

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

Resolution 6.16

Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan
(2011- 2014)



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 2007 – 10, established by Resolution 5.10 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, and agreed at the 5th Session of the Meeting of 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;

Decides to establish the Action Plan for 2011 – 2014 as appended at Annex 1 and notes that this Action Plan supersedes the Action Plan made under Resolution 10 at the 5th Session of the Meeting of Parties.

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION FOR THE PERIOD 2011 – 2014

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:

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

(b) 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.

2. Population Survey and Monitoring

(a) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5, Resolution No. 2.2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 3 – 6:

- Parties should continue to collate data on the implementation of Resolution 2.2 with special reference to species prioritised by Range States and review the methods used and the species covered.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5, Resolution No. 2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 3 – 6, Recommendation from the AC14 Record:

- Parties should continue to share information on experience gained in using the methods outlined in the published Guidelines, with the intention of keeping those up-to-date and building a comprehensive dataset to be reviewed in detail in due course.
- The Advisory Committee should promote the use of standardised monitoring methods and should review and update the monitoring guidelines as required.

- The importance of long-term monitoring at a pan-European level to build up good datasets on species distribution and population trends should be recognised and emphasised. The Advisory Committee should continue to work towards the development of standardised pan-European monitoring, capacity building for monitoring and the development of a pan-European indicator based on such monitoring data.

(c) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.6AnnexAfin and AnnexI_{fin}, Resolution No. 3, Transboundary Programme: Species Proposals, and Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.8AnnexAfin, Resolution No. 5, Geographical Scope of the Agreement and Resolution 6.3 and 6.8:

- Parties should continue to collect information on local and commuting movements among bat populations.
- Parties should also undertake priority studies to identify long distance migration routes.
- The Advisory Committee will collect information on the status of European bat species in each non-European Range State of the Western Palaearctic.
- The Advisory Committee should continue to identify specific research needs and recommend where possible the use of non-invasive techniques.

(d) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14_{fin}, Annex A, 8 and EUROBATS.AC.10.Record.Annex2, 21:

- The current work being carried out on autecological studies of the Priority List of species (*Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*, according to EUROBATS.AC4.Report.Annex C) should be updated by the Advisory Committee in accordance with Resolution 4.12, and should be made public.
- Parties should support autecological studies on the Priority List of species:
 - ◆ Investigating roost choice according to the microclimate of roosts (temperature, humidity) through the seasons (being aware that electronic devices often produce ultrasounds);
 - ◆ Studying population structure, including metapopulation structuring (using genetic analyses, morphometrics or echolocation calls) and dispersal (flight paths when commuting from the roost to the foraging areas and when moving between seasonal roosts).

(e) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP4.10.Rev.2, Resolution No. 4.4 and Resolution 6.12 on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management:

- The Advisory Committee should review the best-practice guidelines for sustainable forestry as required.

(f) Parties should assess the status of their national bat fauna.

(g) With reference to Resolution 6.11:

- The Parties should be encouraged to develop and ensure implementation of national guidance on bats and wind turbines based on the principles in the EUROBATS Publication Series No. 3. Parties should encourage research and monitoring on the impacts of wind turbines on bat populations.

(h) With reference to Resolution 6.13:

- The Advisory Committee should continue to assist the development of bats as indicators of ecosystem health.
- The Advisory Committee should continue to develop indicators of the activities and achievements of EUROBATS.
- Parties shall promote and support the development of bats as indicators more widely.

3. Roosts

(a) With reference to the StC4-AC15 Record:

- Information on the design of artificial, purpose-built bat roosts should be gathered by the Advisory Committee. Good practice guidance developed by the group should be completed and adopted by Parties.
- The Advisory Committee will collect data on the implementation of the EUROBATS Guidelines, Publication Series No. 2 and No. 4 on the protection of underground and overground roosts.

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

- The list of internationally important underground sites for bats identified by Parties and reviewed at the 15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee and site assessment criteria should be published in a suitable format and be accessible through the EUROBATS website.
- The Advisory Committee shall review and update the list of important underground sites for bats and the criteria for assessing them. The Advisory

Committee should set a timetable for this review and consider suitable publication formats for the results so that it is completed by the 7th Meeting of the Parties.

- Parties should regularly update the information on the conservation status of the listed sites, and by 7th Meeting of the Parties at the latest.

4. Habitats

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 16 and Resolution 6.7 and 6.15:

- Parties should carry out surveys to identify critical feeding areas close to maternity colonies of national and international significance according to criteria that should be defined by the Advisory Committee.
- The Advisory Committee should complete their review of the conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes and publish guidelines on this topic including reference to anti-parasitic drugs where appropriate.

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

- Parties should take the conservation of bat habitats into consideration in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or linear features associated with roosts are affected.

(c) With reference to Resolution 6.14:

- The Advisory Committee should develop and publish guidelines highlighting the effects of roads and other infrastructure on bats and providing advice on how to minimise their impact.

(d) With reference to the Record of AC15.

- The Advisory Committee should review the impacts of light and noise pollution on bats and develop appropriate guidelines.

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 improve 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 to be influenced by bat conservation.

- Parties are invited to send a copy of any leaflet they produce to the Secretariat.

(c) With reference to Resolution 6.9:

- Parties should make additional efforts in the year 2011 and 2012 (The Year of the Bat) to promote bat conservation and public awareness of the problems bats are facing and the need to improve the image of bats.

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.

7. International co-operation

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

- Parties 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.

(b) With reference to Resolution 6.10 the Secretariat, assisted by the Advisory Committee shall raise awareness for the potential synergies of the Agreement and other European treaties for nature conservation.

8. Diseases

(a) With reference to Resolution 6.6 and Resolution 5.2:

- The Advisory Committee should continue to monitor the occurrence of emerging diseases and advise Parties on appropriate action.
- Parties are encouraged to continue or introduce surveillance for rabies and lethal fungal infections.

9. EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

With reference to resolution 6.4:

- The Advisory Committee should develop a procedure for implementing the EPI;
- Parties are encouraged to continue to support the EPI.