



7th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Bucharest, Romania, 27 – 29 May 2002

Report of the Intersessional Working Group

Transboundary programme – habitats: Forest practices

After its reconstitution during the AC6 Meeting in Sintra the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) set up a work plan for the period until the MoP4 in summer 2003. Work was shared among IWG Members and relevant information was collected and distributed. An analysis of National Reports was started and initial preparations for a workshop meeting in Croatia were taken.

However, since summer 2001 the Intersessional Working Group could not achieve any more progress mainly due to the following two reasons:

- Communication between the Convenor and IWG Members was not satisfying and did not stimulate the implementation of the work plan further more. Among others a major reason for this was the shortage of time and a low priority of voluntary contributions to the implementation of international Agreements during the every day business of the Convenor's usual job.
- The attitudes towards the IWG work plan seemed to be different among IWG Members and the institutions they work for. One of the consequences was for example a general uncertainty whether all IWG Members could cover travel costs for a workshop meeting and in which periods they should be able to contribute to the implementation of the IWG work plan.

Those Members of the Intersessional Working Group who were present at the AC7 Meeting in Bucharest discussed the current situation and took the following decisions:

1. The IWG had a good start and therefore it should initiate a second try to achieve its targets following its existing work plan.
2. The Convenor is encouraged to ensure that the IWG will make progress through proper communication among all Members. The Convenor's institution should

provide as much support as possible for this part of the international implementation of EUROBATS.

3. Until the end of August 2002 the analysis of National Reports shall be finished to find out which bat species occur in forests, what is their status, what threats are connected with forestry practice, and which conservation measures are taken by Parties and Range States.
4. In September 2002 the IWG shall discuss the results of the analysis of National Reports, draft a Resolution for the MoP to be considered at the AC8 Meeting, and identify further conservation actions and research needs relevant to the implementation of ecologically sustainable forestry practices in Europe. It would be most efficient if the IWG could do this work during a workshop meeting in the first half of September 2002.
5. The IWG shall present its results at the AC8 Meeting in Norway 2003 and finalize its duties through a draft Resolution for the MoP4 in Bulgaria 2003.

Having noted the message from the Executive Director of UNEP to the AC7 Meeting, who underlined the importance of the topic of forests for the consideration of sustainability of land use practices, the IWG is well motivated again to continue its work and achieve substantial progress for the conservation of bats in forests.