



2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Resolution No. 1

Financial and Budgetary Matters

The Meeting of the Parties

Having regard to Article V.1 of the *Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe*, signed at London on 4 March 1991, ("the Agreement") which states that the Meeting of Parties shall consider and decide upon "financial rules, including the provision of the budget and the scale of contributions for the next financial period";

Recalling the Resolution agreed at its first session (18-20 July 1995) on *financial and budgetary matters* (Annex I page 36 of the report of the meeting);

Acknowledging Resolution 5.5 of the Conference of the Parties to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*, at its fifth meeting (10-16 April 1997), which approved the establishment of an Agreements Unit within the Convention Secretariat;

Recognising the contribution of the German Government in providing, and agreeing to continue to provide, the accommodation for the secretariat on a rent-free basis;

Recognising also the contribution of the German Government in assuming the role of auditor for the secretariat's first two years in Germany, at no cost to the Parties;

Recognising, further, that the Agreement Secretariat would benefit, *inter alia*, from economies of scale, and increased co-operation and exchange of information by integration in the UNEP/CMS Secretariat;

Recognising finally that the capacity of the Agreement Secretariat, in particular the staffing level, needs to be strengthened in order to carry out its work effectively;

Approves the audit report presented by the German Government for the years 1996 and 1997;

Discharges the budget inasmuch as it relates to 1996 and 1997, agreeing to consider the audit report for 1998 at its next session;

Approves the budget towards the cost of the Secretariat's operations attached as Appendix I and the scale of contributions attached as Appendix II to this Resolution; the administration of the budget shall be governed by the Financial Regulations attached as Appendix III;

States that the annual contributions should be paid as soon as possible, and in no case later than the end of June during the year to which they relate;

Invites Parties, Non-Party Range-States and other organisations to make voluntary contributions towards special activities for the implementation of the Agreement;

Agrees that the third session of the Meeting of Parties should adopt the full integration, of the Agreement Secretariat, into the UNEP/CMS Secretariat from 1 January 2001;

Decides to collaborate with other European-based Agreements on co-ordination of integration arrangements into the UNEP/CMS Secretariat;

Instructs the Secretariat to report on its income and expenditure to the Advisory Committee at each of its meetings, and to report back to the Meeting of Parties at its next session.

Draft Budget for the years 1999-2000 in DEM		Appendix		
Budget line		1999	2000	Total
1.	<i>Personnel</i>			
1.1	Executive Secretary (BAT IIa)	83,500	84,000	167,500
1.2	Administrative Assistant (BAT VIb) half time	33,000	34,000	67,000
	Subtotal	116,500	118,000	234,500
2.	<i>Travel on official business</i>			
2.1	Secretariat staff	7,000	7,000	14,000
2.2	Others (experts etc.)	3,000	3,000	6,000
	Subtotal	10,000	10,000	20,000
3.	<i>Meetings</i>			
3.1	Meetings of the Parties	0	30,000	30,000
3.2	Advisory Committee (and other working groups)	6,000	6,000	12,000
	Subtotal	6,000	36,000	42,000
4.	<i>Equipment</i>			
4.1	Miscellaneous office supplies	3,000	3,000	6,000
4.2	Office equipment	2,000	2,000	4,000
	Subtotal	5,000	5,000	10,000
5.	<i>Miscellaneous components</i>			
5.1	<i>Operation and maintenance</i>			
a	computer	500	500	1,000
b	photocopier	500	500	1,000
c	fax	300	300	600
d	telephone	300	300	600
	Subtotal	1,600	1,600	3,200
5.2	<i>Reporting costs</i>			
a	documentation	300	300	600
b	information materials	300	300	600
c	reference materials	400	400	800
	Subtotal	1,000	1,000	2,000
5.3	<i>Communications</i>			
a	phone/fax	5,000	6,000	11,000
b	mailing	3,000	3,500	6,500
	Subtotal	8,000	9,500	17,500
5.4	<i>Publicity</i>			
a	European Bat Night sponsorship	5,000	5,000	10,000

b	miscellaneous publicity materials (incl. Eurobat Chat)	10,000	10,000	20,000
	Subtotal	15,000	15,000	30,000
5.5	<i>Hospitality</i>	1,000	1,500	2,500
5.6	<i>Audit charges</i>	5,000	5,000	10,000
5.7	<i>Consultancies</i>	3,000	3,000	6,000
5.8	<i>BfN general costs</i>	0	0	0
	Total	172,100	205,600	377,700

Contributions of the Parties 1999-2000 in DEM

Party	UN Scale	UN Scale	Contributions	Contributions	Percentage	Percentage
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
Czech Republic	0.121	0.107	1,014.52	1,073.03	0.59	0.52
Denmark	0.691	0.692	5,793.68	6,939.58	3.37	3.38
France	6.540	6.545	43,025.00	51,400.00	25.00	25.00
Germany	9.808	9.857	43,025.00	51,400.00	25.00	25.00
Hungary	0.120	0.120	1,006.14	1,203.39	0.58	0.59
Ireland	0.224	0.224	1,878.13	2,246.34	1.09	1.09
Luxembourg	0.068	0.068	570.15	681.92	0.33	0.33
Netherlands	1.631	1.632	13,675.10	16,366.17	7.95	7.96
Norway	0.610	0.610	5,114.54	6,117.26	2.97	2.98
Poland	0.207	0.196	1,735.59	1,965.54	1.01	0.96
Portugal	0.417	0.431	3,496.33	4,322.19	2.03	2.10
Sweden	1.084	1.079	9,088.79	10,820.52	5.28	5.26
United Kingdom	5.090	5.092	42,677.04	51,064.05	24.80	24.84
Total	26.611	26.653	172,100.00	205,600.00	100.00	100.00

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS FOR 1 JANUARY 1999 TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

1. The budget of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (hereinafter referred to as the budget) shall be adopted for a period of two years to provide financial support for the aims of the Agreement.
2. Each financial year shall be administered for 12 months beginning 1 January and ending 31 December, both dates inclusive.
3. The budget shall be administered by the Secretariat to the Agreement.
4. The administration of the budget shall be governed by these Financial Regulations.
5. The financial resources of the budget for 1999-2000 shall be derived from:
 - (a) The contributions made by the Parties, including contributions from any new Parties;
 - (b) Further voluntary contributions from Parties and contributions from States not Party to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other sources.
6. All contributions to the budget shall be paid in Deutsche Marks. For contributions from States and regional economic integration organisations that become Parties after the beginning of the financial year, the initial contribution (from the first day of the month of deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession until the end of the financial year) shall be determined *pro rata* based on the contribution of other Parties on the same level on the United Nations scale of assessment, as it applies from time to time. However, if the contribution of a new Party determined on this basis would be more than 25 per cent of the budget, the contribution of that Party shall be 25 per cent of the budget for the financial year of joining (or *pro rata* for a part of the year). The scale of contributions for all Parties shall be revised by the Secretariat on 1 January of each year as necessary. Contributions shall be paid in annual instalments and into an account to be specified by the Secretariat.
7. The Secretariat shall send invoices to all Parties, notifying them of their assessments before the start of each financial year.
8. The budget shall be subject to audit by an external auditor who will be appointed by the Secretariat.
9. The auditor shall prepare a report on the accounts certified, and on any matters on which the Meeting of Parties may from time to time give specific instructions. The auditor shall submit his report to the Meeting of Parties. The Meeting of Parties shall, following consideration of the audited annual financial statements and audited report submitted to the Parties, signify its acceptance of the audited annual financial statements or take such other action as it may consider appropriate.
10. The Secretariat shall provide to the Coordinating Authorities, by 30 June each year, a report of income and expenditure for the previous year, and shall circulate to all Parties a financial report for the biennium and a budget proposal for the next triennium not later than 60 days before the next Meeting of Parties.

Commitments against the resources of the budget may be made if they are covered by the necessary income of the Agreement. No commitments shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions, except for salaries.

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Resolution No. 2

Consistent Monitoring Methodologies

The Meeting of the Parties

Recalling the Resolution agreed at its first session (18-20 July 1995) on *the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan* (Annex K page 45 of the report of the meeting);

Recalling also, under Priority 2 of that Resolution, that the Advisory Committee was charged with the development of monitoring methodologies which would detect trends **of bat populations** at appropriate confidence levels over an appropriate time-scale in a cost-effective manner, and the adoption of common standards of monitoring by participating organisations;

Recognising that no single methodology would be appropriate within these terms of reference for all European bat species, but that each species, or group of species, may require individual monitoring-methodologies;

Acknowledging the decision of the Advisory Committee initially to address only a limited number of species, owing to the need to take account of the expense of addressing all species at once;

Recommends that the attached guidelines for monitoring be employed by all Parties and their governmental institutions, to ensure consistency in the acquisition of results;

Encourages Non-Governmental Organisations involved in the monitoring of bat species in Europe adopt as general practice the attached guidelines in pursuing their monitoring objectives;

Further encourages both Parties and Non-Governmental-Organisations to continue to exchange information on results of monitoring and survey work, and to provide the Secretariat of the Agreement with results of monitoring work;

Instructs the Secretariat, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, to establish a database of monitoring activities and results throughout the Agreement area, and to report back to the next Meeting of Parties on progress and results;

And further instructs the Advisory Committee to review the intersessional progress of the Secretariat's and the Parties' monitoring work, advise the Secretariat in further development of the database, and finally refine the guidelines as necessary and according to experience gained during the intersessional period, and report back to the next Meeting of Parties.



Guidelines on the recommended methodologies
to be employed for the monitoring of bat species
in Europe

Introduction

1 Recommended methods

Bat populations can generally be monitored in three ways:

- counts at maternity roosts or other summer roosts
- counts in hibernation sites
- counts away from roosts using bat detectors

Disturbance should be minimised as much as possible and roost counts should be undertaken quickly.

2 Counts at maternity roosts

Counts of bats in, or emerging from, maternity roosts have often been used as a way of monitoring the status of species. The most suitable species for monitoring in this way are the species where:

- the bats appear to be relatively faithful to their sites, and return predictably to the same site each year
- the establishment of a new colony is a rare event
- the species tends to form large colonies, and
- the bats can easily be distinguished from other species which may be present.

For woodland species, counts in bat-boxes may be suitable.

2.1 Sampling

In countries or regions where the species is widespread, a sample of sites should be counted on a regular basis, with roosts selected to give a range of roost sizes (number of bats), geographic locations and land-use types. Stratified random sampling of roosts, with strata selected for roost size and/or land-use type probably provides the most statistically robust methodology.

Where the species is rare, it may be possible to count all known sites.

2.2 Timing

Counts need to be timed to take account of the breeding season, which will vary with climate. Local research may be required to determine this before setting up a monitoring project. Counts should generally be timed to occur between the time when bats arrive in the maternity roost and the time that the earliest births occur. This will give an indication of the number of adult females in the population associated with the maternity site.

2.3 Number of counts

Because of the logistics and cost of organising counts it is recommended that the number of counts at each site is limited to two (or perhaps three) within a fifteen-day period, covering the period between the arrival of the bats and the first possible date for parturition. Statistical advice is that it is better to organise counts at more roosts than to increase the number of counts at each roost. However, it is also important that the

agreed number of counts is carried out at each roost and that the same time period is used each year.

2.4 Count methodology

An agreed national methodology for the collection of data should be established before a national monitoring project is established. Suggested elements to include are:

bats should be counted as they emerge from the maternity roost. Observers should be stationed outside each entrance to the roost, but not so close as to disturb the bats or obstruct their flight lines.

the number of bats emerging in each ten-minute period should be recorded. Recording should begin when the first bat emerges and end when it is too dark to continue counting or no bat has emerged for ten minutes.

the roost entrances should not be illuminated with white light. It is recommended that no torch is used, though one fitted with a dark-red filter may be acceptable.

ultrasonic detectors can be used to give warning of the approach of a bat. They should be tuned to an appropriate frequency.

counts should not be made in bad weather-conditions, as this is known to inhibit bats from emerging. Bad weather-conditions include low temperature, rain or strong winds.

In regions where mixed species groups occur in caves, a photographic method of counting bats inside the roost may be more appropriate.

when colonies are very large, it may be better to estimate the area which they cover. In some cases, for instance when the ceiling is too high or when it is not possible to see the colonies, filming of bats emerging from the roosts using infrared videos connected to bat detectors is desirable.

2.5 Data management and analysis

The value of data from roost counts increases with the length of time over which they have been collected, so monitoring projects should be considered to be long-term projects, which will require long-term commitment.

It is recommended that roost-count data are collected centrally by an appropriate organisation, which can also take responsibility for coordinating the collection of data each year.

Data can be analysed for a variety of statistical methods, such as multi-variate analysis, or presented graphically.

2.6 Counts in bat boxes

For species particularly associated with tree-roosts, counts in bat boxes may be appropriate. In this case the sampling unit is the piece of woodland rather than the individual bat-box.

3 Counts in hibernation sites

Counts of bats in hibernation sites are most suitable for species where:

- the species are faithful to their sites;
- the species can be identified accurately without disturbing them;
- the species hibernate in large numbers at one site; and
- a high proportion of the population regularly hibernates underground.

3.1 Sampling

In countries or regions where the species is widespread, a sample of underground sites should be counted on a regular basis, with sites selected to give a range of sizes (number of bats), geographic conditions and land-use types. Stratified-random sampling, with strata selected for roost size and/or land-use type probably provides the most statistically-robust methodology, though the accessibility of sites is likely to influence the sampling methodology.

Where the species is rare, it may be possible to count all known sites. Areas where only small numbers of individuals are found, spread across many sites, present great difficulties for hibernation-site monitoring and it is probably better to attempt to find maternity sites.

3.2 Timing

The extent to which bats occupy hibernation sites depends on the local climate and in some parts of Europe bats may be active almost throughout the year. This makes the method more reliable in the northern part of species' ranges, where the bats will remain in hibernation sites for longer periods. Counts are probably best done in January or February, but local research may be required to check this before setting up a monitoring project.

3.3 Number of counts

Because of the logistics and cost of organising counts and the danger of disturbance to the bats it is recommended that the number of counts at each site is limited to two per winter, at least two weeks apart from one another. Because of statistical advice and to ensure avoidance of disturbance, it is better to organise counts at more sites than to increase the number of counts at each site. However, it is also important that the agreed number of counts is carried out at each roost and that the same time-period is used each year.

3.4 Count methodology

When large colonies are present, it may be better to estimate their area of cover through the use of photography. Notes should be kept for each site indicating which areas were searched and the main areas in which bats were found. This need not be done each year, unless the site or the count methodology has changed, but it provides useful information for future researchers. It is preferable to adopt the same counting method each year, so that valid comparisons can be drawn. If the count methodology is changed, any differences should be recorded. Ideally, the extension of counting to new parts of a site should be recorded separately.

3.5 Data management and analysis

Data should be recorded separately for each site, or perhaps each sub-site, and entered into a card-index system or computer database. As with summer site-monitoring, the value of the data increases with the length of time for which recording has been established. As the method is most suited to detecting long-term changes in numbers, the omission of one year's counts may not seriously affect the dataset.

Data analysis may be through simple year-on-year comparisons or through more complex methods, such as multi-variate analysis or time-series analysis.

11. Counts away from roosts using bat detectors

Counts away from roosts using bat detectors are most suitable for any species which has a loud and distinctive echo-location call.

4.1 Line-transect or point-count surveys

Ultrasonic-detector surveys using pre-defined sampling methods provide the most statistically-robust and repeatable monitoring methodology, though they provide an index of abundance rather than absolute density. Line-transect surveys require the

observer to follow a pre-determined path of known length; point-counts require the observer to listen at a fixed point for a known time.

4.2 Sampling

Sampling areas may be chosen in a variety of ways, provided these do not violate the need for a repeatable sampling method and a random, or stratified-random, selection of areas. Sampling should cover a wide range of habitat types (these may be the strata) rather than just selecting the habitats most likely to contain bats.

A suitable sampling methodology may be based on selecting squares from the national mapping system (non-stratified) or selecting areas from a national land-classification scheme (stratified). Within these areas, line-transects or point-counts can then be set up according to a standard methodology. Suitable line-transects may involve a walk across or around the square.

4.3 Timing

Sampling effort should be well-defined, either by setting the length of the transect to be followed (at a constant speed) or by pre-defining the time to be spent at each sampling point. Similarly, the time of day when the sampling is to be done should be standardised. Sampling should commence at sunset and continue for about one hour.

4.4 Number of counts

The number of counts that should be carried out during the active season will depend on the resources available. Generally, the more counts that are completed at each sampling point the lower the associated sampling variation. However, it is preferable, for statistical analysis, to sample more areas than to sample areas more intensively. Two or three counts per area is probably an optimal number.

4.5 Data management and analysis

All separate bat-passes should be recorded on a map (for transects) or associated with a sampling point (point-counts). For analysis, habitat classification along the transect or around each point should be completed during a daytime visit.

Monitoring methodologies for specific species/species groups

Myotis myotis/Myotis blythii

12. Range

M. myotis is found throughout Europe except Northern Scandinavia, the Baltic States and the United Kingdom and Ireland. *M. blythii* is a more Southern species, extending across Southern France, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Romania down to the Mediterranean Sea. It is not present in Sardinia, Corsica and the Balearics.

13. Lifestyle

2.1 Roosts

Both species breed in caves, **often in mixed colonies**, in the southern part of their range. In the northern part of their range, they breed in roofs of large buildings. The species hibernate in underground habitats.

2.2 Foraging habitats

M. myotis prefers freshly cut meadows, cultivated orchards, wooded river banks, mixed and pine (lowland) forests without undergrowth. *M. blythii* selects steppes, dense meadows and pastures but avoids rocky areas, vineyards and all kinds of woodland.

14. Monitoring methodology

Identification of the difference between the two species is difficult with ultrasonic detectors and also in mixed colonies, but *M. blythii* has a white patch on the back of its head. As these species are faithful to their summer and winter roosts, counting inside caves in mixed colonies is recommended. For separate colonies (particularly in the north), counts at emergence are possible. For hibernation sites, counts should take place within the hibernacula.

Rhinolophus hipposideros

15. Range

R. hipposideros is widely distributed through western, central and southern Europe, but has suffered a significant decline in the north-western extent of its range. It is now extinct or very rare in the Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Belgium and northern France.

16. Lifestyle

2.1 Roosts

The species originally roosted in caves throughout the year. Now, and particularly in the northern part of its range, it tends to roost in buildings during the summer, and move to underground places for hibernation. Only in southern Europe does the species also habitually breed in underground sites.

2.2 Foraging habitats

The species is believed to forage along the edges of broadleaf deciduous woodland and riparian vegetation. Where this is fragmented, linear landscape-features (such as hedgerows) are important links between foraging areas and become themselves foraging areas.

17. Monitoring methodology

The species has a quiet and highly directional echo-location call, and the use of ultrasonic detectors is therefore inappropriate. It appears however to be faithful to its maternity roosts and depends completely on underground sites for hibernation.

Therefore the following methodologies are recommended:

- counts in maternity roosts
- counts in hibernation sites.

Myotis bechsteinii

18. Range

M. bechsteinii is distributed throughout western Europe as far as southern England, northern Germany and southern Sweden in the north. It is rare in Mediterranean countries. It is strongly associated with "old-growth" (semi-natural) forests.

19. Lifestyle

2.1 Roosts

The species dwells in forests and roosts in trees. In summer, females change roosts very frequently. In winter many use relatively warm underground sites.

2.2 Foraging habitats

The species forages by picking food from leaves (gleaner) in forests. It has very quiet echo-location calls.

20. Monitoring methodology

This species is very difficult to monitor. Currently available ultrasonic-detectors are insufficiently sensitive to detect the species away from its roost. It is therefore recommended that the species is counted during the summer in bat boxes or bird-boxes.

Myotis capaccinii

21. Range

M. capaccinii is mainly restricted to Mediterranean areas.

22. Lifestyle

2.1 Roosts

The species dwells in caves, sometimes of a huge size. They usually roost about three to five metres from the ground, but also crawl into crevices in the walls both inside and outside the cave. Colonies in France and Spain may be no more than ten individuals, whereas colonies in the Balkan Peninsula can reach 10,000. One of the main characteristics of *Myotis capaccinii* is its common aggregation with other species, in particular *Miniopterus schreibersii* and/or *Myotis myotis*/*M. blythii*. The species also winters in caves, but the sexes are segregated, and the size of colonies is generally small and sometimes quite isolated in the western part of the range; they are gathered in huge colonies in the eastern part.

2.2 Foraging habitats

These are mainly over rivers and other water-surfaces, which it often shares with *Myotis daubentonii*.

23. Monitoring methodology

Ultrasonic detectors are ineffective with this species, because of the current impossibility of distinguishing from *Myotis daubentonii*. It is recommended that the species is counted at its hibernacula (eastern Europe) or at its breeding roosts (Western Europe). For the latter, as the species tends to leave the roost later than other species with which it shares the roost (in particular *Miniopterus schreibersii*), counting the bats emerging from the roost when other species have departed would be the most suitable.

Eptesicus nilssonii and *Eptesicus serotinus*

24. Range

Eptesicus nilssonii and *Eptesicus serotinus* are fairly common species in Europe. *Eptesicus nilssonii* is a true northern bat, and the only known species regularly to occur north of the Arctic Circle. Most abundant in Scandinavia (except Denmark), the Baltic states and parts of the Russian Federation. *Eptesicus serotinus* occurs throughout the rest of Europe, its known northern range extending to 60°N.

25. Lifestyle

2.1 Roosts

Both species are mainly building-dwelling in the summer, forming sometimes quite large colonies. *E. nilssonii* winters in caves, mines, underground store-rooms and cellars, although it has been known to hibernate in walls or rooftops of buildings and in hollow trees. *E. serotinus* probably spends the whole year in buildings.

2.2 Foraging habitats

Eptesicus nilssonii hunts insects around woods and forests, whereas *Eptesicus serotinus* is a more typical open-country species, hunting where woods, parks and gardens are found in a generally open agricultural landscape.

26. Monitoring methodology

Both species have loud calls which are distinctive from all other species, and it is recommended that they should be monitored on line-transects with ultrasonic detectors. *E. nilssonii* can also be counted in underground hibernation sites in parts of Eastern Europe and *E. serotinus* can be counted at emergence from summer roosts.

Miniopterus schreibersii

27. Range

Miniopterus schreibersii's European range encompasses southern Europe, mostly in Mediterranean regions.

28. Lifestyle

2.1 Roosts

The species is very social, frequently found in colonies of hundreds or thousands of individuals throughout the year. During the warmer months, it often forms colonies with *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis blythii*, *M. capaccinii*, *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Rhinolophus blasii* and *Rhinolophus mehelyi*. It is considered to be a typical cave-dwelling species, although it does roost in abandoned mines or large underground buildings.

2.2 Foraging habitats

The species feeds in open habitats, but can also be known to forage in scrubby woodlands.

29. Monitoring methodology

In both breeding and hibernating colonies, a visual count should be undertaken as quickly as possible inside the cave or mine, assessing the size of the colony by estimating, through photography (stereoscopic if the roof is sloping) the square metre area which it covers (1 square metre corresponding to about 2,000 specimens).

Nyctalus noctula

30. Range

Throughout Europe except Ireland, Scotland and northern Scandinavia.

31. Lifestyle

2.1 Roosts

Summer roost sites are usually in tree holes, occasionally buildings, and hibernation may be in tree holes or, particularly in central Europe, crevices in buildings, bridges or rock faces.

2.2 Foraging behaviour

Nyctalus noctula is a large, fast-flying species with loud echolocation calls. It forages high in the air above forests, wetlands or other open areas.

2.3 Migratory behaviour

The species is migratory in some parts of its range, where low winter temperatures dictate the need for southerly autumn migration.

32. Monitoring methodology

Counts at maternity and hibernation sites probably do not give a reliable index of noctula population density. However, the ease with which it can be detected and identified with a bat detector means that bat detector surveys (e.g. line-transects) are recommended for monitoring this species. A possible extension to this methodology may be the detection of calling males during the mating season.

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Resolution No. 3

Transboundary Programme: Species Proposals

The Meeting of the Parties

Recalling the Resolution agreed at its first session (18-20 July 1995) on *the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan* (Annex K page 45 of the report of the meeting);

Recalling also, under Priority 25 of that Resolution, that the Advisory Committee was charged with the development of a programme proposal for the transboundary research and long-term monitoring of the migration routes and selected bat-populations requiring special attention;

Recognising that, in determining which species to afford attention initially, it is important to identify those species which will reveal as much general information about bat species' movements in Europe as possible;

Recognising also that those species identified should be among the most migratory in the European continent as a whole;

Recognising further that results gained from the pursuit of projects relating to the species identified for action should allow for the development of projects for further species or species groups at a later stage;

Noting the work being carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Biological and landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular towards the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network (Action Theme 1) and under the European Action Programme for Threatened Species (Action Theme 11);

Noting also the work being carried out in the framework of the European Habitats Directive, in particular the establishment of the Natura 2000 network;

Recommends that the following two species should be the subject of transboundary co-operation to identify the distribution and migration patterns of the populations concerned: *Myotis dasycneme* and *Pipistrellus nathusii*;

Decides that the project descriptions covering the above-mentioned two species, attached as Annex I and Annex II to this Resolution, may be used as guidelines for the development of detailed projects;

Instructs the Secretariat, with advice from the Advisory Committee, to use available savings from the budget, and seek external funding as appropriate, to encourage the projects to be developed in detail and implemented by an agency chosen in consultation with the Advisory Committee, and to report back on progress to the Meeting of Parties at its third session.



Transboundary Programme for Bat Conservation

Element 1: Bat Monitoring Programmes

Myotis dasycneme

33. Introduction

The occurrence of the Pond bat in much of its range is still poorly known. This hinders approaches towards efficient international conservation actions for the benefit of the species.

1.1 Distribution

The Pond bat has a Palaearctic distribution from the Netherlands and southern Sweden to central Siberia. Within its range the populations are dispersed into small, more or less isolated areas. In Europe, the species is recently recorded from the Netherlands, Belgium, northernmost France, Southern Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, the Baltic States, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania and Moldova.

1.2 Status

The Pond bat ranks among the rarest bat species in Europe. A total world population in the 1980s was estimated at about 6,000 individuals. This figure was an underestimate because the population in the Netherlands alone oscillates around 8,000 to 10,000. A strong decline in breeding colonies formerly reported in the Netherlands seems not to have occurred. There has been a slight increase in numbers observed in Central Europe over the last ten years.

34. Habitat requirements

2.1 Winter habitats

The Pond bat migrates relatively short distances (more than 100 km but less than 300 km), and hibernates in natural caves, in subterranean quarries, mines, fortifications, and other artificial subterranean dwellings. In winter the species scatters widely and is therefore not practicable to survey during this period.

2.2 Summer habitats

Summer colonies are found in buildings where attics and other large cavities are used by groups of between 50 and 600.

The species inhabits lowlands characterised by large bodies of water. Lakeland areas are considered to be suitable habitats for the species. Survey studies in the Netherlands have revealed that the Pond bat uses almost exclusively rivers, canals and lakes, lined with rough vegetation, as foraging habitats.

The occurrence of the species in more or less isolated areas, which is uncommon for European bats, could be the result of its specific habitat-requirements. This indicates that habitat conservation is key to the conservation of the species itself.

35. Recommendations

In each of the above-mentioned countries an inventory should be made of areas which meet the habitat characteristics of the Pond bat. Such an inventory has already been prepared for the Netherlands. The selected areas should be surveyed intensively to determine the incidence of the species. The use of ultrasonic detectors is the best and most efficient method of determining the occurrence of Pond bats over large areas. The species is easily detectable using this method. The use of mist nets for surveying potential Pond-bat areas is considerably less efficient and is, therefore, not recommended. In areas where the species appears to be abundant, maternity (summer) colonies can be traced by following bats when they return from their foraging habitats to their roosts.

Sampling should be carried out according to a standardised sampling methodology.

The results of the national surveys would be collated and contribute to the elaboration of a European Action Plan for the Conservation of the Pond bat.

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Transboundary Programme for Bat Conservation

Element 1: Bat Monitoring Programmes

Pipistrellus nathusii

36. Introduction

Although this bat species is not considered to be endangered, it is one of the most migratory species of bat, crossing many national boundaries during its annual migrations.

1.1 Distribution

Pipistrellus nathusii is found from Western Europe and southern Fennoscandia, to the Urals, Caucasus and Western Asia Minor. The species reaches its highest population densities in Central and Southern Russia. In Western Europe, the species is less common than in Eastern Europe, but less rare than has been previously assumed. Most reproduction takes place in Central and Eastern Europe. Maternity colonies are rare in Western Europe, though the species is certainly under-recorded.

1.2 Migration

Recoveries of banded individuals have revealed that *P. nathusii* migrates over long distances, and shows a seasonal migration pattern. Populations from Central and Eastern Europe migrate in the period August to October to Western and Southern Europe. In late autumn, winter and early spring, Central Europe is "empty" of *P. nathusii*. Courtship and copulation take place during the autumn migration. Females, adults as well as juveniles, and juvenile males migrate earliest. At the end of the mating season, adult males lose their territorial behaviour and start to migrate west and southward. During the winter period almost the entire population from Central and Eastern Europe hibernates in Western and Southern Europe. However, the species may be active in the mild winter climate of Southern Europe. In spring, the majority of the females are believed to return to their breeding grounds in Central and Eastern Europe. Only some of the males follow the females to the breeding grounds. The rest stay, or return partially. It is not yet known which of the males return, and which stay. Most of the summer populations of *P. nathusii* in Western Europe appear to comprise males. In autumn this distribution pattern forms a network of territorial males from east to west, passed by migrating females. During the mating season, territorial males advertise themselves to migrating females to attract them into the mating roost. Females stay in these roosts for one or more days. Adult and juvenile females participate in mating. The presence of one or more juvenile males in the mating roosts is tolerated by the territorial males.

37. Open questions relevant to conservation

The status of the species is unknown. There are indications that the population structure is similar to that of *Nyctalus noctula*, having strict philopatry in female colonies by which some genetic isolation takes place. On the other hand, alleles are mixed over large areas by mating with several males of different origin. But this structure has to be proved as there may be very different populations with different reproductive or migratory behaviour, as in *Nyctalus noctula*. It is possible that a distinct population is endangered by specific threats in its breeding, mating, migrating or wintering range. To improve knowledge of the species' ecology the following aspects should be investigated:

- the distribution of *P. nathusii* during breeding time, mating and wintering. A presently open question is where the males stay in the summer. Data from Germany give the impression that migrating and mating are concentrated there along the larger rivers. If this is the case the valleys of the Saba and the Danube, among others, may be of great importance to the bats;
- migration routes and population structure as well as genetic isolation. As it is not realistic or desirable to copy the intensive banding programme from Pape (Latvia) in another place in Eastern Europe the population structure should be analysed using genetic methods. The German research project on the genetics of *Nyctalus noctula* demonstrated that even the migration pattern can be found to some extent using these methods.
- factors of threat from changes to the habitats or human interference during mating and migration. There should be more studies on the species' choice of habitat in different regions of Europe through the seasons. By observing the bats during mating time human-impact assessments can be made of the disturbance to the function of the pan-European populations which have led to threats to the species as a whole.

38. Recommendations

Banding can reveal, beside other methods, substantial additional information to identify migration patterns and population composition. Therefore, banding of *P. nathusii* should be focussed at breeding grounds in Central and Eastern Europe, and in the wintering areas. Bats should be banded only with special high-quality bat-rings. The following banding activities should be carried out:

- banding should be carried out only on a limited basis and within the context of a conservation programme and/or knowledge gaining exercise;
- the banding of wintering individuals should be carried out on as limited a basis as possible, and the disturbance of hibernating bats must be avoided;
- individuals in maternity colonies should also be banded, but again excess disturbance should be avoided. Biometrical data and tissue samples (20 - 30 per colony) should also be collected from these animals;
- the banding of **mating individuals (territorial males and visiting females)** should also be extended, especially in Western Europe;
- for collection of data from the field, an expert team should offer experience to other countries and chiropterologists to find *P. nathusii* colonies and males. This may be achieved by holding training seminars and bat-detector workshops. The aim should be to create a European network of observers who pass their national data to an international compiler. All present investigation projects on the species could be integrated into this section;
- a time parameter should be established (eg five years, followed by a review of progress);
- genetic sampling and biometrical sampling should be integrated in the study;
- general encouragement should be given - specifically in Central and Eastern Europe - to the incorporation of population dynamics into the study;

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Resolution No. 4

Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals

The Meeting of the Parties

Recalling the Resolution agreed at its first session (18-20 July 1995) on *the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan* (Annex K page 45 of the report of the meeting);

Recalling also, under Priorities 10, 11 and 12 of that Resolution, that important roosts should be identified, the conservation of underground habitats important to bats should be given special attention, and that nationally-agreed guidelines for sites meriting protection should be established and reviewed periodically;

Noting that, in implementing its work programme, the Advisory Committee decided to include the conservation of important habitats or habitat-types within its considerations on the development of a transboundary programme for bat conservation;

Noting also the work being carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Biological and landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular towards the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network (Action Theme 1) and under the European Action Programme for Threatened Species (Action Theme 11);

Noting further the work being carried out in the framework of the European Habitats Directive, 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;

Recognising that, according to the letter of Annex K, Priorities 10, 11 and 12, the Parties themselves were charged, on a national basis, with the development of measures to protect important habitats;

Recognising also, however, that the successful protection of important habitats of a similar type would benefit from the application of consistent standards throughout the Agreement area;

Decides that the following two habitat types should be the subject of specific national research in relation to the conservation of European bats: underground sites and forests;

Decides that the contracting parties should endeavour to provide data on sites specified in annex I and II, as well as an assessment of sites with problems caused by man, by the middle of 2000 to the Secretariat.

Directs the Secretariat to commission an assessment of all national data, where available, for consideration by the Advisory Committee and submission to the third session of the Meeting of Parties.

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Transboundary Programme for Bat Conservation

Element 2: Bats Habitats

Underground Habitats

Proposal for an international project on the development of a list of European underground habitats of significance to bat populations, and standard measures for ensuring the maintenance of such populations at a healthy and stable level.

1. Aims

Underground habitats (including caves, mines, fortifications and tunnels) play a vital role in the life-cycle of many European Microchiroptera species, which use them as hibernation, summer and transitional roost-sites including during migration. Particularly in the latter case, it is often difficult to establish the importance of sites, owing to the transitory nature of their occupation. However, such sites may often be key to the survival of a species in a particular region of the continent. The significance and threats to such sites have been highlighted by almost all contributors to an action plan on world Microchiroptera in preparation by IUCN.

Activities such as speleology, mine closure and public interest in underground habitats can have a disastrous effect on bat fauna in this habitat type. Further, little is known in general terms about the nature of many bat-populations which use underground habitats. For this reason, data-collection should be co-ordinated to determine the distribution and numbers of underground-habitat-using bat populations, and the degree of threat posed by human activity and natural site-loss. Criteria for the definition of significant bat-populations should be developed to judge how important particular underground habitats are when considering conservation measures. The conservation measures themselves should also be considered, and comparative studies carried out to determine the specific measures most appropriate for particular sites or site-types (for example grilling, fencing, seasonal restriction of access) or bat species. The project would also assess measures taken for the enhancement of existing sites and the creation of new sites.

Types of underground habitat should also be identified, and the species which use particular sites identified in order to develop site-specific guidelines which correspond to the individual needs of certain species.

The Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe sets out the framework for addressing the comprehensive conservation of bats. Bat conservation needs to relate itself to all aspects of man's activities which affect bats' lives, including commercial mineral extraction and leisure practices.

This collaborative project involving all the Agreement's Parties should collate available information about bats in underground habitats and methods of protecting them, and,

eventually, lead to the development of an international list of underground habitats of importance to bat-populations. It would identify key sites in need of protection, and provide guidelines on effective site-protection.

2. Activities

National activities:

First step: *data collection*

collate data where available on sites:

- national databases in each Party
- categorise sites according to nature of site and bat species
- occurrence and abundance of bat species in underground habitats
- status of species
- population trends
- list human uses of site (if any)
- identify conservation/protected status of sites
- category of significance (eg national, international, local etc.)

Second step: *identify problems created by man (organisation and assessment of data)*

1. assessment of conservation problems of bats in underground habitats through eg.
 - mineral extraction
 - leisure use
 - closure (eg for public safety)
 - natural events
 - economic use (including human/animals shelter)
2. assessment of measures for protection: by restriction of use/access
by physical means
3. identify problems caused by protection measures
4. examine effectiveness of conservation-enhancement measures
5. assessment of constraints on other interested parties

The assessment should include the following:

Compilation and evaluation

- a) Compilation of data:
 - status and trends of bats in European underground habitats
 - conservation actions for bats in underground habitats
- b) Evaluation:
 - perspectives of national and international research and conservation programmes on bats in underground habitats
 - identification of scale of bat-conservation problems caused by certain human practices in certain regions or habitat-types
 - identification of conservation priorities
 - development of criteria for identification of key sites

Report, including recommendations and guidelines

- definition of significant bat-populations as far as European underground habitats are concerned
- categorisation of underground habitat-types

- list of key sites and their conservation/protected status
- list of key sites needing protection and identification of sources to help where required
- guidelines for measures to protect bat-populations in underground habitats, according to habitat-type and species of bat, including measures for enhancement
- guidelines for minimising impact of other uses of important underground habitats
- priorities for research projects on bats in underground habitats

Before the third session of the Meeting of Parties, the Advisory Committee may be charged with considering the list of underground habitats of importance to bats, and eventually developing a set of guidelines for their management and protection.

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Transboundary Programme for Bat Conservation

Element 2: Bats Habitats

Forests

Proposal for an international project on the development of guidelines on bat-friendly forestry practices in Europe.

1. Aims

Forestry practices and forest bat fauna vary greatly in different parts of Europe. Many bat-species are dependent on forests as their living areas; among these are a number of highly migratory species such as the Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) and Nathusius's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*). The significance and threats to bats of forest loss or unsympathetic management through loss of roosting and foraging opportunity have been highlighted by almost all contributors to an action plan on world Microchiroptera in preparation by IUCN.

The Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe sets out the framework for addressing the comprehensive conservation of bats. Bat conservation needs to relate itself to all aspects of man's activities which affect bats' lives, including forestry practices. Surveys carried out on a nation-by-nation basis should assess the implications to bats of current forestry practices, including deforestation, afforestation, reforestation, management, design, age structure and species composition. The project should also investigate the value of conservation initiatives of a general nature (eg management practices, veteran-tree initiatives - such as in Poland, the United Kingdom and Canada - habitat enhancement) and specifically for bats (eg bat boxes, habitat enhancement and creation), and also the distribution and continuity of forest patches (the network). This can then be translated into policy change or proposed action to be carried out by the national forestry industry. A collaborative project of the Agreement's Parties should collate present knowledge and develop general principles and recommendations for the European region, both in terms of Parties and participating Non-Party Range-States, to incorporate in their plans for a sustainable approach to forestry, having regard to the needs of the bat fauna which are present in, or dependent upon, their forests.

2. Activities

National activities

First step: *Data collection*

- a) Bats in forests (Bat Agreement national reports):
 - occurrence and abundance of bat species in forest habitats
 - status of species
 - population trends
 - special features of ecology of bats in forests
- b) Conservation:
 - threats to bats in forests

- national projects on the conservation of bats in forests
- wider conservation initiatives that benefit bats
- valid protected areas, sites and networks (e.g. Natura 2000, EECNET, Emerald Network)
- consideration of bats in forestry practices
- literary search including outside Europe

Second step: *Assessment (organisation and assessment of data)*

- problems
- constraints of forestry industry
- current measures for conservation (including of bats)
- mitigation opportunities
- assessment and report on value of bat boxes

The results, where available, of the first two steps should be included in the national implementation reports for consideration by the Parties at their third meeting.

International activities

These activities should be pursued following consideration by the Meeting of Parties at its third session.

Third step: *Compilation and evaluation*

- a) Compilation of data:
 - status and trends of bats in European forests
 - conservation actions for bats in forests
- b) Evaluation:
 - perspectives of national and international research and conservation programmes on bats in forests, with special reference to ongoing Bat Agreement activities
 - identification of bat-conservation problems caused by certain forestry practices in certain regions or habitats
 - identification of conservation priorities

Fourth step: *Report, including recommendations and guidelines*

- guidelines for the consideration of bat conservation in forestry practices in Europe
- guidelines for protected areas as forest habitats of bats
- priorities and guidelines for research projects on bats in forests and their interrelationship with forestry practice
- identification of key areas for forestry enhancement

Next steps:

Following the third session of the Meeting of Parties, the Advisory Committee may be charged with considering the guidelines and recommendations, and passing them through their governments to national agencies responsible for regulating forestry practice for comment and eventual adoption.

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Resolution No. 5

Geographical Scope of the Agreement

The Meeting of the Parties

Recalling the Resolution agreed at its first session (18-20 July 1995) on *the Clarification of the Area of the Agreement* (Annex D page 28 of the report of the meeting);

Recalling also, under that Resolution, that the Advisory Committee was charged with interpreting the term “continent of Europe” in Article I paragraph (f) of the Agreement appropriately, identifying the migration ranges of the species covered by the Agreement based on the most up-to-date and accurate scientific information, and submitting its findings to the Meeting of Parties;

Recognising that knowledge of the migratory behaviour of migratory populations of bat species in Europe is still relatively scant, particularly in the Southern and Eastern extremities of the Agreement area;

Recognising also the Advisory Committee’s considerations in establishing in principle the basis for a provisional interpretation of the “continent of Europe” for the purposes of the Agreement;

Recognising finally that the Secretariat has been unable to establish, in spite of correspondence with bat experts on the Canary Islands, a migratory link between continental Europe and these islands;

Decides that, for the purposes of the Agreement, the definition of the “continent of Europe” be considered to be the Western Palearctic region, excluding North Africa and Iceland, with the Eastern boundary drawn at Turkey and the Caucasus countries, and the Southern boundary being the south coast of the continent of Europe, with the addition of the Mediterranean states (Cyprus and Malta), and islands belonging to mainland European states, with the exception of the Canary islands, Madeira and the Azores;

Decides also that, as defined in Article I paragraph (d) of the text of the Agreement, Regional Economic Integration Organisations shall be included in the geographical scope of the Agreement;

Accepts the list of countries attached as Annex A to this Resolution as a provisional list of countries falling within the “continent of Europe”, as defined above;

Instructs the Secretariat to investigate further whether the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores should be included in the definition, by correspondence with experts

in the islands concerned, and to report back to the Advisory Committee and to the Meeting of Parties at its third session;

Further instructs the Secretariat, in accordance with the Resolution agreed at the first session of the Meeting of Parties (on *the Clarification of the Area of the Agreement* - Annex D page 28 of the report of the meeting), to use these findings as a basis for its communication with Range States;

Urges all Parties and non-Parties to devote more effort in establishing migratory patterns of behaviour in migratory populations of bat species in Europe, paying particular attention to determining which populations of which species migrate, and where they winter;

Charges the Advisory Committee with further reviewing available data of migration, with a view to developing a comprehensive map of migration of for each bat species where one or more population of that species migrates, and to report back to the Meeting of Parties at its third session;

Invites all Range States, whether or not they are situated within the “continent of Europe”, or Parties to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*, to accede to the Agreement.

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

List of Countries or Regional Economic Integration Organisations*
within the “continent of Europe”

Albania	Liechtenstein
Andorra	Lithuania
Armenia	LUXEMBOURG
Austria	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav
Azerbaijan	Republic of
Belarus	Malta
Belgium	Moldova, Republic of
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Monaco
Bulgaria	NETHERLANDS
Croatia	NORWAY
Cyprus	POLAND
CZECH REPUBLIC	PORTUGAL (except Madeira and the
DENMARK	Azores)
Estonia	Romania
European Community	Russian Federation
Finland	San Marino
FRANCE	Slovakia
Georgia	Slovenia
GERMANY	Spain (except the Canary Islands)
GIBRALTAR	SWEDEN
Greece	Switzerland
Holy See	Turkey
HUNGARY	Ukraine
IRELAND	UNITED KINGDOM, including Gibraltar
Italy	Yugoslavia, Federal Republic
Latvia	

- countries listed in the upper-case are already Parties, or included in the ratification of Parties, to the Agreement

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Resolution No. 6

Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee

The Meeting of the Parties

Recalling the Resolution agreed at its first session (18-20 July 1995) on the establishment of an Advisory Committee

Considering the continuing usefulness of an Advisory Committee to the arrangement of meetings and the continuing implementation of the Agreement

Recognising the value of the attendance of representatives of Non-Party Range-States at Advisory Committee meetings

Commending the Advisory Committee for its activities to further the objectives of the Agreement during its first triennial period

Repeals the resolution agreed at its First Session (Annex H, page 35 of the report of the First Session of the Meeting of Parties;

Adopts the attached Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee; and

Resolves to review the Terms of Reference, in the light of their effectiveness, at its Third Session.

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee

39. The Committee shall provide expert advice and information to the Secretariat and the Parties on the conservation and management of bats and on other matters in relation to the running of the Agreement, having regard to the need not to duplicate the work of other international bodies and the desirability of drawing on their expertise.
40. Each Party shall be entitled to appoint one member of the Advisory Committee. Parties shall cover their members' costs in attending meetings of the Committee.
41. The Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairperson, and establish and review its own Rules of procedure as it deems appropriate.
42. Each Committee member may be accompanied by advisers, and the Committee may invite other experts to attend its meetings.
43. The Committee may instruct the Secretariat to invite representatives of Non-Party Range-States to the meeting. Any such representatives should be responsible for covering their own costs to attend such meetings.
44. The Committee may establish working groups, to work either between meetings of the Committee or during Committee meetings themselves.
45. The Committee will perform the tasks allocated to it in Resolutions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 of the Second Session of the Meeting of Parties in an effort to pursue the obligations at Article III. The Committee should continue to seek to ensure the dissemination of information and co-operation between Parties is maximised to achieve these objectives.
46. The Committee will review annually the Secretariat's work and expenditures. It shall advise the Secretariat the most appropriate use of funds within subheads of the budget where the Meeting of Parties has allowed for this in the resolution on budgetary matters.
47. The Committee may, with the assistance of the Secretariat, develop proposals and draft resolutions on the implementation of the Agreement (excluding amendments to the text of the Agreement). The Committee may then present these proposals and draft resolutions to the subsequent Meeting of Parties through the Secretariat.

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Resolution No. 7

Format of National Reports

Recalling Article VI of the Agreement requesting Parties to present up to date reports on its implementation of this Agreement;

Recalling further that a Resolution on the Format and Frequency of National Reports was agreed unanimously by the First Meeting of Parties;

Recognising that the reports compiled so far have provided limited assistance to Parties or to the Advisory Committee in meeting their obligations;

Recognising further that the reports should highlight the progress made since the previous report or explain problems encountered; they should also describe areas where research has been completed or undertaken;

Acknowledging that a standard format for such national reports would provide a useful structure for organising the information received, and this would facilitate the incorporation of relevant parts of the reports into a database;

Whereas Article VI of the Agreement requires that implementation reports need only be submitted 90 days before a Meeting of Parties;

Noting that this timescale does not allow sufficient time for the Secretariat to produce a summary of reports and forward this to Parties in advance of the Meeting of Parties

Noting that an update of measures taken since the last Report would be beneficial to the Advisory Committee in considering the progress made

Decides to:

Agree a revised format for the reports

Encourage national Coordinating Authorities to inform the Secretariat approximately one month in advance of each Advisory Committee about developments over the previous year, especially where major changes to the status of any species have occurred, which new items of publicity have been issued and what research has been considered, begun or completed

Encourage national Coordinating Authorities to cooperate with relevant institutions in their country on the preparation of national reports.

GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL REPORTS

A General Information

Name of Party
 Date of Report
 Period covered
 Competent Authority
 Changes regarding:
 Competent Authority
 Appointed Member of the Advisory Committee
 Membership of other committees/working groups

B Status of Bats Within the Territory of the Party

1. Summary Details of Resident Species
2. Status and Trends
3. Habitats and Roost Sites
4. Threats
5. Data Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

C Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement

6. *Legal measures taken to protect bats, including enforcement action*
7. Sites identified and protected which are important to the conservation of bats
8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats
9. Activities to promote the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats
10. Responsible bodies, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Agreement, nominated for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management.
11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats
 1. Recent and ongoing programmes (including research and policy initiatives) relating to the conservation and management of bats. In the case of research, summaries of completed projects should be provided, giving references where possible and acknowledging the sources of funding.
 2. Consideration being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats, and their food sources and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats.

D Functioning of the Agreement

14. Cooperation with other Range States.

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2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

Resolution No. 8

On the implementation of the conservation and management plan

The Meeting of the Parties

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;

Recognizing the value to the conservation of bats of the Action Plan for 1995-1998 'Priorities for bat conservation' established by the Resolution on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, agreed at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties (Annex K of the report of that meeting);

Noting the efforts of the Parties and the bodies (Secretariat and Advisory Committee) of the Agreement to carry out this plan and the progress achieved;

Acknowledging the difficulties encountered in implementing the aforementioned Action Plan mentioned in the Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to this session (Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.10);

Recognizing the continuous need to prioritise the actions taken;

Noting those actions concerned with roost and foraging habitat protection also being carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular towards the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network, (Action Theme 1) and under the European Action Programme for Threatened Species (Action Theme 11);

Noting further the work being carried out in the framework of the European Habitats Directive, 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 1998-2001 as appended at Annex A;

Directs the Advisory Committee that the priorities for the period 1998-2001 are:

- The initiatives recommended by the Resolutions accepted by MoP 2
- Action 8 (priority list for autecological studies to aid in research funding)
- Action 11 (increasing the availability of information on roosts)
- Action 17 (exchanging knowledge of habitat use and autecology)
- Actions 20 & 21 (buildings industry awareness)
- Actions 22 & 23 (pesticides)
- Continue work on Use of Linear Features (Inf. MoP2.11)

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION

Parties to the Agreement should consider taking forward the following measures to enhance the conservation status of bats. The Advisory Committee shall review the success that each State has in achieving each goal, and will seek to disseminate examples of good practise between States.

Legal Requirements

1. Parties should take measures to fully implement Article III.1 of the Agreement.

Population Survey and Monitoring

Resolution 2, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.5, Consistent monitoring methodologies
Resolution 3, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.6, Transboundary programme: species proposal
Resolution 4, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7, Transboundary programme: habitat proposal
Resolution 5, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.8, Geographical scope of the Agreement

3. Some species, notably the horseshoe bat, can be monitored at hibernation sites. Selected sites should be monitored regularly and the data collated and analysed to detect population trends at a national and international scale.
4. Some important hibernation sites are used by multi-species assemblages of bats. These sites should be monitored regularly to allow appropriate management procedures to be developed.
5. Many species can be monitored by counting bats at summer roosts, though the success of this method varies between species and between roosts. This method should be developed to take account of rates of movement between roosts and other changes in the use of individual roosts over time.
6. Methodologies of sample surveys of flying bats should be developed, as technology allows, to allow single species surveys.
7. The timing and distribution patterns for bat migrations in Europe should be assessed and main migration routes identified by international co-operative research.
8. Autecological studies should be carried out on species for which such data are lacking or are inadequate. Further research is required for all species. the Advisory Committee should consider a priority list for this work to be undertaken.

Roosts

Resolution 4, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7, Transboundary programme: habitat proposal

9. Data collection of roost sites should include that obtained in the course of providing advice about the management of bat colonies in buildings or responding to request for advice from householders.
10. Important roosts, particularly of rare species should be identified by the most appropriated methods.
11. Once roost sites have been discovered, their importance should be judged in both a local and a national context so that conservation action can be taken where appropriate. Mechanisms should be established to ensure that information about roost sites is made as widely available as possible. The conservation of underground habitats important to bats should be given special consideration.
12. Nationally agreed guidelines for sites meriting protection should be established and reviewed periodically to ensure that they are set at an appropriate level.
13. Sites meeting nationally agreed guidelines should be protected and details included in national reports.

14. Consideration should be given to the protection of roost sites through the application of statutory or voluntary mechanisms which encourage roost managers to retain or recreate features of importance to bats.

Foraging Habitats

15. In order to identify important feeding habitat types, data about habitat or habitat features used by feeding bats are needed. Habitat surveys should be established or expanded to include species-specific studies. These studies should identify which habitat types and habitat features are important to bat species at different times of the year.
16. Surveys to identify critical feeding areas close to maternity sites of national or international importance should be undertaken as a matter of priority.
178. Information on habitat use and autecology should be synthesised in a way which gives practical advice to land managers. The effect of habitat structure and composition on bats should be further considered with this in mind.
18. Consideration should be given to the protection of foraging areas through the application of statutory and voluntary mechanisms which encourage land managers to retain or recreate features of importance to bats.

Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice

19. As bats depend so heavily on man/made structures for roosting, their conservation depends on favourable human attitudes. Priority should therefore be given to improving the perception of bats with particular emphasis on education.
20. Those who come across bats in the course of their work, particularly builders, roofers and members of the remedial timber treatment trade, have a particular responsibility for bat conservation. These groups should be targeted to receive appropriate education and training. Priority should be given to ensuring that all professional training for these trades includes appropriate information about bats.
21. A survey of human attitudes to bats and the work practices of those whose work brings them into contact with bats would provide valuable factual information on the subject and should therefore be considered.

Pesticides

22. The approval and use of remedial timber treatment products should take into account their possible effect on bats. Methods by which the potential effects of remedial timber treatments on bats are assessed should be refined so that testing of new products on bats is not usually necessary.
23. The impact of pesticides such as anti-parasitic drugs should be assessed carefully and the appropriate advice given to land managers to avoid possible deleterious effects on bats.

International Cooperation

Resolution 3, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.6, Transboundary programme: species proposal
Resolution 4, Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7, Transboundary programme: habitat proposal

24. Parties and Range States are encouraged to cooperate in the conservation and management of bats and their habitats.
25. The Advisory Committee shall review the needs for a European Bat Information Centre and elaborate an appropriate proposal for the Third Session of the Meeting of Parties.



2nd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 1998

List of Documents

Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.1	Provisional agenda
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.2	Provisional annotated agenda
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.3	List of Documents
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.3Rev1	List of Documents
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.3Rev2	List of Documents
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.3Rev3	List of Documents
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.3fin	List of Documents (final version)
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.4	Finance and budgetary matters
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.5	Consistent monitoring methodologies
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.6	Transboundary Programme for bat conservation: species
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7	Transboundary Programme for bat conservation: habitats
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.8	Geographical scope of the Agreement
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.9	Draft Rules of Procedure for the 2 nd session of the Meeting of Parties
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.10	Terms of reference for the Advisory Committee
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.11	Terms of reference for the Secretariat
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.12	Format and Frequency of National Reports
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.13	Report on the Scientific Working Group - July 1 st 1998
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.14	Report on the Scientific Working Group - July 2 nd 1998
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.15	Report on the Working Group on Administrative Issues
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.1	Information factsheet
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.2	Provisional schedule
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.3	Provisional list of participants
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.3Rev1	Provisional list of participants
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.3Rev2	Provisional list of participants
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.3fin	List of participants
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.4	Secretariat report
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.5	Audit report of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.6	Report of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, including Annexes
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.7	Report of the second meeting of the Advisory Committee, including Annexes
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.8	Report of the third meeting of the Advisory Committee, including Annexes
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.9	Rules of Procedure for the Advisory Committee
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.10	Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.11	Use of Linear Features by Bats: Evidence and Protection
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.12	Revised synthesis of Party reports

Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.13
Inf.EUROBATS.MOP2.14

Correct use of scientific names
Priorities for Bat Conservation 1998-2001

Resolutions

- 2.1fin Financial and Budgetary Matters
- 2.2fin Consistent Monitoring Methodologies
- 2.3fin Transboundary Programme: Species Proposals
- 2.4fin Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals
- 2.5fin Geographical Scope of the Agreement
- 2.6fin Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee
- 2.7fin Format and Frequency of National Reports
- 2.8fin On the implementation of the conservation and management plan

Revised Documents

Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.4Rev1	Finance and budgetary matters
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.4fin	Finance and budgetary matters
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.5Rev1	Consistent monitoring methodologies
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.5fin	Consistent monitoring methodologies
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7Rev1	Transboundary Programme for bat conservation: habitats
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.7fin	Transboundary Programme for bat conservation: habitats
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.8Rev1	Geographical scope of the Agreement
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.8fin	Geographical scope of the Agreement
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.10AnnexIRev1	Terms of reference for the Advisory Committee
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.10AnnexIfin	Terms of reference for the Advisory Committee
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.12AnnexIRev1	Format and Frequency of National Reports
Doc.EUROBATS.MOP2.12AnnexIfin	Format and Frequency of National Reports

Party Reports

France
Germany
Hungary
Ireland
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
United Kingdom

Non-Party Range-States' Status Reports

Armenia
Moldova
Monaco

EURO



Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe

**Second session of the Meeting of the Parties, Bonn,
1-3 July 1998**

Press Release

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International Meeting in Bonn on the Conservation of Bats in Europe

The Second Session of the Meeting of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, hosted by Germany, took place in Bonn from 1 - 3 July 1998. The Agreement aims at strengthening the protection of bats, which are highly endangered migratory species.

The meeting was attended by all thirteen Parties (Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and several Non - Party Range States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, FYR Macedonia, Slovakia and the Ukraine). A number of organisations, national, international, governmental and non- governmental also attended and contributed substantially to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adopted two transboundary programmes. The first one is related to two bat species: the Pond bat, which is extremely rare in the Agreement area, and the Nathusius pipistrelle, which crosses many national boundaries during its annual migration.

The second transboundary programme calls upon Parties and Range States to develop a register of underground habitats (including caves, mines, fortifications and tunnels). They play a vital role in the life cycle of many European bats. The results of this work should be used to identify sites which require conservation measures. A similar initiative was launched with a view to develop guidelines for bat-friendly foresting practices in Europe.

Of great importance for bat conservation is the establishment of a new action plan which will guide the Parties in the forthcoming biennium; it includes legal measures, survey and monitoring initiatives, consideration of the use of pesticides and their impact on bats and further international co-operation.

The Meeting of Parties agreed to meet again in 2000 in Bristol, United Kingdom.

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Friday, 3. July 1998