

## 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4 – 6 September 2006

### Resolution 5.4

#### Monitoring Bats across Europe



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

*Recalling* Resolution 2.2 Consistent Monitoring Methodologies (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5.Rev.1AnnexA), which recommends the adoption of consistent monitoring methods for bats across Europe;

*Recalling* also the recommendations of the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan 2003-2006 Resolution 4.9 (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP4.15.Rev.2) which recognises the importance of long-term monitoring of bat species (EUROBATS.MoP4.Record.Annex12a);

*Recalling* further the recommendations of the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan 2003-2006, which recognise the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

*Noting* the work of the Advisory Committee in producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels as recommended in the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan 2003-2006;

*Noting* the results and recommendations of two workshops held in the UK to develop the idea of pan-European surveillance of bats;

*Noting* the work of the Advisory Committee on compiling a database of information on important underground sites for bats across Europe as recommended in Resolution 2.4;

*Noting* also the imminent EUROBATS publication of guidelines on management of underground sites for the protection of bats;

*Recognising* the importance of the surveillance and monitoring of bats at a European level to report on the conservation status of bats as protected species under relevant international conventions and European Directives;

*Recognising* the possibility for bats to be indicators of environmental quality and to contribute to assessment of CBD biodiversity targets;

*Urges* Parties and Range States to:

1. *Support* the development of long-term pan-European surveillance to provide Europe wide population trends for bat species and site condition monitoring of protected sites for bats, with particular reference to underground sites;
2. *Raise awareness* of the importance of underground sites for bats at the local, regional, national and supranational scales;
3. *Maintain* collaboration and information exchange within the EUROBATS Agreement area on surveillance and monitoring activities in their country;
4. *Support* the use of the Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels in developing common protocols for bat surveillance across Europe;
5. *Support* the development of standardised survey forms for use in pan-European bat surveillance and monitoring;
6. *Support* the development of appropriate data storage and analysis mechanisms to facilitate the production of Europe-wide trends for bat species;
7. *Encourage and assist* with capacity building of bat workers and surveyors and, where possible, volunteer networks in their country, to carry out bat surveillance projects.