

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE

First Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Bristol: 18-20 July 1995

RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECOGNIZING the commitments by the Parties to the conservation of bats, and other commitments that will aid the species, in accordance with the Agreement;

ACKNOWLEDGING the fundamental obligation placed upon Parties at Article III;

RECOGNIZING the commitments by the Parties in other international treaties, bodies and fora to the conservation of bats, and other commitments that will aid the species;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the need for Parties to co-operate and not to duplicate the work of other international bodies and the desirability of drawing on their expertise;

DECIDES to establish the following Action Plan for 1995-1998:

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION

Parties to the Agreement should consider taking forward the following measures to enhance the conservation status of bats. The Advisory Committee shall review the success that each State has in achieving each goal, and will seek to disseminate examples of good practice between States.

Legal Requirements

1. Parties should take measures to fully implement Article III.1 of the Agreement.

Population Survey and Monitoring

2. Monitoring systems are required to detect trends in the status of individual species so that appropriate conservation action can be taken. Such systems require the development and application of methodologies that will detect trends at appropriate confidence levels over an appropriate time-scale in a cost-effective manner, and the adoption of common standards of monitoring by participating organisations. The Advisory Committee should consider existing methodologies with a view to their development and introduction.
3. Some species, notably the horseshoe bats, can be monitored at hibernation sites. Selected sites should be monitored regularly and the data collated and analysed to detect population trends at a national and international scale.

4. Some important hibernation sites are used by multi-species assemblages of bats. These sites should be monitored regularly to allow appropriate management procedures to be developed.
5. Many species can be monitored by counting bats at summer roosts, though the success of this method varies between species and between roosts. This method should be developed to take account of rates of movement between roosts and other changes in the use of individual roosts over time.
6. Methodologies for sample surveys of flying bats should be developed, as technology allows, to allow single species surveys.
7. The timing and distribution patterns for bat migrations in Europe should be assessed and main migration routes identified by international co-operative research.
8. Autecological studies should be carried out on species for which such data are lacking or are inadequate. Further research is required for all species. The Advisory Committee should consider a priority list for this work to be undertaken.

Roosts

9. Data collection of roost sites should include that obtained in the course of providing advice about the management of bat colonies in buildings or responding to requests for advice from householders.
10. Important roosts, particularly of rare species should be identified by the most appropriate methods.
11. Once roost sites have been discovered, their importance should be judged in both a local and a national context so that conservation action can be taken where appropriate. Mechanisms should be established to ensure that information about roost sites is made as widely available as possible. The conservation of underground habitats important to bats should be given special consideration.
12. Nationally-agreed guidelines for sites meriting protection should be established and reviewed periodically to ensure that they are set at an appropriate level.
13. Sites meeting nationally agreed guidelines should be protected and details included in national reports.
14. Consideration should be given to the protection of roost sites through the application of statutory or voluntary mechanisms which encourage roost managers to retain or recreate features of importance to bats.

Foraging Habitats

15. In order to identify important feeding habitat types, data about habitat or habitat-features used by feeding bats are needed. Habitat surveys should be established or expanded to include species-specific studies. These studies should identify which habitat types and habitat features are

important to bat species at different times of the year.

16. Surveys to identify critical feeding areas close to maternity sites of national or international importance should be undertaken as a matter of priority.
17. Information on habitat use and autecology should be synthesised in a way which gives practical advice to land managers. The effect of habitat structure and composition on bats should be further considered with this in mind.
18. Consideration should be given to the protection of foraging areas through the application of statutory and voluntary mechanism which encourage land managers to retain or recreate features of importance to bats.

Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice

19. As bats depend so heavily on man-made structures for roosting, their conservation depends on favourable human attitudes. Priority should therefore be given to improving the perception of bats with particular emphasis on education.
20. Those who come across bats in the course of their work, particularly builders, roofers and members of the remedial timber treatment trade, have a particular responsibility for bat conservation. These groups should be targeted to receive appropriate education and training. Priority should be given to ensuring that all professional training for these trades includes appropriate information about bats.
21. A survey of human attitudes to bats and the work practices of those whose work brings them into contact with bats would provide valuable factual information on the subject, and should therefore be considered.

Pesticides

22. The approval and use of remedial timber treatment products should take into account their possible effect on bats. Methods by which the potential effects of remedial timber treatments on bats are assessed should be refined so that testing of new products on bats is not usually necessary.
23. The impact of pesticides such as anti-parasitic drugs should be assessed carefully and the appropriate advice given to land managers to avoid possible deleterious effects on bats.

International Cooperation

24. Parties and Range States are encouraged to cooperate in the conservation and management of bats and their habitats.
25. The Advisory Committee shall develop and submit to the second session of the Meeting of the Parties a programme proposal for the trans-boundary research and long-term monitoring of the migration routes of selected bat populations requiring special attention.