevant stakeholders in a country difficult. The Secretariat assured that this would be better coordinated in the future by the new Scientific Officer.

26. Date and venue of the 20th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Montenegro kindly offered to host the 20th Meeting of the Advisory Committee which was applauded and gratefully accepted by all present.

27. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting

After discussion and some amendments the record of the Meeting was adopted by consensus.

28. Close of the Meeting

The Chair of the Standing Committee thanked all present for the significant progress achieved on the manifold topics discussed in both Committees during the past days thus ensuring a smooth forthcoming MoP7.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee expressed his thanks to the Chair and Vice-chair of the Standing Committee, the Vice-chair of the Advisory Committee, the staff of the Secretariat and the delegates for the excellent co-operation making the Meeting so successful. Further he mentioned that this meeting was the last one he was full time in charge as Chair of the Advisory Committee. After 20 years of being respectively Vice-chair and Chair of the Advisory Committee he considered it appropriate to hand over this task to a new generation.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12:50 h.

9th Meeting of the Standing Committee
19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Heraklion, Crete, Greece, 7 – 10 April 2014

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Draft Resolution 7.3*

Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement



The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement"),

Recalling Resolution No. 7 adopted at its Third Session (Bristol, July 2000), amending the Agreement and incorporating an Annex of bat species occurring in Europe to which the Agreement applies;

Recognising that there will be the need to amend the Annex from time to time in the light of recent research results;

Further recognising that the names of bat species included in the Annex should conform to the rules of nomenclature laid down by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature;

Noting that IUCN – The World Conservation Union as well as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) identify *Mammal Species of the World* by Wilson and Reeder (Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington; John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore) as the standard list of mammals;

Acknowledges the establishment of an Advisory Panel of specialists to consider potential changes to the Annex;

Agrees to adopt the following changes to the Annex, on the recommendation of the Advisory Panel; and

Notes other potential changes to the Annex, but which are rejected or deferred pending the availability of further information;

*All draft resolutions will be renumbered for MoP7

Decides to:

1. Remove brackets from around the author and date for the species *Myotis escaleraei* Cabrera, 1904;
2. Accept the addition of *Miniopterus pallidus* Thomas, 1907 to the list of species of the Annex;

Adopts the revised list of species for the Annex to the Agreement as attached to this Resolution.

Bat species occurring in Europe to which the Agreement applies:

Pteropodidae

Rousettus aegyptiacus (Geoffroy, 1810)

Emballonuridae

Taphozous nudiventris (Cretzschmar, 1830)

Rhinolophidae

Rhinolophus blasii Peters, 1866

Rhinolophus euryale Blasius, 1853

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum (Schreber, 1774)

Rhinolophus hipposideros (Bechstein, 1800)

Rhinolophus mehelyi Matschie, 1901

Vespertilionidae

Barbastella barbastellus (Schreber, 1774)

Barbastella darjelingensis (Hodgson, 1855)

Eptesicus bottae (Peters, 1869)

Eptesicus nilssonii (Keyserling & Blasius, 1839)

Eptesicus anatolicus Felten, 1971

Eptesicus isabellinus (Temminck, 1840)

Eptesicus serotinus (Schreber, 1774)

Hypsugo savii (Bonaparte, 1837)

Myotis alcathoe von Helversen & Heller, 2001

Myotis aurascens Kuzyakin, 1935

Myotis bechsteinii (Kuhl, 1817)

Myotis blythii (Tomes, 1857)

Myotis brandtii (Eversmann, 1845)

Myotis capaccinii (Bonaparte, 1837)

Myotis dasycneme (Boie, 1825)

Myotis daubentonii (Kuhl, 1817)

Myotis emarginatus (Geoffroy, 1806)

Myotis escaleraei Cabrera, 1904

Myotis hajastanicus Argyropulo, 1939

Myotis myotis (Borkhausen, 1797)

Myotis mystacinus (Kuhl, 1817)

Myotis nattereri (Kuhl, 1817)

Myotis nipalensis (Dobson, 1871)

Myotis punicus Felten, 1977

Myotis schaubi Kormos, 1934

Nyctalus azoreum (Thomas, 1901)

Nyctalus lasiopterus (Schreber, 1780)

Nyctalus leisleri (Kuhl, 1817)

Nyctalus noctula (Schreber, 1774)

Otonycteris hemprichii Peters, 1859

Pipistrellus hanaki Hulva & Benda, 2004

Pipistrellus kuhlii (Kuhl, 1817)

Pipistrellus maderensis (Dobson, 1878)

Pipistrellus nathusii (Keyserling & Blasius, 1839)

Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schreber, 1774)

Pipistrellus pygmaeus (Leach, 1825)

Plecotus auritus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Plecotus austriacus (Fischer, 1829)

Plecotus kolombatovici Dulic, 1980

Plecotus macrobullaris Kuzyakin, 1965

Plecotus sardus Mucedda, Kiefer, Pidinchredda & Veith, 2002

Plecotus teneriffae Barrett-Hamilton, 1907

Vespertilio murinus Linnaeus, 1758

Miniopterus pallidus Thomas, 1907

Miniopterus schreibersii (Kuhl, 1817)

Molossidae

Tadarida teniotis (Rafinesque, 1814)

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Draft Resolution 7.4

Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Noting the importance that wind energy has in the implementation of the Kyoto protocol to reduce CO₂ emissions in the context of combatting climate change;

Recalling Resolution 2.2 on Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, which recommends the adoption of consistent monitoring methods for bats across Europe;

Recalling the Conservation and Management Plan of the Agreement, which recognises the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

Recalling further the Agreement Conservation and Management Plans, which recognise the conservation of bat habitats in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or commuting routes are affected;

Recalling CMS Resolution 7.5 on Wind Turbines and Migratory Species, which calls upon the Parties of the Convention, to implement proper impact assessments of wind turbines on migratory species, to assess the cumulative environmental impacts of installed wind turbines on these species and to take full account of the precautionary principle in the development of wind turbine plants;

Recalling the Council Directive No. 2011/92/EU on the assessment on the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment and the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council No. 2001/42/EC of June 27 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, both of which state that the scope of information required for the purposes of impact assessments should be consistent with the current state of knowledge and methods of such assessments;

Recalling the EU guidance document on Wind Energy development and Natura 2000 (2010);

Noting the growing scientific evidence of bat fatalities at wind turbines and the predicted negative consequences for populations of resident and migratory bat species;

Recognising that several bat species forage and migrate offshore and that as a result offshore wind farms may negatively affect bat populations;

Taking into account the cumulative environmental impact of the renewable energy sector through the increasing number and size of wind turbines;

Noting the work of the Advisory Committee in revising Guidelines for the planning process, monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of wind turbines on bats;

Recognising the importance of standardised methods to be able to develop effective avoidance and mitigation measures, as well as statistically robust ways to evaluate mortality rates and their impact on bat populations;

Noting that the use of blade feathering¹, higher turbine cut-in wind speed² and shutting down turbines are the only mitigation measures which so far proved to be effective in reducing bat mortality at wind turbines;

Recognising also the necessity of implementing research and monitoring;

Urges Parties and Range States, if not already done so, to:

1. Take into account the impacts that onshore and offshore wind turbines have on bat populations at different geographical scales;
2. Raise awareness and take into account that some habitats and areas are unsuitable for the construction of wind turbines where a major impact on bats is predicted;
3. Recommend that developers of wind energy plants become involved in research on the best methods for mitigating bat mortality at turbines for mutual benefit.
4. Promote continued dialogue between all stakeholders in the search for best practice to avoid or minimise the impact of wind energy generation on bat populations;
5. Ensure that pre-construction strategic and environmental impact assessment procedures and post-construction monitoring, including mortality rates derived from carcass surveys, are undertaken and that the data are made available for independent scientific analysis;
6. Develop and ensure implementation of national guidance following the most recent version of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee generic Guidelines annexed to the Resolution;

7. Use blade feathering, higher turbine cut-in wind speeds and shutting down turbines temporarily to reduce or avoid bat mortality respectively.

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Keep the generic guidelines updated;
2. Continue to compile relevant information, including methods to assess the impact of wind power generation on bat populations.

Decides to repeal Resolution 6.11.

1 – blade feathering means preventing turbines from freewheeling or only spin at very low rpms, generally less than 1 rpm.

2 – Cut-in speed is the minimum wind speed at which the wind turbine will generate usable power.

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Draft Resolution 7.5
Conservation and Management of
Important Underground Sites for Bats

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement"),

Recalling Resolution No. 2.4, Element 2: Bat Habitats, Underground Habitats agreed at its Second Session (Bonn, July 1998);

Further recalling Resolution No. 3.8: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan agreed at its Third Session (Bristol, July 2000);

Recognising the importance of underground habitats to many species of bats, both for hibernation and breeding in different parts of their ranges;

Recognising that underground habitats, including man-made habitats, are threatened by a wide variety of anthropogenic factors and that active management of such sites is often required;

Noting further the work being carried out in the framework of the EU Habitats Directive, in particular the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, and in the framework of the Bern Convention, in particular the establishment of the Emerald network;

1. *Confirms* the importance of the EUROBATS list of underground habitats as a contribution to the maintenance of populations of European bats.
2. *Endorses* the revised guidance on site selection prepared by the Advisory Committee;
3. *Strongly encourages* Parties and Range States that have not yet identified their most important underground habitats to do so, using the updated guidance referred to above;
4. For sites that are already listed, encourages Parties and Range States that have not yet done so, to submit updated counts of bats at each site, being the seasonal maximum count over the preceding 8 year period. Updates should be

- submitted to the Secretariat within one year of the MoP using a data format provided by the Secretariat (Annex 1);
5. *Urges* Parties and encourages Range States to submit updated information about each site before every second MoP (an 8 year cycle, with the next revisions due before MoP 9), using a data format provided by the Secretariat (Annex 1);
 6. *Urges* Parties to ensure that the important underground habitats they have identified are fully protected by law and, where appropriate, are physically protected against unauthorised entry;
 7. *Urges* Parties to ensure that such habitats are managed in accordance with advice published by the Advisory Committee;
 8. *Urges* Parties and encourages Range States to inform the Secretariat of listed sites that have been damaged or destroyed and the reasons for this loss;
 9. *Instructs* the Secretariat to investigate cases of loss or damage to listed sites that are brought to its attention, initially by correspondence with the Party involved. Such investigations should be reported by the Secretariat at each MoP;
 10. *Instructs* the Secretariat to investigate ways of making the site data more accessible and useful whilst respecting the confidentiality of detailed site information;
 11. *Repeals* Resolution 4.3.

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Draft Resolution 7.6

Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Recalling CMS Resolution 7.2 on migratory species and environmental impact assessment and recognising the importance of forests as breeding, stopover and hibernation sites for bats;

Further recalling Resolution 4.4 on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management;

Recognising the ecological value of forests as bat roost and foraging sites or during bat migration, which is highest in unmanaged ancient forests but can also be moderate in managed forest types;

Noting the different sensitivities of species due to variation in ecological requirements and also different approaches needed for implementation of programmes at local, regional, national or international levels;

Recognising that there is a need to improve the conservation status of bats by modifying some management practices affecting their forest habitats;

Urges Parties and Range States to:

1. Take into account the importance of trees as bat roosts in sustainable management of forests and of the possible negative impact of intensive forest management on bat populations;
2. Develop their own national guidance appropriate to their bat communities, forest ecosystems and forest management practices based on the principles in the EUROBATS Bats and Forestry leaflet;
3. Share best practice forestry guidance via the EUROBATS website;

4. Ensure that the environmental impacts of activities not directly concerned with forest management that affect the integrity of forest habitats are fully taken into account during their planning and implementation;
5. Promote research into the requirements of bats dependent on forest habitats and into understanding the factors negatively influencing them;

Decides to repeal Resolution 6.12.

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Draft Resolution 7.7

Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas,
Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Recalling the CBD Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS);

Recalling Article 10 of the EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, which emphasises the importance of linear landscape elements;

Recalling Resolution 4.9 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2003 – 2006), point 4: Foraging habitats; to produce a synthesis of methods used to study the critical feeding areas and commuting routes and to produce guidance for the national guidelines for bat habitat conservation;

Recognising that bats are dependent on good feeding areas around their roosts

Further recognising the importance of landscape connectivity providing commuting routes between roosts and feeding areas;

Further recognising the need for guidance in the conservation and management of such feeding areas and commuting routes;

Adopts the guidelines on the conservation and management of critical feeding areas, core areas around colonies and commuting routes prepared by the Advisory Committee (Annex 1).

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Raise awareness of the importance of critical feeding areas, core areas around known colonies and commuting routes for bats;

2. Ensure that the needs of bats are taken into account in land use and planning decisions;
3. Encourage research and monitoring to improve our understanding of the use of landscape by bats;
4. Develop appropriate national guidelines, drawing on the general guidance prepared by the Advisory Committee in Annex 1;

Decides to repeal resolution 6.7.

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Draft Resolution 7.8

Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (thereafter “the Agreement”),

Recognising the evidence of impact on bats, bat roosts, commuting routes and foraging habitat due to road and other traffic infrastructure projects;

Recalling CMS resolution 7.2 on migratory species and environmental impact assessment;

Recognising the importance of using standardised methods to develop effective avoidance and mitigation measures, as well as statistically robust ways of evaluating impacts on bats, including mortality and habitat loss and fragmentation;

Recognising further the need for good-practice guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate for negative effects on bat populations;

Urges Parties and non-party Range States to:

1. Take bats into account during the planning and construction and operation of roads and other traffic infrastructure projects;
2. Ensure that pre-construction strategic and environmental impacts assessment procedures and post-construction monitoring are undertaken and that the data collected are made available for independent scientific analysis;
3. Promote further research into the impact of new and existing roads and other traffic infrastructure on bats and especially into the effectiveness of mitigation measures;
4. Develop appropriate national or supranational guidelines, drawing on the general guidance to be published by the Advisory Committee;
5. Report on the actions taken under this Resolution;

Requests the Advisory Committee to publish a EUROBATS booklet highlighting the effects of roads on bats and providing guidance on minimising the impact of traffic infrastructure projects on bats.

Repeals Resolution 6.14

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Draft Resolution 7.11
Implementation of the Agreement



The Meeting of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement");

Referring to the commitments by the Parties to the conservation of bats in accordance with the Agreement, especially the fundamental obligations placed upon Parties in Article III;

Referring also to the commitments by the Parties to the conservation of bats in accordance with the Resolutions adopted at successive Sessions of the Meeting of Parties, especially through the programme of work identified in the Conservation and Management Plan;

Recognising the value to the conservation of bats of the work carried out under the above commitments;

Noting the efforts of Parties, as outlined in their National Implementation Reports, to carry out the above plans, and the progress achieved;

Further noting the Advisory Committee, as well as the Secretariat to the Agreement, to assist Parties in meeting their commitments;

Recognising that there may be a need to clarify what commitments have been adopted by Parties;

Noting the decision in Para 1(b) of Annex 1 to Resolution 6.16 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011-2014), that 'The Advisory Committee should establish an Intersessional Working Group to review the implementation of the Agreement and relevant Resolutions and assess setting up a system to review requests for advice concerning the implementation addressed to the Secretariat from MoP6 onwards';

Recognising that such a working group was established following MoP6;

Decides to

1. *Acknowledge* the production of an Implementation Guide intended to help Parties, other range states, the Secretariat and other interested organizations and individuals to understand the commitments undertaken by Parties to the Agreement and give some guidance on implementation;
2. *Acknowledge* further the inclusion of a simple checklist of commitments that should be accounted for in National Implementation Reports;
3. *Request* Parties and non-Party Range States to use this Guide when planning measures to implement the Agreement;
4. *Request* the Advisory Committee to reexamine, with the Chairman of the Standing Committee, the need for a system to review requests for advice addressed to the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the Agreement;
5. *Instruct* the Secretariat to make the Implementation Guide publicly available and to ensure that it is regularly updated to take account of new commitments.

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Draft Resolution 7.12
Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation



The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Recalling Article III of the Agreement, especially paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5;

Noting that bat rescue and rehabilitation involves rescuing bats and bat colonies at risk and temporarily caring for bats which have lost their roosts, or those which are diseased, injured or orphaned; then every effort is made to release them back into the wild;

Further noting Resolution 5.2 on Bats Rabies in Europe that recommends rabies surveillance of bats which have died or injured bats which have been euthanized;

Further noting Resolution 5.4 on Monitoring Bats across Europe for the further collection of faunistic data;

Further noting Resolution 5.7 on Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance since most bats received by bat rehabilitators are found in or nearby buildings;

Further noting Resolution 6.5 on Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Field Work Practices;

Further noting Resolution 6.8 on Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats;

Further noting Resolution 6.16 on Implementation of the Conservation and Management plan 2011-2014 that parties should continue efforts to raise public awareness to improve education;

Further noting Resolution 7.13 on Bats and Insulation which recommends the collection and sharing of information on bat presence in buildings;

Recognising that Bat rescue and rehabilitation may play an important role in bat conservation;

Further recognising that relevant information obtained from bat rehabilitators can be used for practical bat conservation including roosts;

Further recognising that data collected by bat rehabilitators can provide important information for scientific research such as species distribution and disease monitoring as well as for practical conservation;

Further recognising that the level of bat rehabilitation varies across Parties and Non-Party Range states ranging from countries with no rehabilitators to those with established operating networks;

Further recognising that the recording protocols are not standardised and differ widely across Parties and Non-Party Range states;

Further recognising that public awareness is important for effective bat conservation;

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Encourage the establishment and support of effective bat rescue rehabilitation systems in their countries;
2. Encourage capacity building and training in order to raise the standards of bat rescue and rehabilitation;
3. Establish standardised record protocols (Annex 1) for bat rehabilitators and encourage the contribution of data to any existing national database, or if absent, encourage the establishment of such a database;
4. Encourage collaboration between bat rehabilitators and bat scientists for the purposes of data collection, other scientific research and exchange of knowledge;
5. Use only captive disabled bats for public events when national legislation permits it;

Requests the Advisory Committee to develop guidelines for bat rehabilitators and develop a system for collecting information for international cooperation.

Annex for Draft Resolution 7.12

A standard form of bat record protocol applicable for bat conservation should include at least these items:

ID number

Name of finder: **Contact to finder:**

Name of rehabilitator/organization:

Date of finding:

Location of finding (address if appropriate):

Place of finding: ground building block-of-flats facade cellar
tree unknown other

Circumstances of finding: reconstruction insulation fallen tree
brough by cat dog unknown
other

Bite incidents human cat dog other

Species:

Sex: male female **Age:** non-volant baby juvenile adult

Individual/colony: Individual Colony Size of colony

Condition of bat: normal severe dehydration exhausted and emmaciated
injured dead other

Sent for disease test: Yes No

Final fate: Released Euthanasia Captivity

Comments:

We also recommend to take photographic documentation if possible.

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Draft Resolution 7.13
Bats and Building Insulation



The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Recalling Article III of the Agreement, especially paragraphs 1 and 2;

Noting that bat colonies are seriously endangered by insulation programmes which do not take adequate account of the presence of bat roosts and that some EU financed schemes to promote the installation of insulation are in conflict with policies to conserve bats;

Further noting that bats use a network of roosts in buildings as breeding, swarming, hibernation and transient roosts;

Recalling Resolution 5.7 on Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance, which recommends to ensure that overground roosts are managed in accordance with national nature conservation legislation and taking note of any guidelines adopted by the EUROBATS Agreement;

Recalling previous decisions of the Convention of Migratory Species which also include the protection of migratory bats, their roosts and foraging sites;

Recalling that the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe” (COM/2011/0571) recommends strengthening policies and activities for promoting energy efficiency in buildings, with consideration of the wide range of environmental impacts of buildings;

Recalling the EU Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and

remedying of environmental damage, which obliges EU members to take measures to prevent, mitigate and compensate significant damages to protected species;

Recalling the Kyoto Protocol to reduce CO₂ emissions in context of combatting climate change, that buildings are responsible for more than one third of total energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions in society, both in developed and developing countries (<http://www.unep.org/sbci/pdfs/BuildingsandCDMreporte-version.pdf>) hence insulation is important;

Recognising that large-scale insulation of buildings causes fatalities and loss of roosts, which influence bat populations;

Calls upon Parties and Non-Party Range states to:

1. Ensure that insulation projects are undertaken in compliance with national legislation, regarding bat protection and conservation and the requirement to avoid bat mortality by implementing appropriate mitigation and compensation for roost loss;
2. Take into account, when assessing the importance of individuals losses, that the cumulative impact of fatalities and loss of bat roosts in buildings can lead to detrimental effects on bat populations;
3. Resolve the conflict between insulation regulations and bat conservation;
4. Include the impact on bats in the environmental assessment of insulation programs at a strategic level;
5. Look into the problem of bat roosts and insulation in relation to privately or community owned buildings;
6. Provide appropriate awareness-raising campaigns, trainings and information materials for stakeholders involved in insulation projects about bat conservation in buildings;

Requests the Advisory Committee to develop guidelines on best practice in taking account of bats in insulation projects.

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Draft Resolution 7.14

Priority Species for Autecological Studies



The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement");

Recalling the importance of scientific knowledge of bats in order to identify the best conservation action and the need for international co-operation in some of that research;

Further recalling that in accordance to the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan, MoP4 identified a list of Priority Species and the principal areas of autecological research that were required to assist in their conservation;

Recognizing the advances in the knowledge of the species previously adopted as Priority Species for autecological studies;

Noting that the Advisory Committee has identified a new list of Priority Species and areas of autecological research particularly required;

Decides to:

1. *Instruct* the Secretariat, with advice from the Advisory Committee, to encourage projects to be developed in detail on the Priority Species listed in the Annex and to support the seeking for external funding as appropriate;
2. *Instruct* the Advisory Committee to update the Annex as required;
3. *Additionally encourage* researchers to consider the topics identified in the Annex as priorities to assist in the conservation of species with an unfavorable conservation status.

Repeal Resolution 4.12.

List of Priority Species for the next quadriennium

- *Rhinolophus blasii*
- *Eptesicus isabellinus*
- *Plecotus kolombatovici*
- *Plecotus sardus*
- *Plecotus teneriffae*
- *Nyctalus azoreum*
- *Nyctalus lasiopterus*
- *Pipistrellus hanaki*
- *Pipistrellus maderensis*
- *Myotis escalerae*

Topics of Autecological studies

- Roosts (winter, summer, swarming)
- Migration
- Habitat and spatial use
- Foraging behavior and diet