

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

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Draft Resolution 6.14

Bats as Indicators for Biodiversity



The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (thereafter “the Agreement”),

Recalling Resolution No. 4.4 Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management, which *directs* the Advisory Committee to instigate the investigation and, if appropriate, the development of the use of bats as indicators for sustainable forestry and biodiversity in certain habitats in Europe;

Further recalling Resolution 5.4 Monitoring Bats across Europe, which *recognises* the possibility for bats to be indicators of environmental quality and to contribute to assessment of CBD biodiversity targets;

Further recalling Resolution 5.10 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2007- 2010);

Noting Resolution 6.17 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011- 2014);

Recognising the government and public need for information communicating progress towards conservation targets such as halting the loss of biodiversity beyond the year 2010;

Further recognising the value of biodiversity indicators (simple and clear summary statistics) for communicating core messages of nature conservation to policy makers and public audiences;

Further recognising the profile gained for other species groups, such as birds and butterflies, through their roles as national and European indicators;

Further recognising that indicator status has stimulated additional research for the conservation of these taxa;

Further recognising the recommendation by SEBI 2010 to expand the suite of indicator taxa used to measure progress towards achieving biodiversity targets,

including research needed to improve coordination and streamline international biodiversity-related indicators.

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Support the development of (national, regional and pan-European) biodiversity indicators for appropriate target audiences, using bat data;
2. Facilitate the incorporation of bat data within high profile multi-taxa indicators to make them more truly representative of biodiversity;
3. Support the objective of gathering the data for these indicators;
4. Forge cooperation platforms that facilitate the required data exchange;
5. Work towards the provision of standardised summary statistics from the national reports to EUROBATS.

Requests the Advisory Committee to continue to develop indicators of the activities and achievements of EUROBATS from the National Reports and their updates, or other information provided by Parties and Non-Party Range States.