

8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

Resolution 8.11

Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan
(2019 - 2022)



The Meeting of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement");

Referring to the commitments by the Parties to the conservation of bats in accordance with the Agreement, especially the fundamental obligations placed upon Parties in Article III;

Recognising the value to the conservation of bats of the Action Plan for 2015 – 2018, established by Resolution 7.13 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, and agreed at the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties;

Noting the efforts of Parties, as outlined in their National Implementation Reports, and of the Advisory Committee as well as the Secretariat to the Agreement to carry out the above plans and the progress achieved;

Noting the obligations for Parties identified in the EUROBATS *Guide to the Implementation of the Agreement*;

Recognising the continuous need to prioritise actions;

Acknowledging the work being carried out in the framework of the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EC), in particular the establishment of the Natura 2000 Network and in the framework of the Bern Convention, in particular the establishment of the Emerald Network;

Decides to establish the Action Plan for 2019 – 2022 as appended at Annex 1 and notes that this Action Plan supersedes the Action Plan made under Resolution 13 at the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties.

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION FOR THE PERIOD 2019 – 2022

Parties to the Agreement should consider taking forward the following actions to enhance the conservation status of bats. The Secretariat shall prepare a plan of action based on the implementation priorities identified by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall review the success that each Party or Range State has in achieving each goal and will seek to disseminate examples of good practice between Parties and Range States.

1. Legal Requirements

With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Resolution No. 8, Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, Annex A, 1:

- Parties should continue to take measures to fully implement Article III (1) of the Agreement. Section 3 of the EUROBATS Guide to Implementation (Hutson, Marnell & Törv, 2015) provides help and guidance on this.

2. Population Survey and Monitoring

(a) With reference to Resolution 8.10:

- Parties should ensure that experts/groups of experts carrying out assessment of projects, plans and programmes on populations of European bats meet the minimum standard of skills, knowledge and experience as described in the Annex to Resolution 8.10;
- The Advisory Committee should develop a set of criteria for evaluating the quality of assessment reports.

(b) With reference to Resolution 2.2 and EUROBATS Publication Series No. 5 on Monitoring of Bats:

- Parties should continue to collate data on the implementation of Resolution 2.2 with special reference to species prioritised by Range States and review the methods used and the species covered;
- Parties should continue to share information on experience gained in using the methods outlined in the published Guidelines, with the intention of keeping those up-to-date and building a comprehensive dataset to be reviewed in detail in due course;
- The Advisory Committee should continue to promote the use of standardised monitoring methods and should review and update the monitoring guidelines as required;

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

(c) With reference to Resolution 8.3:

Parties should:

- prioritize studies to identify areas for breeding and hibernation, migration routes, stopover sites and population parameters (population sizes and trends) with the use of classical and novel methods, such as banding, radio-tagging, acoustic, genetic and isotope analyses;
- stimulate cross-boundary efforts in research and conservation of migratory species;
- report results of studies in behaviour and population sizes of migratory bats, including references to published articles;
- increase the cooperation with bird banding centres The Advisory Committee should collate information on above-mentioned research topics.

(d) With reference to Resolution 7.12:

- The Secretariat, with advice from the Advisory Committee, should encourage projects on the Priority Species listed in the Annex and seek for external funding as appropriate;
- The Advisory Committee should update the Annex to Resolution 7.12 as required;

(e) With reference to Resolution 7.7 on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management:

- Parties should develop their own national guidance appropriate to their bat communities, forest ecosystems and forest management practices based on the principles in the EUROBATS Bats and Forestry leaflet;
- Parties should share best practice forestry guidance via the EUROBATS website.

(f) With reference to Resolution 8.4 on the impacts of wind turbines on bat populations:

Parties should:

- develop and ensure implementation of national guidance following the most recent version of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee generic guidelines and encourage research and monitoring on the impacts of wind turbines on bat populations;
- exclude wind energy developments from areas with a special focus on bat protections;

- encourage all stakeholders to engage in research on the best methods for impact assessment and mitigating bat mortality at turbines for mutual benefit.
- encourage developers of wind energy projects and responsible authorities to make raw data from impact assessment and post-construction monitoring available for independent analysis.
- encourage developers of wind energy projects and responsible authorities to make reports from impact assessments and post-construction monitoring publicly available.

The Advisory Committee should:

- continue to compile relevant information, including methods to assess the impact of wind power generation on bat populations;
- update the generic guidelines, now available as EUROBATS Publication Series No. 6, if required.

(g) With reference to the progress made on Resolution 6.13 and the publication of a prototype indicator of trends in European bat populations at hibernation sites (EEA Technical Report 19/2013):

- The Advisory Committee should continue to expand and update this prototype to incorporate data for further countries and species and other technical improvements to assist the development of bats as indicators of ecosystem health;
- Parties shall promote and support the development of bats as indicators more widely.

(h) With reference to Resolutions No. 7.10 and 8.8:

- Parties should set up networks of animal rehabilitation centres and exchange the data on bats for scientific purposes;
- The Advisory Committee should finalise the draft Guidelines for Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Parties should develop and implement national guidance following EUROBATS Advisory Committee generic guidelines on Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation.

3. Roosts

(a) With reference to Resolution 8.12:

Parties should:

- consider examples provided by the review document, developed by the Advisory Committee, whenever new roosting structures are planned or existing structures are renovated for bats;

- monitor existing purpose-built bat roosts and promote further studies on their effectiveness.
- The Advisory Committee should continue to gather information on the design of artificial, purpose-built bat roosts and keep the review document updated.

(b) With reference to Resolution 7.6:

- Parties and Range States, using the revised guidance on site selection [Doc.Eurobats.MoP7.22], should continue to collate and update information on important underground sites with a view to submitting this to the Secretariat every 8 years;
- Parties should ensure that the important underground habitats they have identified are fully protected by law and, where appropriate, are physically protected against unauthorised entry.

(c) With reference to Resolutions 5.7 and 8.5:

- Parties should identify their most important overground roosts considering the guidance on site selection developed by the Advisory Committee and using the national databases;
- The Secretariat should record and follow up cases of loss or damage to listed sites that are brought to its attention, initially by correspondence with the Party or non-Party range States involved. Such cases should be reported by the Secretariat at each MoP.

(d) With reference to Resolution 8.9:

Parties should:

- develop and ensure implementation of national guidance following the generic guidelines developed by the Advisory Committee;
- include bats in the impact assessment of insulation programs at a strategic level;
- ensure that insulation projects are undertaken in compliance with national legislation regarding bat protection and conservation by implementing appropriate pre-insulation survey and assessment, mitigation and compensation to avoid roost loss and bat mortality.

4. Habitats

(a) With reference to Resolution 7.8:

- The Advisory Committee should publish guidelines on Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes (EUROBATS Publication No. 9);
- Parties should develop appropriate national guidelines drawing on these generic guidelines when available and ensure their implementation

(b) With reference to Resolution 7.9:

The Advisory Committee should:

- finalise and publish guidelines highlighting the effects of roads and other infrastructure on bats and providing advice on how to minimise their impact;

Parties should:

- develop appropriate national guidelines drawing on these generic guidelines when available.

(c) With reference to Resolution 8.6:

Parties should:

- develop and promote implementation of national guidance taking due account of the EUROBATS Publication Series No. 8 on Bats and Light Pollution;

The Advisory Committee should:

- continue to compile relevant information, including efficacy of mitigation measures and methods to assess the impact of artificial light on individual bats and bat populations
- update the generic guidelines, if necessary.

5. Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 19:

- Parties should continue to promote International Bat Night and continue efforts to raise public awareness and improve education in relation to bats;
- The Advisory Committee should continue to develop guidelines and training material for education programmes.

(b) With reference to Resolution 8.8:

- Parties are encouraged to develop appropriate national guidelines, drawing on the general guidance to be finalised by the Advisory Committee.

(c) With reference to Resolution 8.13:

- Parties should promote awareness of the multiple ecological services provided by bats, especially for the agricultural sector, and raise awareness regarding the concerns mentioned above with land managers and other stakeholders.

6. Insect declines

(a) With reference to Resolution 8.13:

Parties should:

- encourage and support scientific research on the impact of the insect decline on bat populations ;
- avoid the use of pesticides, particularly those problematic for bats and their food resources, in and around important areas for bat conservation;
- ensure that bats are being considered in pesticide risk assessments;

The Advisory Committee should:

- determine main factors causing the established loss of insect biomass
- collate relevant information on insect decline to assess its potential effects on bat populations in Europe and consider development of guidelines or recommendations for the most urgent or prioritised actions identified.

7. International co-operation

(a) With reference to Resolutions 7.10, 7.12, 8.3, 8.7:

- Parties and Range States should work co-operatively towards increasing bat expertise and knowledge in their countries and internationally, particularly with the aim of implementing the recommendations of above-mentioned Resolutions.

(b) With reference to Resolution 6.10:

- The Secretariat, assisted by the Advisory Committee shall raise awareness for the potential synergies of the Agreement and other European treaties for nature conservation.

8. Diseases

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

- The Advisory Committee should continue to monitor the occurrence of emerging diseases and advise Parties on appropriate action;
- Parties are encouraged to ensure that up to date information on emerging diseases is readily available;
- Parties are encouraged to continue or introduce surveillance for rabies and other lethal infections.

9. EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

With reference to Resolution 6.4 and Resolution 7.15:

- The Advisory Committee should continue to implement the EPI;
- The Advisory Committee should ensure that funds allocated by the EUROBATS budget support projects that will provide wider benefits for EUROBATS range states;
- Parties are encouraged to continue to support the EPI through voluntary contributions.

10. Climate change

With reference to Resolution 8.7:

Parties should:

- Cooperate on assessments of bat vulnerability to climate change at the EUROBATS range level;
- Monitor changes in species migration, hibernation, reproductive and range-shift patterns and consequent species interactions

The Advisory Committee should:

- collate relevant scientific evidence of climate change's influence on bats and, if appropriate, develop guidelines for the most urgent actions identified.
- Identify knowledge gaps and research priorities relating to the impacts of climate change on bats;