

7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Brussels, Belgium, 15 – 17 September 2014

Record of the Meeting



Attendance:

This is listed in **Annex 3** to this Record.

1. Opening remarks:

The host Governments

On behalf of the Governments of the three regions of Belgium, His Excellency Mr. René Collin, Minister of Agriculture, Nature, Rural Affairs, Tourism and Sport Infrastructures (Government of Wallonia) welcomed the delegates to Brussels.

His Excellency thanked all three Belgian regions: the Governments of Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels Capital Region, the Agency for Nature and Forest, the Department of the Environment, Nature and Energy, Brussels Environment and the Directorate General for Agriculture and the Natural Resources and Environment for their excellent support and cooperation in preparing the meeting.

He also thanked the Secretariat for their support and he highlighted the importance of EUROBATS and the achievements of the Agreement so far. He underlined the threats bats face and the impact of diverse factors on bat populations and explained that the quality of monitoring data was crucial to determining accurate population trends. A precise knowledge of bat populations helps the public, non-governmental organisations (hereafter NGOs) and political representatives to take appropriate decisions in difficult situations.

His Excellency further explained that new threats such as collision with wind turbines and the unpredictable long-term impact of pollution are a challenge, but that new tools are available to improve impact assessment studies. Mitigation measures should be undertaken so that biodiversity and economic development are reconciled in a wise and sustainable manner.

He also acknowledged that the effective protection of bats requires huge efforts to improve public awareness and NGOs and many volunteers are doing valuable work to

inform and educate the public. He noted that the presence of many NGOs at this meeting and the recent formation of BatLife Europe was very encouraging.

His Excellency underlined the importance of the Standing and Advisory Committees and the wording of the draft resolutions. He highlighted that the adoption of these draft resolutions at this meeting will depend on the willingness of all delegates to collaborate and to come to a level of mutual understanding.

Finally his Excellency wished all delegates fruitful discussions and hoped that they would enjoy Belgian hospitality.

The Chairs of the Standing and Advisory Committees

Dr. Michel Perret (Chair of the Standing Committee) thanked the Minister for his words, the three Belgian regions for hosting the meeting and all delegates for attending.

Dr. Perret said he was sure that resolutions passed at this meeting would be very important and lead to significant implementation measures.

Mr. Peter Lina (Chair of the Advisory Committee) thanked his Excellency for his welcome and Belgium as hosts. He emphasized the importance of the implementation of the resolutions that would be passed at this meeting.

The United Nations Environment Programme

Ms. Barbara Ruis addressed those present on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Ms. Ruis highlighted that UNEP had noted the many activities undertaken since the previous Meeting of the Parties (hereafter MoP) in 2010 and saw that the EUROBATS Agreement was very much alive and progressing towards compliance with the fundamental obligations as incorporated in Article III and the protection of all European bat species. She said this was reflected by the 16 Intersessional Working Groups (hereafter IWGs) and the 14 draft resolutions which had been prepared for the meeting.

She commented that the representation of many Parties, Range States and NGOs at this meeting and the growth of the Agreement illustrated the recognition of bat conservation. She reported that there was a strong continuing commitment of the Parties and Voluntary Contributions had enabled the “Year of the Bat 2011 – 2012” campaign and 13 EUROBATS Project Initiative (EPI) projects to be funded.

Ms. Ruis reported that the successful work and impact of EUROBATS had also been noticed by the European Union and an “Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bat

Species in the European Union” had been developed and was expected to be adopted in the near future.

Ms. Ruis pointed out that the proposed new budget for 2015 – 2018 fully acknowledges the continuing financial constraints that affect many Parties and Range States. She reminded those present that the contributions of Parties have (on average) not increased in the last eight years. She therefore suggested that a modest increase was now appropriate in order to stabilize the post of the newly recruited Scientific Officer from whom the work of the Agreement would benefit.

Ms. Ruis explained that the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species for 2015 – 2023 would provide a good opportunity to further solidify the progress reached under the Agreement.

The Convention on Migratory Species

Dr. Bradnee Chambers, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals welcomed all present and highlighted the importance of the issues that would be discussed in the next few days.

Dr. Chambers explained that at the CMS Conference of Parties in November a proposal would be put forward on how the cooperation between the Agreements in Bonn could be strengthened and how synergies could be managed so that resources could be redirected to strengthening implementation. He looked forward to seeing how EUROBATS could collaborate in the proposals. Dr. Chambers also underlined the importance of the Strategic Plan and remarked that the time was right for such a plan.

The Secretariat

On behalf of the Secretariat, the Executive Secretary Mr. Andreas Streit thanked the Minister for his warm words and support. He commended the close cooperation between the three Belgian regions and thanked them for their generous hospitality, the interesting excursion and the superb conference facilities.

The Executive Secretary also thanked the Standing and Advisory Committees for their hard work and explained that a number of new and revised Guidelines will be discussed at this meeting and that these were very important for people in the field.

He highlighted that there were a lot of areas where the CMS Secretariat and the EUROBATS Secretariat cooperate. He commented that he looked forward to the Action Plan on Migratory Species in which EUROBATS is incorporated.

2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP7.4)

The Draft Rules of Procedure were identical to those adopted at MoP 6. For Rule 5, Paragraph (1) it was suggested to replace “Chairperson of the Advisory Committee” with “Chairperson of the Standing Committee” and this was adopted.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair of the Standing Committee proposed Ms. Ines Verleye of Belgium as Chair of the Meeting and this was seconded by Estonia and the United Kingdom (hereafter UK). Sweden proposed Ms. Libuše Vlasáková from the Czech Republic as Vice-Chair and this was seconded by Ireland and Portugal.

4. Adoption of the Agenda (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP7.1.Rev.1)

The agenda was adopted.

5. Election of the Chairpersons of the Administrative and Scientific Working Groups

The Chair suggested nominating Dr. Michel Perret as the Chair of the Administrative Working Group and Mr. Peter Lina as the Chair of the Scientific Working Group. There were no objections.

6. Establishment of the Credentials Committee and Election of Chair

France proposed Luxembourg as Chair of the Credentials Committee, seconded by Portugal. Romania nominated Bulgaria as a member of the Credentials Committee and Norway, seconded by Moldova, proposed the UK as the other member.

7. Admission of Observers

There were no objections to the list of observers and so the Chair welcomed them to the meeting. (The Administrative Working Group would be restricted to Parties and UNEP staff only. Government representatives from Non Party Range States could attend as observers, if none of the Parties objected.)

8. Report of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee

The Chair of the Standing Committee assured the delegates that the budget management was sound and referred them to his written report in Doc.EUROBATS.MoP7.5. He asked the delegates whether they had any questions about his report but there were none.

9. Report of the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Advisory Committee thanked all the members of the Committee for their valuable work and referred the delegates to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP7.6. He asked the delegates whether they had any questions about his report but there were none.

10. Report of the Depositary

The Depositary (UK) reported that since MoP6 Montenegro, Cyprus and Switzerland had acceded to the Agreement. In the same period Montenegro, Cyprus, Switzerland and Portugal had accepted the 2nd Amendment of the Agreement.

The Depositary encouraged those Parties that had not yet done so to deposit their instruments of acceptance for the 2nd Amendment of the Agreement.

The Depositary also encouraged those countries which regularly attended EUROBATS meetings and were not yet Parties to the Agreement to begin or pursue their accession procedures. The Depositary explained that Doc.EUROBATS.MoP7.7 gave the up-to-date status lists of the Agreement (Annex1) and of the 2nd Amendment of the Agreement (Annex 2).

The Chair asked those present if there were any comments but there were none.

11. Secretariat Report

The Executive Secretary referred those present to the written report in Doc.EUROBATS.MoP7.8. He also underlined the importance of the Scientific Officer's post for the work of the Secretariat.

12. Review of the Implementation of the Agreement

The Parties were invited to give very brief oral reports on their implementation activities. Non-Party Range States were requested to report on progress made in their preparations to accede to the Agreement and to report on bat conservation in their countries. The NGOs also reported on their activities since the last MoP.

Short reports from the Parties

Albania: Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement:

Regarding the legal measures (including enforcement action) taken to protect bats since the last National Report, a new Red List has been published by the government of Albania. Also, the EU directives on Habitats and Birds are planned to be officially transposed in Albanian Law by the end of 2014.

For the first time, Albania proposed sites to the EUROBATS secretariat to be added to the Important Underground sites database (6 sites).

Also, a project supported by EUROBATS and funded by the GIZ project CABRA started in June 2014.

The first ever Bat Night was organised in September 2013 in Tirana and the second in August 2014.

In the framework of the project funded by the CABRA project, one workshop on bats and monitoring took place in June with local NGO staff and students.

A short movie on this project will be produced and broadcast on social networks and during the 3rd edition of the Environmental Film Festival in 2015.

A PhD on population dynamics is currently in progress at the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Tirana. Also, a master degree thesis has been produced on bats in peri-urban areas.

For the first time, Albanian samples were sent to Sebastien Puechmaille for his European-scale research on White Nose Syndrome.

Co-operation has improved in Albania, with several projects with Foreign Researchers currently in progress. Also, the project “Capacity Building in Albania for Bat workers” funded by the GIZ-funded project “CABRA”, has increased the collaboration between Albanian, Bulgarian, Montenegrin and Macedonian bat researchers and bat enthusiasts.

The new legal framework in place will ensure the fulfilment of obligations deriving from the Resolutions adopted by the Meetings of Parties.

Belgium presented a combined effort of Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests ANB, Service public de Wallonie (SPW – DGARNE / DGO3) and Brussels Environment, Brussels Capital Region:

Summary of information about species occurring in Belgium, 2010-2013

Regular and yearly counts at the known hibernation sites and the monitoring of summer maternity colonies are the basis for the evaluation of the status of resident bat species in Belgium. Efforts are made by NGOs (Natuurpunt, Natagora) and local authorities in the three Regions. A large amount of the conservation work in Belgium is done by volunteers. The Belgian delegation to the EUROBATS Agreement would like to express their thanks for all this excellent work.

This report is based on the National Report for Belgium to the EU Habitats Directive except for *Vespertilio murinus*, *Eptesicus nilssonii*, *Pipistrellus kuhlii*, *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* which are all very rarely observed.

Overall 40% of the species have a favourable conservation status, 40% remain unfavourable, among which are many tree-dwelling species. For 20% the situation is

unknown. Most species that depend on underground roosts for hibernation are stable or still increasing. With the exception of *Myotis daubentonii* which seems to be in decline for the Atlantic biogeographic region.

The International Bat Night, led each year by NGOs Natuurpunt and Natagora, remains a major success, with activities all over Belgium and thousands of participants.

A poster on bats had been published and was available to delegates.

Bulgaria: There were no new species of bats discovered in the last four years (2010-2014). 31 species are considered “Resident”, one is “Vagrant” (*Myotis dasycneme*) and one is “Migratory” (*Pipistrellus nathusii*). In 2013, the Conservation Status (CS) of 12 Annex 2 bat species was assessed in the framework of the Habitats Directive Article 17. The final CS conclusions are based on assessments of the present species’ national range, population, habitats and future perspectives. Only 3 species (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Rh. ferrumequinum* and *Myotis emarginatus*) are of “Favourable” CS, 6 species are “Unfavourable Inadequate but stable”, *Barbastella barbastellus* and *Myotis bechsteinii* are recognised as “Unfavourable Inadequate declining” and *Rhinolophus mehelyi* is classified as “Unfavourable Inadequate unknown”.

Substantial population changes in the key maternity roosts and hibernacula were not detected during the monitoring surveys. 86 multispecies roosts were recognised and described in January 2014 as Important Bat Underground Habitats. One cave was legally declared as a natural monument because of its significance for hibernation and swarming of bats and two more were proposed for protection but are still not declared protected.

The most striking case of bat and roost disturbance in the reporting period happened in Devetashkata Cave. The cave is one of the three most important bat caves in Bulgaria. It is used by at least 15 species as a hibernaculum, breeding or swarming of 3,000 – 35,000 individuals. As a result of the massive public campaign, a new designation order was published in January 2013. A Management plan for the cave was prepared in 2014 and its final version was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Water in September 2014.

Lack of special legislation for protection of caves not opened to public (HD habitat 8310) remains an important issue, which concerns more than 5930 caves across the country. In 2013 and 2014, the designs of the entrance gates of several show-caves (Ledenika, Magurata and Zandana) were modified and are now bat-friendly. The First Tabachka

Bat workshop for young bat researchers was held in September 2012 at the Tabachka Bat Research Station. The Second Meeting of Bat Researchers in Bulgaria took place in the National Museum of Natural History in November 2013.

International Bat Nights are the major public awareness event each year. In Sofia, Plovdiv and Stara Zagora there were regular Bat Nights but additional venues were added every year.

Croatia: Out of 35 bat species recorded in Croatia 29 are resident, 1 is probably extinct and for the remaining 5 species the status is uncertain. Breeding is confirmed in 27 and hibernation in 24 species.

Croatia submitted the Sixth National Report on the Implementation of the Agreement for the period June 2010 – June 2014, with details on the implementation of all EUROBATS resolutions. The accession of Croatia to the European Union on July 1st 2013 resulted in some changes in nature and species protection legislation, most relevant being the new Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013), the Ordinance on Strictly Protected Species (OG 144/2013) and the Regulation on the Ecological Network (OG 124/13). The Ecological Network of the Republic of Croatia, proclaimed on 36,67% of the land territory and 16,39% of the coastal sea, represents EU Natura 2000 areas in Croatia. It includes 742 Proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCI), among which 74 sites were designated for 12 bat species from the Annex II of the Habitats Directive. Sufficiency of the proposed sites will be evaluated by the European Commission at the Biogeographical Seminar for Croatia in September 2014.

Development of monitoring methodology for the purpose of reporting to the European Commission according to the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive is in progress, with technical protocols covering underground and overground maternity roosts and hibernacula. Monitoring schemes for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Rh. blasii* are under revision with the aim to cover all underground and overground sites for nurseries and hibernacula in the next five year period. The Croatian Fauna Database (CRO fauna) is still under development as a part of the National Information System. All relevant data on bats is to be entered and stored in this database.

An inventory of bats in the continental region of Croatia, (in the scope of the EU NATURA 2000 Integration Project - NIP financed by the Loan Agreement with the World Bank), started in 2014 and is expected to last until the end of 2016. Each of the 52 selected 10x10 km square grid cells will be surveyed using mist netting, bat detectors,

survey of underground and overground sites and additional information on bat presence (dead bats or their parts).

Underground sites important for bats in Croatia were identified and included in EUROBATS Publication Series No. 6: Conservation of Key Underground Sites. Since then, the list has been regularly revised and updated. The last update was submitted in March 2014 with 55 underground sites listed and two underground sites erased from previous version. Forest dwelling bat species are not so thoroughly researched and data on these species is scarce and occasional.

13th European Bat Research Symposium was held in Šibenik, 1 – 5 September 2014, organised by the Croatian Biospeleological Society in co-operation with 5 other organisations under the patronage of the State Institute for Nature Protection.

International Bat Nights, the Year of the Bat celebrations and other bat-related events were regularly organised in an increasing number of places in Croatia by bat NGOs, public institutions governing protected areas, zoos, local and regional authorities etc., and was covered in the media on both a national and regional level.

Czech Republic: 27 bat species have been recorded in the Czech Republic. The occurrence of a new species *Miniopterus schreibersii* was confirmed in 2011 during hibernation. Records of rare *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, as well as *Hypsugo savii*, are increasing. Long-term monitoring continues (about 600 hibernacula together with basic *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* monitoring; 120 maternity colonies, ultrasound detecting of bat activity in 10 PLA localities, 9 swarming sites). Short-term monitoring continues (bat population in blocks of flats, gas heaters occupied by bats). New leaflets concerning Bats in town, Bats and insulation and Bat rescue were printed. The brochure “Bats in forests - Guidelines for foresters” was published as an output of the national project “Bats in forests”. We took part in preparing the draft of the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bat Species in the European Union 2014 – 2020. Extensive scientific research concerning bats is traditionally performed in the professional institutions at Charles University Prague, Masaryk University Brno, South-Bohemian University in Ceske Budejovice as well as at the institutes of Academy of Science, and in National Museum Prague. Main projects were the trans boundary project “Systematics, biogeography and biology of bats including fruit bats in the Central Europe, Mediterranean and the Middle East”, and local “Ecology, behaviour and reproductive strategies of selected species (*M. alcaethoe/mystacinus/brandtii*, *M.myotis*, *P.pipistrellus*, *P.pygmaeus*)”, “Complex survey of bats and their habitats concerning occurrence of *Pseudogymnoascus*

destructans". Scientific outputs are listed in the Czech national report on the EUROBATs website. International Bat Nights (IBN) were held every year at an increasing number of localities (over 40 venues were reached). NGO ČESON (CBCT) held special workshops for stakeholders of building insulation projects and suggested solutions for proper insulation planning when bats are found during construction. ČESON (CBCT) also distributed their bat-educational programs for schools. Another NGO Nyctalus also increased their number of primary school and kindergarten programs which focused on bats.

Estonia: There are 12 species of bats in Estonia which all are under protection. *P.pygmaeus* was added to the list of protected species in June 2014. There have been no big changes in the status of bats in Estonia in the past 4 years. Although *V.murinus* might not be strictly a migratory species, since some individuals have been found hibernating in Estonia in office buildings.

- As of 2013 the responsible authority for bat monitoring in Estonia is the Environmental Agency. A new monitoring project in the national environmental monitoring program (under the biodiversity and landscapes sub-program) was launched in 2014 on the pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*). It covers 1) annual colony counts in known colonies and 2) point-counts in feeding habitats with new colony searches in a sample over the entire state range. The data is used to get better population size and trend estimates as well as better distribution and change estimates for the next Habitats Directive report for this species. Also a wintering bats index is being developed in the national environmental monitoring program. Annual hibernation counts are carried out to a wider extent with the aim of joining the PEMBUS project.
- Regulations for marking bats and birds were renewed in June 2011 (where a license system was specified).
- Bat rabies is now monitored passively. The results of the samples of collected bats within this program have all been negative.
- So far there has been one positive case of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* in Estonia in 2010 (the bat was found in Laagri hibernaculum).
- Many bat events have taken place during the reporting period and the International Bat Night has been celebrated every year. For example, the Estonian Museum for Natural History organised a bat-week two years in a row in the capital Tallinn to celebrate the International Bat Night at the end of August.

- According to the latest Habitats Directive report 10 of the 12 bat species found in Estonia are assessed to have favourable status. However, 8 of the 12 bat species have an unknown trend.

Finland highlighted some points from the National Implementation report. Since the last Meeting of Parties, no changes in the number of species have occurred, it still being 13. Much effort was put into data collation for the Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting, concerning updated distributions and other aspects of bat species ecology. There are lots of new observations of the rare and migrating species and therefore the distribution of e.g. *Pipistrellus nathusii* now reaches much further north than previously known. During the quadrennium, active lyssavirus surveillance was conducted. It resulted in antibodies detected in south-western Finland, but no rabid bats were found. A research project concerning bats in different forest habitats as well as a project to study bat diet using next generation sequencing are ongoing and have already produced interesting results. Study of bat migration is continuing (mainly along the coast) and resulted in an article together with other states around the Baltic Sea. The Year of the Bat was celebrated with lots of bat talks and walks as well as press releases given to promote the awareness of bats. Many activities have also been organised for the International Bat Night during the years before and after the theme years (2011 – 2012). A theme exhibition was prepared at the Natural History Museum LUOMUS. This exhibition was open for approximately one year and visited by lots of people. It also received positive feedback. The exhibition is now touring other museums.

Georgia: About thirty-one species of Bats occur in Georgia (including one species not confirmed by catching and one possible spread species). Four bat species are included in the Red List of Georgia (2006) - *Rhinolophus mehelyi*, *R. euryale*, *Myotis bechsteinii* and *Barbastella barbastellus*. From activities carried out in Georgia within the reporting period we would like to highlight the following:

Joint research with the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC): zoonotic pathogens were studied through joint research of the Institute of Zoology, NGO Campester and NCDC in 2012. A new joint proposal project “Emerging zoonotic pathogens in Georgian bats” was funded in 2014 and this project is aimed at a more detailed study of zoonotic pathogens.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia developed the State Biodiversity Monitoring Programme. One of components of the Programme is

a bats monitoring component. The Ministry provided initial funding for the implementation of the bats monitoring component.

Myotis bechsteinii and *Hypsugo savii* – have been rediscovered after a long-gap and *Myotis aurascens* and *Myotis alcathoe* have been found through the close co-operation with a colleague from the EUROBATS Secretariat, Dr. Suren Gazaryan.

A new wintering colony with 350-400 individuals of *Rhinolophus euryale* was found in Georgia.

A new maternity colony with about 5,000 individuals consisting of *Myotis blythii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii* was found in western Georgia.

Germany submitted a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Agreement since the last Meeting of Parties. It contains information on the status of bats in accordance with the national reporting according to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.

24 species occur currently in Germany. In 2011 an individual of *Miniopterus schreibersii* which is considered extinct was found by chance in the southwest of the country.

A lot of activities concerning public awareness took place all over the country, including International Bat Nights organised by different NGOs, with special regard to the Year of the bat in 2011 – 2012.

Several research projects and initiatives concerning bats and wind turbines, migration and forest management are being continued.

Ireland: Since the last MoP, a new species of bat has been recorded in Ireland – the greater horseshoe bat. However, this appears to have been a single lost, or perhaps adventurous male, as despite extensive survey work no further specimens have been discovered. The species is considered a vagrant. The status of *Myotis brandtii* has also been confirmed as vagrant, with only one specimen confirmed for the country since it was initially described in 2003.

The status of our 9 resident species has also been assessed, as part of the Article 17 process under the Habitats Directive. I am pleased to report that all nine species are in favourable conservation status, with populations estimated to range from 14,000 for *Rhinolophus hipposideros* to over one million for *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*.

Four monitoring schemes for different bat species have continued through the period, two of these on an all-Ireland basis. The significant input from our national bat NGO – Bat Conservation Ireland - in delivering this monitoring programme is acknowledged.

An extensive programme of research has also been undertaken by the Centre for Irish Bat Research; details of their main publications have been provided in our comprehensive written report.

Italy is fully committed to advancing the implementation of the Agreement both at international and national level, in spite of general difficulties occurring in nature conservation in this historical period mainly due to constraints on financial resources. To date, 33 species are recorded in Italy. The status of some of them awaits clarification: this is the case with the Italian population of Natterer's bats which, according to molecular work, would in fact belong to a different species.

The Italian Red List of Vertebrates recently assessed the status of Italian bat populations. Overall, the picture is not very encouraging as one species (*Rhinolophus blasii*) was classified as regionally extinct, one as critically endangered and another five as endangered.

Bat research is developing well in Italy, with many projects targeting important conservation issues such as roost selection or use of foraging habitats, some of them sponsored by the Environment Ministry including one, carried out at Naples University Federico II, devoted to updating of the distribution and conservation status of Italian bats and the identification of monitoring and management strategies. Within the latter, a record database for the "*Myotis mystacinus*" group was created, and state-of-the-art habitat modelling was employed to address specific biogeographical problems and develop monitoring and conservation guidelines for cryptic species.

The Ministry is also working on the definition of the "National Action Plan on Sustainable Use of Pesticides" whose consequences are also most relevant for bat conservation. The main Italian NGO which specializes in bats, the Italian Chiroptera Research Group, is actively contributing to conservation and monitoring. They recently issued national guidelines for the consideration of bats in wind farm development, and have also joined the "Pan-European monitoring project". Finally, over the last four years Italy has also been very active on the front of public awareness, with many initiatives such as International Bat Night, two new books published on bats, the updated English version of the EUROBATs pages on the Ministry website and a national bat box campaign which has attracted great attention.

Latvia: Long-term monitoring programmes of hibernating bats and migrating bats reached the 20-year threshold last year. Analyses of 20 years of hibernation data by the TRIM programme revealed an increasing trend in two species, a stable trend in three species and a decline in one species – the brown long-eared bat. The acoustic monitoring of *Nathusius*' bats at the Baltic Sea coast during autumn migration in 1993-2012 indicates a possible positive population trend in this species in NE Europe.

Latvian bat scientists established international research collaboration with the bat research group of the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IWZ led by Dr. Christian Voigt) and University of Kiel (Dipl. Biol. Frauke Krüger) to study the eco-physiology of long-distance migrating bats and the diet of bats respectively. A new funnel trap for capture of migrating bats at the Center of ornithological studies in Pape was built in summer 2014 with financial support from IWZ.

First searches for bat fatalities underneath wind turbines in 2013 showed a relatively high mortality of bats in the western part of the country. Visiting six turbines 5-13 times each during autumn migration (in August to the beginning of September) resulted in 40 dead bats from 4 species being found.

The first survey on bat rabies was carried out by the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR) in co-operation with the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES). In 2013-2014 both oral swabs and blood were sampled from more than 600 bats captured during autumn swarming or migration. The laboratory analyses will be completed by the end of 2014.

First hibernation records were registered in *Nathusius* bat and in *Serotine* bat in Latvia. In the first species a live male was found behind the window frame in the middle of January in a five store building in Riga. It is the most north-eastern winter record of this species. At the same time a live individual of *Serotine* bat with broken forearm was found in the city Daugavpils in the south-eastern part of country.

Luxembourg's highlights of the past quadrennium:

- Discovery of *Myotis dasycneme* and *Myotis alcaethoe*, raising the number of species recorded for Luxembourg to 21, of which 20 are currently known to be present.
- Discovery of the first known maternity roost of *Barbastella barbastellus* in Luxembourg.
- Monitoring at the national scale was carried out within a large monitoring program of species of the EU Habitats Directive and also through some other more

specific projects. The current conservation status of bats in Luxembourg under the Habitats Directive was reported to the EU.

- In 2012 the Luxembourg government bought the house and annex that house the most important maternity colony of Luxembourg consisting of 150 *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and 850 *Myotis emarginatus*, for 500,000 EUR. In 2013 works were carried out to improve the existing roost building, to create new opportunities for roosting in the main building, and to protect the roost site against predators (cats and beech martens) and humans.
- The SAP *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* was set up, and corridors and feeding habitats were identified. Practical implementation is ongoing, focussing on the improvement of corridors from the maternity colony to the foraging habitats, of the foraging habitats themselves, and of the accessibility for bats to potential roost sites in the vicinity of the colony.
- The SAP for *Myotis bechsteinii* was set up, priority forests for the species throughout Luxembourg were identified, and practical guidelines for foresters were produced.
- SAP *Barbastella barbastellus*: closing of an important underground site.
- In May 2013 the first case of bat rabies (EBLV-1b strain) occurred in Luxembourg; a human was bitten in the head by an *Eptesicus serotinus* individual during the night. Details on this case are published in the journal Zoonoses and Public Health.
- Many events to raise public awareness were organised. Bat nights, guided bat tours (linked with International Year of the Forests to highlight the importance of old and dead wood in forests as bat roosting habitats), bat exhibition “The world of bats” developed by the National Museum of Natural History and many more.

Macedonia has participated in CMS and EUROBATs since 1995. 27 bat species are known at the present, which means 3 new species, thanks to the research work of Bat Study Group Macedonia.

For public awareness regular bat nights during the last week of August are organised.

There is still no bat-monitoring program in Macedonia, but one is planned to start in 2015. At the present time there is only one operational wind farm (in southern

Macedonia) which unfortunately went operational without proper preconstruction and also without operational monitoring of bats.

A big issue for bats in Macedonia is the recent national initiative for insulation of all public buildings but also some private houses in order to save electricity (and reduce global warming). Unfortunately all of these alterations are done without any concern for bats.

The Ministry of Environment needs support for strengthening the human capacities for bats as only two people are covering all wildlife matters at the moment.

We are also expecting help for preparing a red list of Macedonian bats.

The full report was submitted to the Secretariat.

Moldova: since the last MoP, Moldova has done much work on public awareness and unfortunately less work on research. However, in December 2013 a working group with specialists from the Ministry of Environment, scientific institutions and NGOs was established. The group started to monitor the most important underground sites, so several expeditions were conducted. During the expedition in the winter of 2013 – 2014, two ringed bats were found, which were ringed by Sergiu Andreev in the winter of 1995.

In order to protect all bat species in Moldova, it was proposed to include all species in the National Red List. However, the III Edition of the Red Book has not yet been published.

A two-week exhibition of photography and paintings was held at the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History in May 2014. The photos represented all species of bats with information about the importance and the benefits of bats, their habits and information on how to protect bats. The paintings were from the national contest “Bats in my house and garden”.

For the second time since 1998, the International Bat Night was organised thanks to the NGO „WiSDOM”, managed by Sergiu Andreev. More details about the Bat Night event may be found on our Facebook page „Chiropteromania”. The Facebook page reached more than 500 likes in a few months, which shows that Moldovan citizens are becoming more interested in bat issues. The importance of bats was also mentioned at the launch event of the National Biodiversity Caravan.

Moldova signed the Accession Agreement with the European Union, thus the EU Habitat Directive (and others Directives) will be implemented in Moldova in future. (The national legislation will be approximated to the EU legislation).

A new book was edited by Sergiu Andreev „Liliecii suveranii boltilor nocturne” (“Bats the sovereigns of night-time vaults” (not official translation).

In December 2013 a construction company were removing old windows from a building which belongs to the University of Medicine. They found a large colony of bats, around 200 individuals of *Nyctalus noctula*, which was removed to a safe site by Sergiu Andreev. The Ministry of Environment invited those who participated in saving the colony (the construction company, Sergiu Andreev and other people) to the ministry and during a press conference the minister handed diplomas to them. This event was shown by the TV channels so bats were again mentioned at the national level.

More details are available in the National Report.

In the last few years, **Montenegro** focused on education, research and development of the monitoring system in the northern and southern parts of Montenegro. Some equipment has been donated and training on basic principles of monitoring, ultrasound and application in the field has been conducted in order to improve the quality of the field research and to build capacity in Montenegro. The Montenegrin delegates thank Dutch, Polish and all colleagues from the region and the EUROBATS Secretariat, who gave them much support during the implementation of these actions. The result of this support is two more bat species for the Montenegrin list (*Myotis daubentonii* and *Barbastella barbastellus*) to make 27 bat species in total. Future plans in the national parks of Montenegro will be focused on cross-border co-operation with Albania in order to enlarge the monitoring system in the southern part of Montenegro during wintertime.

Norway: to add to the national report it can be mentioned that there is a continued increase of interest by national NGOs and private individuals, which is most encouraging (ref. the list of publications in the national report).

Focus has as usual been on inter alia mapping of bat distribution, important sites, bat boxes (which are very successful), rescue centre, public information and assistance telephone, monitoring of hibernation sites, bat night and other activities.

Norway recognizes the increasing challenges with the renewable energy sector, especially in relation to wind turbines.

More details on the status of species and implementation of resolutions can be found in Norway's national report.

Poland: In addition to the National report on the implementation of the Agreement instruments for bat protection which play important role in Poland should be underlined. First of all there is a developed environmental impact assessment system. Guidelines for assessment of the impact of wind turbines on bats are under preparation by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection. On the other hand, most sites important for bats are designated Natura 2000 sites. For these sites currently there are developed management plans with strong stakeholders' involvement. This enables better management of both hiding places and feeding areas.

Portugal (mainland): responsible bodies for provision of advice on bat conservation and management were nominated for the mainland, Azores and Madeira. The Second Amendment to the Agreement was approved.

In the last quadrennium there was an increase of data collection and many undergraduate, MSc and PhD theses were prepared or are ongoing. Many papers and general documents were published, including the Atlas of Portuguese bats (mainland) and updated criteria for identification of roosts of national importance.

An extraordinary work on public awareness took place, particularly regarding the Year of the Bat.

Portugal (Azores): Since the Azores Region was included in EUROBATS, a monitoring program for Bats started in 2012, with samplings in all of the nine islands. There are two known species so far, one being endemic to the Region.

Several environmental education and awareness programs started in 2012, which was the International Year of Bat, including the production of educational resources.

In the **Republic of San Marino** the implementation of the Agreement continues thanks to the efforts of Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese (Natural History National Museum) that is in charge of monitoring and public awareness of bats in the Republic (delegated by the Secretary of State for the Environment).

Two new reproductive colonies of *Myotis emarginatus* and *Myotis daubentonii* were found which bring the national checklist of bats to 16 species.

Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese also supports a bat box campaign for schools for both birds and bats. The main roosting tunnel Le Piagge is still interesting for some

tourism projects, but the importance and numbers of the bats wintering and reproducing inside are still protected well. The national group based in Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese compiles the national atlas and publishes annual reports.

Slovakia: The number of bat species occurring in Slovakia has not changed since the last report - 28. Favourable status of many of them was unknown; however an extensive and complex monitoring project, supported by EU Regional Policy started last year. As a result of the project additional field data is expected and the status of the species will be updated.

The LIFE+ project “Protection of Common Swift (*Apus apus*) and bats in buildings” is still ongoing. Various conservation measures took place, with the majority focused on the common noctule, as well as the awareness raising activities focused on bats in general. Two projects supported by CMS were finished - “Bat conservation in the old mines of Slovakia“. The data obtained during the projects enriched our knowledge, mostly about *Miniopterus schreibersii* and *R. euryale*. 21 new underground sites were identified as being of international importance for bats, six of them are included in Natura 2000 sites (SKUEV0112 Slovenský raj, SKUEV0256 Strážovské vrchy, SKUEV0302 Ďumbierske Tatry, SKUEV0328 Stredné Pohornádie, SKUEV0347 Domicke škrapy, SKUEV0356 Horný vrch) making a total of 84 underground sites for the list of sites of international importance submitted to the Secretariat.

The complete national report was submitted to the Secretariat.

Sweden: the number of bats species in Sweden remains 19. The Bat Centre Taberg, in the south of Sweden, is probably the first combined bat centre and bat museum in Scandinavia. The ore mine Taberg, nowadays closed for mining, is an increasingly important hibernation site for bats. There has been ongoing monitoring of hibernating bats in the mine for more than ten years. Next to the mine, there is a very good permanent interactive exhibition about bats which attracts an increasing number of interested groups. There are bat walks organised in the region of the mine, sometimes also into the mine itself. The Bat Centre also organizes bat detector training workshops. Last but not least, the Bat Centre has its own website and a very active Facebook group.

In close co-operation with the Bat Centre, there is also another bat group, “Fladdermöss i Sverige” (Bats in Sweden), which is very active and supports with information and advice, not least by way of an open Facebook group. It is hoped that this bat group will develop into the first bat NGO in Sweden.

The monitoring work in Sweden is ongoing, including an increasing use of autoboxes.

There is also an ongoing process in Sweden aiming to harmonize the demands on monitoring where wind turbines are concerned. This is important both before the building of the turbines and afterwards, when turbines are already operating.

The active surveillance of bat rabies continues, in parallel to the passive surveillance which has been happening for more than thirty years,. In the test results from 2013, there were no antibodies at all found. The results of 2012 showed the presence of antibodies in a few *Myotis daubentonii* in the south of Sweden. No antibodies have so far been found in any other species and no bats at all have been found with actual symptoms of bat rabies. Bat rabies information in Swedish is extensively presented on several relevant governmental web sites.

The project Bat Forts, a co-operation of bat scientists, the WWF and Fortverket, a governmental agency for maintaining the buildings of the Swedish Armed Forces, is an ongoing success in protecting manmade underground hibernation sites owned by Fortverket. Some sites have up to five different species present each winter, which is considered a very high number for Sweden.

A single *Barbastella barbastellus* was found in one of the bat forts just south of Stockholm and has been hibernating in the same spot for at least four years. This is possibly still the most northern finding of barbastelles in Europe.

So far no barbastelles have been found during summer in the area around that fortress, but considering that the nearest known colony of barbastelles is located more than 200 km to the south, some bats of the species are likely to be found in the neighbourhood sooner or later.

There was a considerable increase of bat talks and bat walks in Sweden by both scientists and bat amateurs for the International Bat Night. Together with good media coverage all this increases the public awareness of bats in a very positive way.

Switzerland: Several measures related to the implementation of Article III of the Agreement were taken in 2013: Each Canton (except BS) has appointed a “cantonal bat protection agent” (Kantonaler Fledermausschutz-Beauftragter / Correspondent regional) who takes care of the implementation of national and international law. More than 500 volunteers in the whole of Switzerland support their efforts locally. On a national level the Swiss Coordination Centre for Bat Protection advises, informs, teaches and assists with conceptual concerns. In 2013 the Conservation Centres gave advice in c. 25,000

cases. About 300 renovations of buildings with bat roosts have been accompanied. 1,500 roosts have been controlled and 400 new roosts were detected. 700 measures for bat conservation have been taken to protect objects of interest.

A great effort for informing and educating was undertaken: 200 bat excursions, c. 200 presentations (to schools or to the general public, or in the form of regional events), 30 IBN events with c. 2,000 participants and c. 75 original contributions in media (press, radio, TV).

Monitoring was executed on all nursery roosts of three species: *Myotis myotis/blythii* (100 roosts), *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (three roosts), *R. hipposideros* (40 roosts).

Several projects are ongoing in Switzerland:

- To promote the conservation of bats the Swiss Coordination Centre for Bat Protection has created a national concept for bat species of national priority (Konzept Artenförderung Fledermäuse 2013 – 2020) in accordance with the Swiss biodiversity strategy and the Swiss promotion concept for species of national priority. It includes investigations on best practice solutions to evaluate and avoid impacts on bats (i.e. wind energy, roads, pesticides). First efforts have also been started to implement the concept.
- The Red List Swiss Bats has been updated and its publication is expected in October 2014.
- Swiss Bat Bioacoustic Group SBBG is proposing standards to validate bioacoustical data for different data gaining methods.
- Concerning wind energy, National Guidelines to take bats into account are expected to be published in 2014.
- A project has been launched to identify the important roosts of bat species of national priority. On the basis of the results of this investigation flight corridors and hunting habitats of these sites will in future be investigated, protected and promoted.

Ukraine reported that during the period 2010 – 2014 two new species were added to the list of the country's fauna: *Myotis alcathoe* and *Myotis aurascens*. Updated information on the status and distribution of bat species, their roost sites and habitats in Ukraine was included into the written report.

During 2010 – 2014 the geography of bat investigations broadened. The new data enabled a more exact assessment of the status and distribution of bat species in

Ukraine. Together with standard methods of data collection, Ukrainian bat workers widely apply the new approach – gathering faunistic data following calls from the public to bat contact telephones. A separate sector of the work of Ukrainian specialists is bat rescue and rehabilitation. During the winter of 2013 – 2014 there were c. 1,300 bats needing rehabilitation. About 900 of these bats were released back to the wild.

Recently revealed important sites were added to the list of key underground bat sites.

During the last years Ukrainian bat workers organised and carried out a large number of public events directed to popularize bats and raise awareness of the importance of their conservation. Posters, booklets and leaflets and pocket calendars calling people to be friendly to bats were issued and distributed (mostly by Kharkov Bat Group). The second Ukrainian web-site was launched – <http://www.bat-kharkov.in.ua>. In addition, Ukrainian bat workers launched two communities in social networks: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bat.community> (launched on the threshold of the Year of the Bat and open to all internet-users) and VKontakte: http://vk.com/bat_kharkov.

In December 2012, the National Bank of Ukraine put into circulation the 5 hryvnia commemorative coin dedicated to the Year of the Bat:

http://www.bank.gov.ua/control/en/publish/article?art_id=127769.

In 2012, the mail envelope with the logo of "Year of the Bat" and inscription (in Ukrainian) was issued by Ukrainian State Enterprise of Posts "Ukrposhta".

During the reporting period, tens of interviews to mass-media (TV, news-papers, radio) about bats and the necessity of their conservation were given by Ukrainian bat workers and bat conservationists.

Detailed information about finished and ongoing bat projects is presented in the written report.

United Kingdom: Article 17 reporting was completed for bat species in the UK. The reports can be found on the JNCC website <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6391>.

Under Resolution 6.11 GB is funding a project to assess the effect of wind-turbines on bat populations. Field work has been completed but analysis of the data is still ongoing. A paper on the effectiveness of using search dogs has been published. The findings of the study and revised national guidance will be published later this year.

Under Resolution 6.12 Defra has funded a project to develop an effective method for the systematic surveillance of bats in woodland habitats. Data are collected using

acoustic transects and automated call extraction and identification tools. The method has been developed for eventual use on a large scale by trained volunteers.

The final report has been published on the Defra website <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/> (search for WC1015).

Under Resolution 6.14 a project is currently underway to establish the success criteria for monitoring the effects of mitigation measures for bats on roads and other linear transport infrastructure. This includes bat bridges and underpasses. The report will be published in March 2015: <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/> (search for WC1060).

Short reports from the Non-Party Range States

Armenia's legal activities:

- Development of the draft of the law on amendments in the Law on Protected areas in which new categories (conserved landscapes of protected areas and a separate chapter concerning migration routes) have been included.
- In 2010 the Government of Armenia approved the NEW Red Data Book of Animals, which includes 10 Bat species (the governmental decision came into force on 27 February 2010).
- Adoption of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise (the law came into force on 9 August 2014).
- Development of the draft of the law on amendments in the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise.
- Development of the draft of the Strategy and Action Plan on protected areas for the period 2015 – 2020.
- Adoption of the amendment in the list on natural monuments (the governmental decision came into force 23 May 2013), which also includes bat habitats.
- Establishment of one new State Sanctuary (“Khustup”), and the first biosphere complex (“Zangezur biosphere complex”) in the south of Armenia as a new model of the management of protected areas (the Governmental decision came into force on 6 January 2014) and one conserved landscape (“Gnishik”).

Activities in the framework of EUROBATS:

Armenia has been a Party to CMS since March 2011 and the process of joining the EUROBATS and AEWA Agreements is included in the environmental policy agenda of Armenia.

Currently a study is being done on the species included in the Annex of the EUROBATS Agreement and a comparison and analysis of species encountered in Armenia is being carried out. Representatives from the Ministry of Nature Protection, science research institutes, universities and NGOs are involved.

Unfortunately there are several technical, financial, organisational and institutional problems: for example the main underground sites are now under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and for this body, the tourism development in these areas is more of a priority than the conservation of bats.

Detailed information about bat conservation, monitoring and other science research projects and about other activities is also included in the National Implementation Report according to the new format (Draft Resolution 7.4) which will be adopted during EUROBATS MoP 7.

Azerbaijan is a Party to major international conventions and agreements. Acceding to the EUROBATS Agreement is among Azerbaijan's top priorities. According to the information received from the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources proposed to negotiate acceding to the EUROBATS Agreement along with the Bonn Convention and its other relevant agreements and protocols. This proposal was approved and relevant work is being done to further the process.

From the Bat Monitoring and Research perspective, regular studies have not been conducted in Azerbaijan since 2011. The Institute of Zoology is the only organisation dealing with research and investigation of bat populations in the Republic. The last study – 'Monitoring of bat populations along the Caspian shoreline within the Azerbaijan territory' was carried out over the period of 2011-2013.

International Bat Night has been celebrated by the NGO "Ecosphere" each year since 2009. A number of interviews were given to the public via media. The new edition of the National Red Data Book (RDB) was published in 2013, 7 bat species were included in the RDB. (The old edition included 3 bat species.)

Belarus: *Pipistrellus kuhlii* was registered in Belarus for the first time. *Vespertilio murinus* and *Nyctalus noctula* are from now on considered as a hibernating species.

Belarus is starting to prepare to accede to EUROBATS, but all bat species are already protected by the Law on Fauna and 6 species are included in the Red Data Book of Belarus and protected by the Law on Environmental Protection. In 2014 two bat species were also proposed for inclusion in the Red Data Book – *Myotis mystacinus* and *Plecotus austriacus*. The deliberate capture, keeping or killing of bats is illegal and punished by fines, with the exception of capture for scientific purposes.

During the past quadrennium the following activities were carried out:

- International Workshops “Bats in Belarus: research and protection” and detector workshop “Bats in Belarus – intensification of research”.
- International Bat Nights are annually held in various cities in Belarus.
- Webpage on Belarusian bats and bat-groups on some social networks have been created and are supported.
- Translation and adaptation of the EUROBATS “Bats and Forestry” leaflet and “Bats, trees and forests” brochure was finished and is to be published.
- Belarusian-Moldovan Bat Festival (23.08.2014) was carried out at the end of August 2014.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: For the last four years a small network of bat workers in caving clubs of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established. A very important project is the bat monitoring in the Neretva river catchment area which has been supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. The first International Bat Night in Bosnia and Herzegovina was organised. A revision of written (and other) sources of the bat fauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina was made with the help of bat workers from Serbia and Slovenia. The number of species now stands at 29. In the last four years four new species have been recorded – *Myotis daubentonii*, *Myotis brandtii*, *Eptesicus serotinus* and *Pipistrellus nathusii*. Furthermore, *Rhynolophus blasii* has been recorded for the first time after more than hundred years, a nursery colony of the species was recorded in a cave in Herzegovina. The first issue of a supplement of the speleological magazine which is dedicated to the study of bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been published.

Egypt: Nature Conservation Egypt was invited to join EUROBATS meetings for the first time at AC16 in 2011. Since then, NCE has played its role in enhancing bat conservation and research in Egypt and has reported at each AC meeting on the bat-related activities conducted in Egypt.

These activities focused mainly on public awareness: through events and different types of media especially social networking websites; capacity building (with the kind support of EUROBATS EPI grant). Since AC19, a study on the bat fauna of Egypt has been conducted to provide a better understanding of the distribution and priority conservation areas for the species by one of the NCE members.

Iran: During the last 3 years education of the general public and awareness raising about bat conservation in Iran have been focused on:

- A scientific group named "Persia Bat" for bat conservation was created.
- International Bat Night events were held twice.
- A new event for bats: "Bat Valentine's Night" was created.
- A live TV show dedicated to bats was created.
- An interview with a news agency was given about the importance of bat conservation.
- A coffee house named "Life Café" was opened which educates about wildlife and bats.

Israel: The Israeli government had made an official decision to join EUROBATS three weeks before MoP7 and the official accession papers were currently being prepared.

Although it is very small country, Israel has a tremendous variety of biodiversity in many taxonomic groups. There are 33 species of bats in Israel, and 23 of these are in the EUROBATS Annex. All the bat species in Israel are insect-eating bats, except one. All the insect-eating species are fully protected in Israel, but the fruit bat, *Rousettus aegyptiacus*, is not currently protected as it is considered an agricultural pest (sometimes causing damage to orchards of bananas, dates and lychee). When Israel joins EUROBATS it is expected that the status of the fruit bat will be changed to a protected species.

Israel has had a bat monitoring and conservation program in place for over 15 years and Bat Night is celebrated in August every year with many activities.

Israel submitted a National Implementation report to EUROBATS for the first time for this meeting (MoP7 Information Document 44).

Most of the Israeli bat species are listed as locally threatened in Israel's Red Book, and it is hoped that joining EUROBATS will help to improve their conservation status.

Jordan: Contacts with the Ministry of the Environment have been made over the past two years and there is much support of this from local NGOs.

Research:

- A study was conducted on the epidemiology of the Corona Virus in Jordan. Two bat species were examined (*Miniopterus pallidus* and *Rhinolophus hipposideros*). All specimens were negative for antibodies and for the corona virus itself. Camels showed 90.2% prevalence for the viral antibodies and were all negative for the presence of the virus.
- New caves with bats were identified in northern Jordan.

Public awareness: A handout on bats and their biological significance will be prepared in 2015 to educate the general public on the importance of bats.

Kazakhstan: There are 27 species of bats in Kazakhstan. The study of bats in the south and south-east of Kazakhstan is ongoing and bat research has also been started in the eastern part of the country. As a result one new species has been found in this area (*Vespertilio murinus*). Collaboration with locals and public awareness work for bat conservation has begun.

Lebanon reported it was following up with the Ministry of Environment on joining EUROBATS officially. In addition to it, work on MERS CoVirus in bats was done. The virus had not been found in the samples screened the year before, however CoV-like pan-Cov Kenya bat CoV BtKY77-like was found in 8 out of 150 samples of *Rousettus aegyptiacus*. A new screening started in September 2014.

Lebanon further informed that the unsettled situation in Syria had affected one of the biggest fruit bat colonies in North of Lebanon – the increase in the number of refugees had shuffled the priorities of many municipalities, including the municipality where this colony was found.

A story for kids about bats and their role in the environment was produced and published in Arabic, and one article on bats monitoring and conservation in Lebanon was published in JJNH: "Abi-Said, M.R. 2014 . Monitoring, threats and conservation of hibernating bats roosts in Lebanon. *Jordan Journal of Natural History*. 1: 152-164".

The BatNight was this year under the patronage of the Japanese Ambassador and it was very successful, attended by more than 600 participants of all ages and intensively

covered by the media. <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Sep-01/269217-lebanon-celebrates-the-humble-bat.ashx#axzz3CBhj6wre>.

Monitoring of hibernating bats will start as soon as the bats go into hibernation.

Saudi Arabia: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has participated in EUROBATS meetings since 2012 as a Non-Party Range State. Since then, several activities related to bats have been reported, including scientific research, conservational efforts, and public awareness. Updating the bat species list and their distribution throughout the country is a high priority for Saudi Wildlife Authority. Several roosting sites have been found and bats are monitored regularly. Over 300 underground sites throughout the country have been identified and will be assessed for the presence of bats. In addition, other areas with a high potential for the presence of new species have been identified and will be visited in the near future. Many bats roosting sites have been lost lately due to disturbance and unexpected weather conditions (i.e. heavy rain); therefore, work has continued to preserve the remaining sites and also to establish alternative man-made roosts. With regard to public awareness, posters of Saudi mammals including bats have been finalized and will be distributed across schools in the country. The Saudi Wildlife Authority is reviewing the possibility of joining EUROBATS.

Serbia: The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection is now responsible for environmental issues. All the internal procedures within the Ministry in order to ratify the EUROBATS Agreement have started anew. It is hoped that further development will be efficient. Due to reconstruction of the Ministry's website, our national guidelines "Bats and environmental impact assessment: tools for implementation of the European Habitat Directive and EUROBATS Agreement in Serbia" still cannot be downloaded, but most of the other environmental legislation is now finally available for download. By courtesy of the National History Museum, content is available on their web site at: http://www.nhmbeo.rs/upload/images/ove_godine/Promocije2011/bats_and_environmental_impact_assessment_web_lq.pdf

International Bat Night was held in several cities but some of the events are still to happen including a major event in Belgrade. About 2,000 participants have taken part in Bat Night events so far this year, and a further 1,500 – 2,000 are expected during the coming events. Media coverage was satisfactory so far. It can be concluded that the International Bat Night is a well-established event with the Serbian public. No proper roost monitoring has been done for the second consecutive year (which has not happened since the monitoring started 17 years ago). Bat workers training has

continued thanks to the immense efforts of WCS Mustela, Biology students' research society "Josif Pančić" and the voluntary work of many bat experts. Bat experts also collaborated in several international projects on species genetics, ecology and *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. The presence of *Plecotus macrobullaris* has been confirmed in Serbia for the first time, resulting in a total of 30 bat species of national fauna. Several species have been recorded to spread their ranges. All of those are to be published very soon.

Tunisia: A meeting was held with the Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture to introduce the EUROBATS Agreement. The CMS focal point in Tunisia attended this meeting and endorsed joining the Agreement. It is anticipated that the Agreement will be considered.

Research: A survey has been conducted during July-August in north-western Tunisia to continue mapping caves and mines hosting bats. 12 species of bats have been reported.

Public awareness: Bat Night was celebrated on 29 and 30 August 2014 in Siliana city and Belvidere Park, Tunis respectively. About 200 attendees participated in both cities. Lectures and workshops for children were carried out, presentations for adults, as well as a tour with a bat detector. There was good coverage in the local newspapers, public media and in social networks.

Turkey: In Turkey, most of the bat conservation practices are based on the efforts of a few NGOs, which have implemented various projects in the last few years. In 2011, a project aiming to identify and protect important underground habitats in Turkey was carried out and during this study more than 30 sites were investigated. Some of these caves, which were identified as important underground sites, were reported to the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs for the assessment of their legal conservation status. In 2012, a project aiming to initiate a conservation programme for Egyptian Fruit Bats in Turkey was conducted. Eight roosts, as a total hosting more than 7,000 Egyptian Fruit Bats, were identified and the management plans for these sites were submitted to the authorities.

A three-day workshop was organised on the conservation of bats and cave ecosystems, with participation of more than fifty researchers from twenty national caving groups. A booklet, a brochure and a poster about bat and cave ecosystems were published and distributed to the interested groups. These NGOs also collaborated with the Cave Conservation Department, which operates under the Ministry of Forestry and Water

Affairs, and two regulations for guano mining and cave conservation were drafted. However neither of these regulations has been approved by the Ministry to date.

Bats in Turkey have been facing two problems in the last few years:

- Havran Cave is now under water because of a dam and it was known to previously be inhabited by more than 20,000 bats. In order to protect these bats, a tunnel was built above the natural cave by the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works and recently it was reported that bats had started to use the new tunnel. However, there has been no independent research done at that site and there is no published report of the project.
- The other case is about an abandoned factory, which hosts up to 5,000 Egyptian Fruit bats *Rousettus aegyptiacus*. The factory is located in a highly developed area of Adana, the fifth most populous city in Turkey. It is very likely that the site will soon be demolished for the construction of new buildings.

Short reports from the Observers and NGOs

Bat Conservation Trust (UK): This report focuses on activities since the last Advisory Committee meeting in April 2014. The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) is carrying out a pilot survey for Nathusius' pipistrelle in the UK, with the help of six volunteer bat groups. This will contribute towards assessing the status and migratory activities of Nathusius' pipistrelle. BCT will use the results from the pilot to help develop a protocol for a national study.

With the support of the Rufford Foundation, BCT has recently catalogued our education and engagement materials and has set up a new section on our website to make some of these resources more accessible and widely available to our international partners across the globe. The resources can be found here:

http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/resources_to_further_bat_conservation2.html

Some of these resources are specific to the UK and will need to be adapted for use in other countries. Delegates are very welcome to use, adapt or translate any of these resources but are kindly asked to acknowledge www.bats.org.uk in their materials.

An International Symposium on artificial lighting and wildlife was held in March and the videos of the talks are now available via this link:

http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/artificial_light_and_wildlife_symposium_determining_solutions_for_practitioners.html

Bat Working Groups of Natuurpunt vzw, Mechelen and Plecotus, Natagora, Namur (Belgium, joint report): During the past four years, both Bat working groups of Natuurpunt vzw (Flemish Region, over 100 active members) and Natagora (French speaking part, 200 active members) have been active in the fields of bat surveying, research, education, protection and related policy matters. The study departments of Natuurpunt and Natagora manage the largest database of observations of all taxa in Belgium: www.waarnemingen.be, containing over ten million observations, including records of all bat species. These data (amongst other data mainly collected by the working groups) have been used to compile the renewed Red List of Mammals in Flanders (Maes, D. 2014, INBO report) and for national report pursuant to the Habitats (FFH) directive in 2013.

Members of the working groups were involved in the steering group for the compiling of the Species Protection Program for bats in Flanders (September 2014).

Thanks to the efforts of volunteer researchers or bat workers in the Flemish, Brussels and Walloon region during the last four years, three new species were added to the national species list: *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, *Pipistrellus kuhlii* and *Myotis alcaethoe*.

Each year during the last weekend of August, Natuurpunt and Natagora organize International Bat Night events in almost 100 locations all over the country, attended by a total of thousands of people, often resulting in national press coverage.

During the years 2013 and 2014 the working group in Flanders started a sub-working group concerning bats and wind turbines, resulting in an online statement and a written letter sent to all wind developers. This and other actions clearly resulted in an increased amount of attention on this issue.

Both working groups wish to thank the regional governments for their logistic and financial support over the years.

NABU (Germany): Between 2010 and 2014, NABU groups celebrated a great number of Bat Nights all over the country, each of them helping to improve the attitude and awareness of the public towards bats. Further public relations actions are undertaken at regular intervals to promote bats.

Bat protection in towns is a major task of our local volunteers; this work is further supported by regionally organised campaigns such as “Welcome bats”, where roost owners and bat friendly behaviour is acknowledged. In the course of this work, bat rescue and rehabilitation turned out to be an important issue. This is not systematically

organised but performed on a local scale. This work helps considerably in gaining information about colonies, their threats, diseases and the distribution patterns of species, especially rare ones.

The federal NABU bat group has developed its own guidelines regarding the effects of wind turbines on bat populations. In addition, several of our experts have contributed to the revision of the EUROBATS guidelines on bats and wind turbines.

An important part of bat monitoring in Germany is undertaken by voluntary bat workers and these data were largely made available to the German Länder to be included in the national report.

Since 2011, the NABU is a founding member and trustee of BatLife Europe and regularly attends the meetings and internet conferences.

PTOP “Salamandra” (Poland): In Poland national guidelines on the assessment of the impact of wind turbines on bats is continuously updated and still awaits formal recommendation from the national nature conservation authority. One of the important problems with EIA and SEA is the quality of the analyses, which can be prepared by everyone (there are no any requirements regarding education or experience of their authors). Therefore Polish NGOs are currently preparing the national voluntary system of certification of bat experts. This system is planned to be introduced in the beginning of 2015.

This year a co-operation of chiropterologists from Poland and Montenegro began. Results of preliminary research of Montenegrin bat fauna gave valuable and interesting results. Therefore all parties look forward to this cooperation continuing.

SFEPM (France): The French mammal society organizes more than 200 events a year (251 for 2014) for IBN.

Our network called “Refuges for bats” now has 279 owners protecting bat roosts.

We are increasingly active in the SOS for bats that permits us to discover new roosts in houses, to convince owners to keep their bats and to give recommendations for planned rehabilitation building works.

Since the last MoP, we have found 2 nuclei of nursery roosts of *Nyctalus lasiopterus* in the Massif Central as well as male roosts in the same area. The search for this priority species is increasing in the south and a poster was presented at the EBRS in Croatia.

The SFEPM was also in charge of the Natura 2000 reporting on bats. As our volunteers have greatly contributed to drafting the guidelines on bats and transport infrastructures we eagerly await this publication.

University of Tirana (Albania): In addition to information already given in the National Report, prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, two points should be underlined:

- Albanian students participated for the first time in a Balkan workshop on bat conservation in September 2014. We would like to thank the Croatian Organisers and the EUROBATS secretariat for this very important and successful workshop.
- The ongoing building of the National Database of bats in Albania. Participants of the MoP7 who may have data on bats in Albania are kindly requested to share this data with the Albanian Authorities and The University of Tirana in order to increase the knowledge on bats in Albania, and therefore to improve the conservation of bats.

13. Report of the Credentials Committee

27 countries were present which would have been eligible to vote on condition that proper credentials had been provided. Of those 27 countries, 5 countries did not present any credentials. 16 countries had perfect credentials and would have been allowed to vote should a vote be required. One country had credentials signed by the wrong authority and for five countries the wording of the credentials letter was not optimal. Considering that the Secretariat provided a model letter on the website before every MoP, the Credentials Committee strongly urged the latter six countries to make sure that they provide credentials that entirely fulfil the requirements in the future, but suggested, exceptionally to accept the credentials of these countries for this meeting and allow them to vote should a vote be required.

14. Draft Resolution 7.1: Financial and Administrative Matters (Budget 2015 - 2018)

The Administrative Working Group had discussed all four scenarios and had agreed upon Scenario 1, with the additional point that 10 000€ annually would be withdrawn from the reserve.

The draft resolution was adapted to include the following points:

- The prioritisation of the work of the Secretariat would be undertaken by the AC.
- The Secretariat was to prepare a Work Plan for the quadrennium 2014 – 2018.

- The Standing Committee would be responsible for allocating available funds to best support the execution of the Secretariat's Work Plan.
- Parties would be called upon to make voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the Work Plan. (This would enable those Parties which would like to pay more than stipulated by Scenario 1 to improve the implementation of the Agreement).

Following these changes to the draft resolution the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 4).

15. Draft Resolution 7.2: Amendment of the Annex of the Agreement

It was clarified that Inf.EUROBATS.MoP7.48 explained the proposed changes to the resolution. The Parties then reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 5).

16. Draft Resolution 7.3: Implementation of the Agreement

Guidelines would be provided to countries which were considering joining the Agreement. A list of all the up-to-date resolutions (including those emerging from this meeting) would be included in the guidelines.

Following one change regarding the provision of a checklist to the appropriate working group, the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 6).

17. Draft Resolution 7.4: Format of National Implementation Reports

Additions included the requirement that reporting should be online and that this format should be made available in time for MoP8 via the EUROBATS website and online workspace. The Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 7), acknowledging that the annex to the Resolution would be revised by the AC to incorporate the resolutions of this MoP.

18. Draft Resolution 7.5: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

After the discussion of the phrases "structure of governance" (point 6) and "impacts on bats" plus the wording of a few other points the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 8). Germany abstained due to having had insufficient consultation time before this MoP but expressed its wish not to wish to postpone the publication of the guidelines until after the next MoP.

19. Draft Resolution 7.6: Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats

The Chair of the Scientific Working Group reported that there were no amendments to this draft resolution. The Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 9).

20. Draft Resolution 7.7: Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

There was a discussion about the reference to the Bats and Forestry leaflet and whether it was necessary to include the principles of the leaflet as an annex to the resolution. Due to the fact that this leaflet had been referred to in Resolutions in the past, it was decided that an annex would not be necessary.

A reference to the CMS resolution 7.12 and some additional text suggested by France were added to the draft resolution. After these changes and some minor rewordings the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 10).

21. Draft Resolution 7.8: Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes

It was agreed that before publishing, the guidance should be circulated to all Parties and Non-Party Range States for review. Some minor changes were made to the draft resolution and then the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 11).

22. Draft Resolution 7.9: Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

A suggestion was made to give the positive aspects of the guidance more weight by using case examples. This was taken on board by the convenor of the working group.

A reference to the CMS resolution 7.12 on Migratory species and environmental impact assessment was added to the draft resolution. Also the point that a good pre- and post-construction evidence base should be made available for independent scientific analysis was added.

Following these and some other minor changes the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 12).

23. Draft Resolution 7.10: Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation

After some rewording the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 13).

24. Draft Resolution 7.11: Bats and Building Insulation

After discussion about the wording of the draft resolution some alterations were made. Following this the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 14).

25. Draft Resolution 7.12: Priority Species for Autecological Studies

The convenor reported that there was no comment on the Priority Species List during the Scientific Working Group. After a small spelling correction the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 15).

26. Draft Resolution 7.13: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2015 – 2018)

This draft resolution was drafted by the Scientific Working Group during the meeting.

The Chair of the Administrative Working Group suggested that the point regarding the annual 10 000€ for EPI should be included in the draft resolution. The Czech Republic added a point about bat rehabilitation centres which, after some discussion, was placed at the end of point 2. Germany had a reservation about the reporting duties in this context, given that most of this work is done by NGOs in Germany.

At the request of the UK the following point was added: “The Secretariat shall prepare a plan of action based on the implementation priorities identified by the Advisory Committee”.

The Parties then reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 16).

27. Draft Resolution 7.14: Quality of Assessments and Experience and Skills of Experts

After some minor changes to the wording of the draft resolution the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 17).

28. Other Draft Resolutions submitted by the working groups

Draft Resolution 7.15: Amendment to Resolution 6.4: Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

There was clarification and then some minor rewording of the draft resolution. The Secretariat suggested that the list with collected data should be submitted to the Secretariat with the final report and that the reference to “within one year” should be removed. (This list would remain confidential and would only be used for informing the relevant local authorities.) The suggestion was accepted and then the Parties reviewed and adopted the Resolution (Annex 18).

29. CMS Family Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

The Chair of the CMS working group on the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015 – 2023 introduced the final draft which would be submitted to CMS CoP11. The Chair explained that the Strategic Plan linked up with the Aichi Targets and that the Agreements had been invited to the Strategic Plan meetings throughout the process. The Chair explained that the Strategic Plan would improve the implementation of CMS and the daughter Agreements and urged those present to look at the Plan and to see whether they had any comments on it and to look at how it could be used in their countries.

30. Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bat Species in the European Union 2014 – 2020

Ms. Sylvia Barova from the EU Commission reported that there had been very fruitful cooperation with EUROBATS experts in the development of the Action Plan.

The Secretariat explained that the latest draft was available on the EUROBATS website (amongst the AC19 documents).

Ms. Barova asked those present to communicate any comments on the draft to the nationally appointed experts listed at the beginning of the document. She predicted that it would take a further 6 months to a year to finalise the Action Plan and explained that it was not legally binding, but that it requested the Member States of the EU to take the actions recommended.

31. Election of the Members of the Standing Committee (StC)

The following Parties were elected to serve as Members of the Standing Committee: France (proposed by Italy), Italy (proposed by France, seconded by Portugal and San Marino), Sweden (proposed by Finland, seconded by Poland, Estonia, Italy and Latvia), Belgium (proposed by Luxembourg, seconded by Ireland and San Marino), Bulgaria (proposed by the Czech Republic, seconded by Croatia, Romania, Albania and Macedonia FYR) and Ukraine (proposed by Georgia, seconded by Norway, Moldova and the Slovak Republic). The UK and Germany would continue to be ex officio members as Depositary and Host Country respectively.

At the brief initial meeting of the new Standing Committee, Belgium was elected as Chair and France as Vice-Chair. France and the Ukraine were thanked for their valuable work as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Due to the 20th anniversary of the EUROBATS Secretariat, Germany proposed Bonn as the venue of StC12 in 2016. It was decided that Bonn would be the venue of StC11 in 2015 unless other venues were suggested.

32. Arrangements for the 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Offers were invited to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties.

33. Any other business

The Secretariat suggested swapping the timing of the StC and AC meetings in the future so that the StC could act on the list of work priorities prepared at the AC meeting.

The Secretariat requested the feedback from all those present on the CMS Family website. The Executive Secretary explained that the common platform is not intended to

replace the EUROBATS website. The Secretariat would continue to maintain the EUROBATS website in parallel to the common CMS platform. Germany, Estonia, Sweden and Belgium supported this. Estonia requested that the definitions of the regions of the Agreement area and more information on the StC and AC members should be added to the website. It was concluded that the MoP supported the maintenance of the EUROBATS website.

Luxembourg invited all present to the 21st Benelux Congress of Zoology, (called Zoology 2014), that will take place on 12th and 13th December 2014 at the Institute of Zoology of the University of Liège (Belgium). Currently confirmed highlights include keynote speakers Frank Zachos from the Natural History Museum in Vienna and Simon Conway Morris, Professor of Evolutionary Biology at the University of Cambridge.

The organizing team and the scientific committee would very much welcome contributions on bats. All details about Zoology 2014 can be found via this link: <http://www.zoology2014.ulg.ac.be/>

34. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting

The initial draft was circulated at the end of the meeting for delegates' approval. The Secretariat undertook to prepare a final version as soon as possible after the meeting.

35. Close of Meeting

After the customary expressions of thanks to all those who had contributed to the success of the meeting, the Chair announced that the meeting was closed at 19:09 hrs.

Report of the Administrative Working Group

The Administrative Working Group comprised of representatives of 26 Parties and convened for three meetings during the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties.

The Chair of the Administrative Working Group (Dr. Michel Perret, France, hereafter “the Chair”) introduced the documents to be reviewed by the working group. These were the reports of income and expenditure for the financial years 2010 and 2011 – 2013, The Trust Fund Status as of 31 December 2013, the Status of Contributions as of 31 July 2014, and Draft Resolution 7.1 on Financial and Administrative Matters (Budget 2015 – 2018). These documents had already been discussed at the 9th Meeting of the Standing Committee and after discussion and amendments to Draft Resolution 7.1 been forwarded to this MoP7.

The Parties were invited to state if they wished the Secretariat to prepare any additional documents that could be useful for further discussion.

Norway thanked the Secretariat for the good preparatory work and asked whether the surplus in the Trust Fund of ca. 400,000 was in USD or in EUR. It was explained that in the documents the figures were expressed in USD and the delegates were given some of the important figures in EUR as well. Referring to the surplus, the Chair explained that, even though savings were made each year particularly in personnel-related budget lines, UN rules regulated the minimum reserve that had to be maintained at all times.

The Executive Secretary went on to explain the different budget scenarios and added that in all scenarios no other budget lines had been increased apart from the annual increments in staff costs.

The Chair intervened to draw the delegates’ attention to the work plan the Standing Committee had asked the Secretariat to prepare, which justified the need to maintain the organisation of the Secretariat as agreed for the last quadrennium, in particular with reference to the post of the scientific officer.

Belgium requested the work plan to be more detailed with respect to how much time would be needed for different tasks. This plan was prepared for the second meeting of the working group.

At the request of the Chair, the Executive Secretary then gave more detailed explanations of the four draft budget scenarios.

Scenario 1 at least partly adopted the idea of zero budget increase – in 2015 the budget would be the same as in 2014 in all the budget lines. The Executive Secretary explained that annual increments were necessary, although however, it was possible to accept zero increase in the budget, but only for the first year. For the following three years the annual increments were incorporated as they had been incorporated in previous years. All the other budget lines were the same as in the previous budget, with one difference – the savings in the IT costs of 5,000 EUR that the Secretariat had been able to make would be used for the meetings. The Executive Secretary explained that the budget lines for the meetings cover only approximately one third of the actual costs. To cover the remaining costs the Secretariat needed to find the funds elsewhere. Therefore, it was suggested to allocate the 5000 euro to the meeting costs.

Scenarios 2 and 3 were identical in the budget lines, foreseeing an increase of the P2 position from 50 to 80 percent, which was urgently needed based on the work plan. In Scenario 2 the increase in annual contributions was 2.5 % for those above the minimum contributions (1,000 EUR annual contribution); in Scenario 3 it was 5%. One more difference was reflected in cutting one meeting of the Advisory committee in the four years, which then had implications for the calendar of the meetings. The MOP would not be held in autumn but in spring. The meeting of the Advisory Committee would then be scheduled for the autumn of the previous year in order for the AC to be able to prepare the resolutions. Thus in the year of the MoP only the MoP would take place and this would shorten the time for the work of the AC for one year.

Scenario 4 was based on Scenario 3 but it kept one meeting of the AC per year. The Chair added that one more difference between Scenarios 2 and 3 was also in the amount to be withdrawn from the trust fund reserve.

Italy requested the Secretariat:

1. To include in the proposed different budget scenarios' tables, a column corresponding to the total of the previous quadrennium, so as to facilitate comparison;
2. To include a column showing the percentage increase in expenditure, possibly distinguishing between the increase in nominal and real terms, preferably year by year, or at least between the incoming quadrennium and the previous one. It would be desirable to indicate the budget increase, together with the increase in contributions, when describing the different scenarios;

3. When showing the details of the contributions by Parties, to include a column related to contributions in the last year of the previous quadrennium, to allow Parties to verify more easily the annual variation of their contribution.

These documents were prepared for the second meeting of the working group.

In the opinion of Norway, the scenarios were very modest and Norway expressed its support to increase the budget to follow up on expenses as well as to increase the P2 post to 80 percent, as this would help to shift from discussions to action. Norway then proposed the option of making a greater withdrawal from the funds and using this for the Project Initiative, rather than always asking for contributions from parties. Since the trust fund was increasing, it could be used for the staff as well as to do work on the ground.

The Chair drew the delegates' attention to the situation of some parties that had received instructions which could lead to the adoption of Scenario 1.

In its second meeting the working group further focussed on the budget scenarios.

It appeared that only Scenario 1 could be used as the basis for the discussion, since some of the Parties had clear instructions not to accept an increase in their annual contributions to the budget.

Italy noted that there were two instruments to maintain the budget – contributions of the parties and withdrawals from the Trust Fund. If per year 20,000 – 30,000 EUR had to be withdrawn, the sustainability of such a practice had to be examined.

The Chair responded that, based on experience, each year c. 15,000 EUR of savings were made on staff costs. For the quadrennium it corresponded to approx. 50,000 EUR. This fact, as well as contributions from new Parties, had to be taken into account when the withdrawal from the Trust Fund was discussed. Additionally, the withdrawal for the whole quadrennium had to be compared to 250,000 EUR reserve (without the operating reserve) that was available. The Chair concluded that Scenario 1 including withdrawal from the reserve was cautious and realistic.

The UK referred to the sum of 6,000 – 7,000 EUR that were spent on publications. Though this was funded from voluntary contributions, these funds could be used for other purposes, as most of the Parties would also be satisfied with online publications.

Germany proposed that, for those countries that mentioned the possibility of increasing their contributions, to use the surplus to finance a Junior Professional Officer that potentially could be shared between CMS and EUROBATS.

The delegates were then presented with the work plan that focused on the additional activities the P2 officer was expected to fulfil after the MoP7 and resulting from new resolutions that would be passed.

After some discussion and exchange of views, the Chair concluded it was obvious that there was a need for at least an 80% employment of the P2 officer, but that the task was to see if the Parties could afford that. He asked the Parties to give their preference. Though the majority of the Parties were willing to increase their contributions, the very strict instructions of some other Parties would only allow them to accept Scenario 1 with no increase in contributions. Furthermore, several countries stated that, though they could accept an increase of their regular budget contributions, they could not offer this increase in the form of voluntary contributions. Several countries also stated that they could not agree with a scenario which would include for the regular budget different increases of the contributions of Parties.

The Chair then summarised the extensive discussions and proposed a compromise to have a basis in Scenario 1 and to consider:

1. asking the Parties – and that should be clearly stated in the Draft Resolution 7.1 – to give voluntary contributions in money or in kind to enhance the work of the Secretariat;
2. proposing to the MoP that the StC be given a mandate to decide each year, considering the savings and the amount of voluntary contributions, whether to enhance the Secretariat's staff employment, in particular the P2 position;
3. mentioning the need to prioritise the activities of the work plan and thus also the work of the P2 officer;
4. including Norway's proposal of an annual budget line of 10,000 Euro for EPI projects from the trust fund reserve to be allocated to the EPI program to support projects that can provide wider benefits to Range States.

In its third meeting the working group finalised Draft Resolution 7.1 including all agreed new elements and forwarded it to the Plenary.

Report of the Scientific Working Group (SWG)

The Working Group met on the 15th, 16th and 17th of September, chaired by Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands). Relevant Draft Resolutions were discussed, amendments made where appropriate and then taken forward to the Plenary of the Meeting of Parties for adoption.

Draft Resolution 7.2: Amendment of the Annex of the Agreement

Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN/SSC, UK) introduced the Draft Resolution. At this MoP only three changes to the Annex of species to which the Agreement applies were recommended. The Draft Resolution can be found in the meeting documents as Doc MoP 7.10. Inf.MoP7.48 provides an explanation to the background of the Resolution. The recommended changes to the Annex are:

1. The addition of *Miniopterus pallidus*, raised from a sub-species to a full species and recorded from Turkey, the Caucasus states and eastwards.
2. The recognition of the genus *Miniopterus* as belonging to a separate family, Miniopteridae.
3. A small technical correction to the format of the name *Myotis escalerae* Cabrera

A number of other potential changes have been considered, but none is yet ready for implementation. The Draft Resolution was accepted without change and passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 7.3: Implementation of the Agreement

The co-chair of the Working Group (Ferdia Marnell) introduced the Resolution. The working group has prepared an Implementation Guide to the Agreement. This Guide is intended to provide Parties, other Range States, the Secretariat and other interested organisations, with an up-to-date handbook to the commitments and obligations contained in the Agreement and to assist Parties with their implementation. The Implementation Guide is included in the meeting documents as MoP7 Doc.11.Annex. In addition it is intended to include the relevant Resolutions from MoP7. The Resolution (MoP 7 Doc.11) asks the Secretariat to make this Implementation Guide widely available and urges Parties to use this Guide when planning measures to implement the Agreement. The co-chairs, Tony Hutson and Ferdia Marnell, have made significant progress on the document since the last AC meeting and it is now in effect ready for

publication. They asked for one final brief meeting of the working group to ensure that all members are happy with it. Following this meeting the draft resolution was amended slightly and passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 7.4: Format of National Implementation Reports

The convenor of the IWG presented the Draft Resolution. With a few amendments the Draft Resolution was approved by the SWG.

Draft Resolution 7.5: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Dr. Luisa Rodrigues introduced the Draft Resolution. After a few useful amendments the Draft Resolution was approved by the SWG and was passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 7.6: Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats

The Chair, Mr. Peter Lina, presented the Draft Resolution. The Draft Resolution was accepted without change and passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 7.7: Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

The Convenor introduced the draft resolution that had been agreed at AC19. It was noted that a list of relevant literature was compiled for the last AC meeting and can be found as an Annex to the report to the meeting (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.35). Some amendments were proposed and included in the draft resolution. After final revision it was passed to the Plenary for adoption.

Draft Resolution 7.8: Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes

Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), convenor of the relevant IWG, introduced the Draft Resolution. The Draft Resolution was approved by the SWG following minor amendments.

Draft Resolution 7.9: Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

The Convenor introduced the proposed resolution that had been agreed at AC19. A small amendment to the Resolution was suggested and the draft text was amended and forwarded to the Plenary.

It was noted that sections of the draft publication were submitted to AC19 (Doc.EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.14) and that a poster on the results of the questionnaire was presented to the EBRS in Croatia in early September 2014.

Draft Resolution 7.10: Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation

During MoP7, participants of the IWG had a meeting. Participants discussed items for the future work of the group. It was agreed that members of the IWG should provide a short description of the situation concerning bat rescue and rehabilitation in their countries together with case studies by the next AC meeting. Items for the planned guidelines were discussed. The Draft Resolution was discussed by the SWG and submitted to the Plenary after some minor changes.

Draft Resolution 7.11: Bats and Building Insulation

During MoP7, participants of the IWG had a meeting. Participants discussed items for the future work of the group. It was agreed that in view of an increasing rate of insulation it was necessary to prepare draft guidelines as soon as possible. The Members of the IWG should provide a short description of the situation concerning bats and insulation in their countries as well as case studies by the next AC meeting. Items for the planned guidelines were discussed. It was agreed to update information in the draft of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bat Species in the European Union 2014 – 2020. The Draft Resolution was passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 7.12: Priority Species for Autecological Studies

The convenor presented the Draft Resolution which was agreed by the SWG without any remarks and objections.

Draft Resolution 7.13: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2015 – 2018), Draft Resolution 7.14: Quality of Assessments and Qualification of Experts were presented to the SWG, discussed and then passed to the Plenary with some amendments.

Draft Resolution 7.15: Amendment to the Resolution 6.4 was presented and discussed in the plenary session.

7th Meeting of the Parties

Brussels, Belgium, 15 – 17 September 2014

List of Participants



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