

8th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Røros, Norway, 12 – 14 May 2003

Record of the Meeting



1. Attendance

This is listed at **Annex 1** to this Record (page 12).

2. Opening remarks

Mr. Peter Lina (Chair) opened the Meeting. He welcomed the participants and invited the representative of the host country (Norway) to make opening remarks.

On behalf of the Norwegian government, Mr. Øystein Størkersen, representing the director of the Directorate for Nature Management, Ms. Janne Sollie, welcomed the delegates to the beautiful town of Røros, a UNESCO world heritage site. He also expressed his wishes for a successful meeting.

The Chair expressed his thanks towards the Norwegian government for hosting the Meeting and for having organised such an interesting excursion the previous day. He informed that Albania, Denmark, France, Malta and Monaco had sent their apologies for not being present. He regretted that the delegation from Moldova had met severe problems in their travel and therefore could not participate.

On behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Prof. Dr. Klaus Töpfer, the Chair read a message in which the Executive Director noted with pleasure the steady and speedy growth of the EUROBATS family. In particular he appreciated the Agreement's work to contribute to sustainable forest practices. He further highlighted the importance of the Meeting in the preparation of the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in September 2003.

Mr. Andreas Streit (Executive Secretary) welcomed all the participants to the Meeting. He thanked Mr. Øystein Størkersen and his colleagues from the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management for having invited the Meeting and having provided such a beautiful conference facility. He also thanked the government of Germany for the substantial voluntary contribution it had provided to finance the participation of delegates from countries with economies in transition.

He transmitted the best wishes of the Executive Secretary of CMS for a successful Meeting and his apologies for not being able to be present. Furthermore, he emphasised that this meeting had the largest agenda ever with a high potential of substantial output.

3. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The rules were adopted by consensus.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

5. Secretariat report

a) National Reports and updates to National Reports

The Executive Secretary informed that a number of updates to National Implementation Reports had been received, most of them very shortly before the Meeting. As the obligatory National Implementation Reports were due for MOP 4 the Secretariat will prepare an updated synthesis for the MoP.

b) Agreement membership (recruitment of new Parties)

The Executive Secretary was pleased to report that in 2002 Georgia had acceded to the Agreement and that a number of further countries were in the process of doing so.

c) Ongoing projects

The Executive Secretary informed that the project to produce public awareness leaflets in seven Eastern and South-Eastern European countries was now being implemented through a substantial voluntary contribution from the Flemish region of Belgium and that first results were already presented at this Meeting.

He also reported that in 2002 a major voluntary contribution from the UK was received for a monitoring training project in Moldova and Romania and that this project had been extended to the year 2003 through a further voluntary contribution.

d) Publicity

The Executive Secretary was happy to inform the participants that the 6th European Bat Night took place with a once again increased success in more than 30 countries.

He also informed the Plenary about the successful production of a music CD with bat songs that was not only distributed to ministries, nature conservation agencies and NGOs but also to nearly 200 radio stations all over Europe. He was furthermore happy to report that a new issue of the Eurobat Chat had been published two months before the Meeting and that the Secretariat was aiming to continue to do so once per year.

6. Administrative matters:

An Administrative Working Group was established with representatives of all Parties present and convened by the Chair of the Advisory Committee.

a) Organisational arrangements for the Secretariat since 1 January 2001

The Executive Secretary reported about the ongoing excellent working relationships with the UNEP/CMS, AEWA and ASCOBANS Secretariats. He was particularly happy to report that initial problems arising during the integration process into UNEP had been overcome and that the CMS Secretariat had undertaken enhanced efforts to strengthen the common administrative and fund management unit by employing two additional temporary staff members. The Executive Secretary also thanked the German government for the provision of a Junior Professional Officer in this unit starting from October 2003.

b) Report on income and expenditure as well as Trust Fund status

The Executive Secretary was pleased to report that most contributions for 2002 were received and that for 2003 more than 90% of contributions had arrived in the Trust Fund.

A report on income and expenditure in 2002 prepared by the Secretariat was presented.

c) Draft Resolution 4.1: Budget for 2004 – 2006

The Draft Resolution was approved by the Administrative Working Group without amendment (**Annex 2, page 18**). Two more Annexes were added. The Parties emphasised their strong wish for the budget to be adopted in Euro instead of US-Dollars commencing at MoP 4.

d) Draft Resolution 4.2: Headquarters Agreement

The Executive Secretary presented Draft Resolution 4.2 concerning the Headquarters Agreement for the Secretariat and explained its background. The

Parties took note of this document with gratitude and decided to carry it forward to the MoP 4 for endorsement (**Annex 3, page 36**).

7. Other presentations of Parties, Non-Party Range States and NGOs

Parties and Non-Party Range States made oral presentations regarding bat conservation measures and the activities carried out for the "European Bat Night". Range States also informed the Plenary about the progress made in acceding to the Agreement. Also NGOs reported about their activities.

8. Report of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on the Transboundary programme - habitats: Data compilation

The IWG has continued its work on the collection of national lists of underground sites of international importance and begun the task of preparing guidelines on the protection and management of underground sites. A short presentation was given on this work, including a map of the sites now listed and some preliminary analysis of the data. Parties and Non-Party Range States which had not yet submitted data were urged to do so before the end of August.

9. Draft Resolution 4.3: Guidelines for the Protection and Management of important Underground Habitats

Although the Draft Resolution was not yet available, a partial draft of the guidelines was presented to the Meeting. The IWG on the "Transboundary programme - habitats: Data compilation" will aim to prepare a full draft for the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties.

10. Report of the IWG on the Transboundary programme - habitats: Forest practices

The convenor presented the results of the IWG, especially those of the IWG meeting in Zagreb, 1 – 4 September 2002.

After discussion in the Plenary the Advisory Committee decided that an ad-hoc Working Group (A.-T. Bashta, P. Boye, C. Catto, J. de Jong, J. Kristanc, T. Mitchell-Jones, D. Murariu, A. Nastov, G. Petersons, and N. Tvrtkovic) should revise the Draft Resolution during the Meeting. The report of this ad-hoc Working Group is annexed to this Record (**Annex 4, page 41**).

11. Draft Resolution 4.4: Guidelines for bat-friendly and sustainable Forest Management

The Draft Resolution was approved after revision (**Annex 5, page 42**).

12. Joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (2002 - 2005)

It was decided that the Secretariat, assisted by the Advisory Committee, would contact the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). When such a co-operation is established, the guidelines on bat-friendly forestry practices, which are mentioned in the Joint Work Programme of CBD and CMS, should be developed in consultation with MCPFE bodies.

13. Report of the IWG on the Geographical scope of the Agreement: Migration routes

The convenor presented an updated version of the report.

It was stressed that some contributions were still missing, and that the report should be carefully reviewed and completed. It was agreed that all countries should send their data and comments to the Working Group before the end of August 2003. The Working Group will present an updated version in the next Meeting of the Advisory Committee. It was decided not to include the additional species, which had been included in the Annex to the Agreement at MoP 3.

14. Presentation of the German research project “Migration of bats in Germany”

A presentation was given about the ringing results in Germany collected by the Museum Alexander Koenig Bonn. Delegates from Bulgaria, Latvia and Portugal expressed their wish to cover all migration patterns of European bat populations by one atlas. Therefore they asked Germany to change the ongoing project with the aims to include the results of the Intersessional Working Group on Migration Routes of Bats and publication of an atlas covering the whole Agreement area. The German delegation agreed on this idea and promised to carefully check the possibilities for an appropriate extension of the project.

15. Review of the geographical scope of the Agreement

In accordance with a request in the AC 5 Meeting, the Secretariat had appealed to some bat specialists for information on bat species occurring in countries bordering the Agreement area. A small Working Group (P. Boye, A.M. Hutson (convenor), P.H.C. Lina, L. Rodrigues) met at the AC 8 Meeting to review the available data and agreed to compile for the AC 9 Meeting a full list of the countries of occurrence, both within and outside the Agreement area for the species included in the Annex (Species list). The AC 9 Meeting will be invited to consider what steps should be taken to encourage participation in the Agreement by Range States outside the Agreement area but likely to be involved in the migration of European bats.

16. Draft Resolution 4.7: Geographical Scope of the Agreement

It was not considered necessary to forward a Draft Resolution to the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties for the time being.

17. Report on consistent monitoring methodologies and the establishment of a register of monitoring activities

The convenor of the former IWG on this topic advised that an attempt had been made to bring the two strands of monitoring work together by producing an Excel spreadsheet of monitoring metadata. The information had been taken from the National Implementation Reports, but there were many areas that were incomplete. It was agreed that the Secretariat should send an electronic copy of this spreadsheet to all Parties and Non-Party Range States with the request for missing information to be included until the end of August. Extra columns should be added to the spreadsheet: (1) specifying whether or not a country was Party to the Agreement, (2) with information on publications and references and (3) with a summary of results from the surveys.

It was also agreed that each survey should have a separate row in the spreadsheet. IUCN listings should not be included because of the difficulty and time required in interpreting the existing information on species status. However, another table could be produced containing this information. It was further agreed that the spreadsheet should be displayed on the EUROBATs website and managed and updated by the Secretariat.

18. Presentation by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) on the “Bat Monitoring Training Project in Romania and Moldova”

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) from the United Kingdom presented an interim report about the Bat Monitoring Training Project in Romania and Moldova generously financed by the government of the United Kingdom. The initiative of workshops to promote sharing of knowledge and the development of common protocols was welcomed by those present.

19. Report on Action 8 of the Conservation and Management Plan

The convenor of the former IWG had prepared a comprehensive summary of the work so far carried out in assessing the state of knowledge about the seven Mediterranean species selected for investigation. General areas of study were identified for the various species and three species were identified as the most appropriate for study (*Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*). It was agreed that a new IWG should be established at the next Meeting of the Advisory Committee and should further refine the research requirements and identify proposals for action under the Agreement. An ad-hoc Working Group was established (A. Hutson, T. Ivanova and P. Presetnik) and aims to draft a Resolution for MoP 4.

20. Draft Resolution 4.5: Guidelines for the Use of remedial Timber Treatment

The Draft Resolution was approved and it was decided to carry it forward to the forthcoming Session of the Meeting of Parties (**Annex 6, page 45**).

21. Report of the IWG on Guidelines for the issue of permits for bat-ringing or other marking activities

The convenor presented the report of the IWG that was established at the 3rd Meeting of Parties. Despite the conclusion at MoP 3 that handling and trapping would be a subject for further discussion, the IWG had also reviewed the handling and trapping of bats since ringing and other marking of bats is always combined with trapping activities. The IWG was enlarged (P. Boye, J. Fairon, A. Hutson, T. Ivanova, J. de Jong, E.-M. Kyheröinen, P. Lina (convenor), M. Masing, C. Meyer-Cords, A. Mitchell-Jones, M. Nedinge, M. Osara, D. Pauza, P. Racey, L. Rodrigues, R. Ransome, E. Yavruyan). The IWG reviewed the Draft Resolution.

The Advisory Committee agreed that for the conservation of migratory bats the existence and special experience of the two bat ringing centres in Germany are of great value to EUROBATS.

22. Draft Resolution 4.6: Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for Bat-Ringing or other Marking Activities

The Draft Resolution was approved after revision and will be presented to forthcoming Session of the Meeting of Parties (**Annex 7, page 47**). The IWG will review the Annexes 1 and 2 to the Draft Resolution.

23. Review of Species to be listed on the Annex to the Agreement

At the request of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Anthony Hutson had established an informal advisory panel consisting of internationally recognised experts. The panel had carefully reviewed publications about recently described new species within the scope of the Agreement and the correct use of scientific names of a few other species. A report of this panel was presented to the Meeting.

24. Draft Resolution 4.8: Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement

The Draft Resolution was approved and will be submitted to the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties (**Annex 8, page 53**).

25. Review of Resolutions 2.8 / 3.8: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan

A Scientific Working Group was established and convened by Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones. The Group analysed the Resolutions 2.8 and 3.8 and prepared a Draft Resolution.

The Group reviewed the 7 sections of the existing CMP to identify work that had been completed and work that should be carried forward. It was agreed that no new main areas of work should be added to the CMP because of the difficulty that had been experienced by Intersessional Working Groups in completing existing targets.

Section 1, legal requirements: This was carried forward without discussion.

Section 2, population survey and monitoring: It was noted that consistent monitoring methodologies had been produced and there was now a need to assess their implementation. It was agreed that holding a workshop on monitoring during the next triennium would be a useful way of sharing expertise and experience. It was

emphasised that monitoring is a long-term activity and that substantial changes to the existing methods should be avoided during the next few years. International cooperation in producing long-term monitoring strategies across the range of the Agreement was seen as a priority. It was agreed to continue and complete the work on migration routes and autecological studies.

Section 3, roosts: It was agreed that the work on identifying underground sites and producing guidelines on their protection and management was well advanced and should be completed. Guidelines should then be produced for other types of roosts, with buildings in the cultural heritage being a priority. The issue of tree roosts may be covered under the joint work programme of CBD/CMS, forest practices.

Section 4, foraging habitats: It was agreed that work on surveys to identify critical feeding areas and the production of national guidelines on the conservation of such areas should be carried forward.

Section 5, promoting awareness: It was agreed to continue with the work identified in the existing CMP.

Section 6, pesticides: It was noted that work on timber treatment pesticides had been completed. After discussion, it was agreed that work on anti-parasitic drugs for livestock should be the next priority in this area of work.

Section 7, international co-operation: It was agreed to carry forward the work from the previous plan and to urge Parties to work towards increasing bat expertise in their countries. It was considered that areas of work in the CBD/CMS joint work programme should be identified and included in the new plan.

26. Draft Resolution 4.9: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2004 – 2006)

The priorities for bat conservation for the period 2003 – 2006 were approved and will be carried forward to the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties (**Annex 9, page 55**).

27. The use of linear features by bats

It was acknowledged that linear features are important to bats, but further work is needed to define the scope of this term. It was noted that work on linear features would fit into three areas of the draft CMP as well as the Joint CMS / CBD work

programme. It was decided to carry this topic forward to the next Meeting of the Advisory Committee.

28. Draft Resolution 4.10: Format of National Implementation Reports

The format of National Implementation Reports as revised at MoP 3 was approved with minor changes. The Draft Resolution will be prepared for the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties. The preparation of a consolidated list of Resolutions and the actions arising from them was requested. The UK agreed to take this forward.

29. Presentation by the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group on the idea of BatLife Europe

Mr. Anthony Hutson made a presentation on behalf of the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group about the project to establish a pan-European umbrella organisation “BatLife Europe” which shall aim to improve transboundary co-operation and exchange of information as well as mutual assistance among NGOs.

30. Draft Resolution 4.11: Recognising the important role of NGOs in Bat Conservation

Draft Resolution 4.11 recognising the important role of NGOs in Bat Conservation was presented. The Draft met a very positive response among the participants. The UK placed a reservation on this Draft subject to the opportunity to consider supporting documentation about the proposal not presented to the Advisory Committee by the proposers. The Meeting decided to carry the Draft Resolution forward to the forthcoming Session of the Meeting of Parties (**Annex 10, page 58**).

31. European Workshop on Bat Rabies

The Secretariat presented the project to organise an European Workshop on Bat Rabies to be combined with the forthcoming Meeting of Parties as this topic was considered to be of high importance for bat workers, professional groups dealing with rabies and public information in order to produce guidelines and appropriate procedures as well as information material. It is intended to organise this workshop in close co-operation with the World Health Organisation. The project was welcomed by the Committee but the Secretariat outlined that its implementation was still subject to sufficient funding. The United Kingdom and Luxembourg offered to look into the possibility of providing voluntary contributions for this purpose.

32. Establishment of a European Bat Rabies Information Base

This agenda item was conveyed to the planned Workshop.

33. Date and venue of the 9th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Lithuania kindly offered to host the 9th Meeting of the Advisory Committee in 2004. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. In consultation with the Lithuanian hosts a date in May 2004 will be fixed.

Hungary offered to host the following Meeting in 2005.

34. Any other business

Taking into account Resolution 7.5 of the CMS on “Wind turbines and migratory species” it was agreed to establish an ad-hoc Working Group to prepare a Draft Resolution about the effects of wind turbines on bat populations. The ad-hoc Working Group (L. Biraschi, E. Cepakova, C. Harbusch, A. Hutson, P. H. C. Lina, M. Nedinge, A. Práger, L. Rodrigues and M. Uhrín) adapted the points made in the CMS document to the requirements of EUROBATS and to bat protection.

a) Draft Resolution 4.7: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

This Draft Resolution was given the number of the discarded Resolution on the Geographical Scope. It was approved and will be carried forward to the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties (**Annex 11, page 59**).

35. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

The minutes were adopted unanimously.

36. Close of Meeting

The Executive Secretary expressed his sincere thanks to all participants of the Meeting for their hard work and their most valuable contributions to the very positive outcomes. He also thanked his staff members, Ms. Christine Boye and Mr. Markus Losi, for their excellent support.

The Chair expressed his thanks towards the Norwegian hosts for the excellent organisation of the Meeting and the choice of the venue. He also thanked the Vice-Chair and the Secretariat for the excellent teamwork that has made the Meeting so successful. He also thanked the participants for their fruitful contributions for carrying forward the implementation of the Agreement.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 21.06 h.