

## 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Røros, Norway, 12 – 14 May 2003

### *Draft* Resolution No. 4.4

Bat conservation and sustainable forest management



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

*Noting* the definition of forests adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

*Recalling* the Resolution No. 4, Element 2: Bat Habitats, Forests, agreed at its Second Session (Bonn, July 1998);

*Recognizing* the need to keep bats in a favourable conservation status in forest habitats within the frameworks of the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Strategy and the European Habitats Directive;

*Noting* the aims and activities of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) as a Pan-European initiative for the conservation of biodiversity in forests;

*Recalling* the 2002-2005 Joint Work Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the actions to be taken for forest biodiversity (Section 3.1);

*Noting* the different sensitivities of species due to variation in ecological requirements and also different approaches needed for implementation of programmes at local, regional, national or international levels;

*Recognizing* the ecological value of forests as bat roost and foraging sites or during bat migration, which is highest in unmanaged ancient forests but can also be moderate in managed forest types;

*Recognizing* that there is a need to improve the conservation status of bats by modifying some management practices affecting their forest habitats;

1. *Decides* that the contracting Parties should identify and monitor key areas (such as wet forests) and key elements (such as ancient trees, roost trees, open water and edge structures) for bats in forests.
2. *Encourages* contracting Parties to protect, restore and enhance, where appropriate, such key elements and key areas with special emphasis to unfragmented forests, wet forests, undegraded ancient forests and undisturbed core areas.
3. *Further encourages* contracting Parties to combine forestry with bat conservation on the landscape level. This includes legal and voluntary conservation of key areas and key elements, restoration of degraded forests with low diversity and connection of forest fragments with hedgerows and tree lines.
4. *Further encourages* contracting Parties to include bat conservation aspects into programmes and concepts of protected areas in forests.
5. *Further encourages* contracting Parties to avoid the application of pesticides except in the case of pest outbreaks that might cause high economic loss.
6. *Further decides* that the contracting Parties should ensure that new and existing incentive schemes for forestry take bats into account where appropriate.
7. *Directs* the Secretariat to offer existing information for forest managers and forest workers, advising on bat conservation in forests, for translation into other languages.
8. *Further encourages* contracting Parties to promote training and awareness for forest managers and forest workers to improve bat conservation.
9. *Further encourages* contracting Parties to promote research on the relationship between bat communities and forest types and the impacts of forestry and land management practices on these communities.
10. *Directs* the Advisory Committee to instigate the investigation and, if appropriate, the development of the use of bats as indicators for sustainable forestry in Europe.
11. *Encourages* contracting Parties to recognise the value of Red Lists, which are in accordance with the IUCN categories, as an instrument to describe the conservation status of bats and to evaluate the impact of forestry practices on bats in forests.

12. *Decides* that the contracting Parties should include the following in their National Reports to the Fifth Session of the Meeting of Parties:

- Types of forestry and land management causing problems for bats in forests
- Efforts to take bats into account when improving the sustainability of forestry practices
- The use of incentive schemes to provide resources for bat conservation measures in forests
- Measures to identify, manage and enhance key elements and key areas for bats in forests.