

4th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Sofia, Bulgaria, 22 – 24 September 2003

Resolution No. 4.9

Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan
(2003 – 2006)



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;

Recognising the value to the conservation of bats of the Action Plan for 2000 – 2003 "Priorities for Bat Conservation" established by Resolution No. 8 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, agreed at the 3rd Session of the Meeting of Parties and the Action Plan for 1998 - 2000 established by Resolution 8 agreed at the 2nd Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

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

Recognising the continuous need to prioritise actions;

Acknowledging the work being carried out in the framework of the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EC), 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;

Emphasising the importance of Resolution 4.4 on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management as well as the further development of appropriate guidelines;

Decides to establish the Action Plan for 2003 – 2006 as appended at Annex 12b, and notes that this Action Plan supercedes the Action Plan made under Resolution 8 at the 3rd Session of the Meeting of Parties;

Requests Parties to report to each Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the measures taken to implement the Action Plan.

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION FOR THE PERIOD 2003 - 2006

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

1. Legal Requirements

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Resolution No. 8, Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, Annex A, 1 (attached for reference as Annex 12c).

- Parties should continue to take measures to fully implement Article III (1) of the Agreement.

2. Population Survey and Monitoring

(a) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5, Resolution No. 2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 3 - 6.

- Parties should continue to collate data on the implementation of Resolution 2, review the methods used and the species covered. Species listed under Resolution 2 include *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis blythii*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Myotis capaccinii*, *Eptesicus serotinus*, *Eptesicus nilssonii*, *Nyctalus noctula* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*.
- In recognition of the importance of monitoring in implementing the European Action Plans for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Myotis dasycneme*, these two species should be added to the existing list.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5, Resolution No. 2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 3 - 6.

- Parties should share information on experience gained in using the methods outlined in Resolution 2, with the intention of building a comprehensive dataset to be reviewed in detail in due course.
- The importance of long-term monitoring to build up good datasets on species distribution and population trends should be recognised and emphasised.

- The importance of international information exchange and co-operation in developing monitoring strategies should be promoted by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee should produce guidelines on monitoring methodologies by 2006, drawing on the experience of Parties with national monitoring schemes.

(c) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.6AnnexAfin and AnnexIfin, Resolution No. 3, Transboundary Programme: Species Proposals, and Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.8AnnexAfin, Resolution No. 5, Geographical Scope of the Agreement.

- The work on collating information on European species migration routes should be completed by the Advisory Committee.
- Recommendations on future work required to assess the timing and distribution patterns of migration should be made by the Advisory Committee by 2006. This should lead in due course to recommendations on the conservation of migratory species.

(d) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 8.

- The current work being carried out on autecological studies of the Priority List of species (defined by the Advisory Committee, AC4, Report Annex C) should be completed in accordance with Resolution 4.12.
- Information collected as a result of this work should be made public.
- Ways of making information on the autecology of species more widely available (e.g. over the internet) should be investigated by the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat.
- The state of autecological knowledge of the priority species should be reviewed by the Advisory Committee before the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(e) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP4.10.Rev.2, Resolution No. 4.4, Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management.

- Parties and Range States should promote the identification and classification of bat species and communities, which are typical for certain Forest Types for Biodiversity Assessments and which can be used as indicators for sustainable forestry in Europe.

3. Roosts

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 12 and 13.

- The work carried out on producing guidelines for the conservation and management of underground roost sites should continue, with the intention of publishing guidelines by 2006.
- Information on methods used to protect roost sites other than underground sites should be gathered by the Advisory Committee, with roost sites in buildings that are part of the cultural heritage as a priority. The results should be disseminated by 2006.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.7.AnnexI fin, Resolution No. 4, Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals, Element 2: Bats Habitats.

- The work currently in progress to identify and list important underground sites for bats should be completed and reviewed by 2006.

4. Foraging Habitats

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 16.

- Parties should carry out surveys to identify critical feeding areas close to maternity colonies of national and international significance. Information on the methods used should be gathered by the Advisory Committee and disseminated to Parties.

(b) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, various.

- Parties shall take the conservation of bat habitats into consideration in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or linear features directing to roosts are affected. National guidelines for this purpose shall be drafted. The Advisory Committee should prepare general guidance for the use of Parties for this purpose by 2006.

5. Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 19.

- Parties should continue efforts to raise public awareness and education.

(b) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 20.

- Parties should continue to produce guidance and assess new ways of working, such as producing public attitude surveys and identifying important groups that need influencing.
- Parties are invited to send a copy of any leaflet they produce to the Secretariat.

6. Pesticides

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 22, Article III, paragraph 8 of the Agreement and Resolution 4.5.

- Parties should remain aware of the potential dangers of timber treatment chemicals to bats, especially if new products are introduced.

(b) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 23.

- The impact of anti-parasitic drugs for livestock on bat populations should be reviewed by the Advisory Committee, in conjunction with work being carried out under the Bern Convention and with the intention of producing a report in 2006.

7. International co-operation

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 24, Resolution 4.12 and Resolution 4.7.

- Parties and Range States should co-operate in undertaking the actions outlined above. Parties and Range States should work co-operatively towards increasing bat expertise and knowledge in their countries and internationally.
- Actions identified in the CBD/CMS joint work programme should be linked to actions in the Conservation and Management Plan.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP4.10.

- The Secretariat, assisted by the Advisory Committee shall approach the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) with the aims of introducing bat conservation aspects to the activities and measures under the MCPFE, especially the development of indicators for sustainable forestry, and the appointment of EUROBATS as an observer to the MCPFE.

[Originally Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14AnnexA]

Attached for reference

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION FOR 1998-2001

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 practise between States.

Legal Requirements

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

Population Survey and Monitoring

Resolution 2, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.5, Consistent monitoring methodologies

Resolution 3, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.6, Transboundary programme: species proposal

Resolution 4, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7, Transboundary programme: habitat proposal

Resolution 5, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.8, Geographical scope of the Agreement

3. Some species, notably the horseshoe bat, 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 of 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

Resolution 4, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7, Transboundary programme: habitat proposal

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 request for advice from householders.
10. Important roosts, particularly of rare species should be identified by the most appropriated 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 mechanisms 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

Resolution 3, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.6, Transboundary programme: species proposal

Resolution 4, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7, Transboundary programme: habitat proposal

24. Parties and Range States are encouraged to cooperate in the conservation and management of bats and their habitats.
25. The Advisory Committee shall review the needs for a European Bat Information Centre and elaborate an appropriate proposal for the Third Session of the Meeting of Parties.