

8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

Resolution 8.13

Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe



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

Recalling paragraph 8 of Article III of the Agreement text (“Each Party shall, wherever appropriate, consider the potential effects of pesticides on bats when assessing pesticides for use”);

Recalling the Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides, which aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment;

Acknowledging the EU Regulation 1107/2009 concerning placing of plant-protection products on the market, and its implementation in the EU Member States as an existing instrument to assure health issues of humans and animals including bats

Pointing to Resolution 7.8 on the Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes and its guidelines (EUROBATS Publication Series No. 9);

Referring to Resolution 6.15 on the Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock and its Annex 1 regarding management recommendations;

Recalling Resolution 8.6 on Bats and Light Pollution;

Concerned about the published evidence of dramatic loss of insect biomass in open land in certain regions in Europe;

Noting the adverse effects of the decline of insect diversity and abundance on bat populations through a decrease in food resources;

Recognising that the use of insecticides leads to direct and indirect impacts on bat populations;

Acknowledging that there is not sufficient scientific data available on the extent of these impacts;

Recommend Parties and non-party Range States to:

1. Encourage and support scientific research on the impact of insect decline on bat populations.
2. Avoid the use of pesticides, particularly those problematic for bats and their food resources, in and around areas which are important for bat conservation.
3. Promote action programmes for the conservation of insects and restoration of their habitats in consideration of their vulnerability, aiming at the known causes of insect decline.
4. Consider bats in pesticide risk assessments.
5. In general, take a precautionary approach with respect to the use of pesticides.
6. 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.
7. Promote continued cooperation and collaboration between scientists, professionals, stakeholders and international bodies whose work is related to insect decline.

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Clarify main factors causing the established loss of insect biomass.
2. Collect relevant information on the current insect decline, and to assess its potential effects on bat populations in Europe.
3. Develop guidelines for the most urgent or prioritised actions identified, if appropriate.
4. Publish any such guidelines following circulation to all Parties for approval.