

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

Brussels, Belgium, 15 – 17 September 2014

### Resolution 7.7

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;

*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;

Noting the increasing impact of forest exploitation for energy production;

*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 non-party Range States to:

1. Take into account the importance of trees as bat roosts in sustainable forest management 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 forest management guidance via the EUROBATS website;
4. Strongly recommend that the environmental impacts of activities not directly concerned with forest management that affect the integrity of forest habitats are taken into account during their planning and implementation;
5. Promote research into forest management that is sustainable for bats; into the requirements of bats dependent on forest habitats and into understanding the factors negatively influencing them.

Decides to repeal Resolution 6.12