



3rd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bristol, United Kingdom, 24 – 26 July 2000

Resolution 3.1

Integration of the EUROBATS Secretariat into the UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (EUROBATS),

Recalling the invitation by the Conference of the Parties to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* to consolidate the secretariat functions of the European-based Agreements, including EUROBATS, in a special Agreements Unit to be co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention (Resolution 4.4 adopted in Nairobi 1994);

Acknowledging Resolution 5.5 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CMS at its fifth meeting (Geneva, April 1997), which approved the establishment of an Agreements Unit to be co-located with the Convention Secretariat;

Acknowledging also that this Resolution provided for the establishment of a Common Administrative Unit for the UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the Agreements Unit;

Acknowledging as well that the AEWA Secretariat took the lead in the establishment of the Agreements Unit from 1 July 2000;

Acknowledging further that, at the request of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, UNEP has provided an Administrative and Fund Management Officer for the Common Administrative Unit;

Appreciating the statement of the Executive Director of UNEP to the Second and Third Sessions of the Meeting of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (Bonn, July 1998 and Bristol, July 2000) in which he confirmed *inter alia* the willingness of UNEP to administer the EUROBATS Secretariat as part of the Agreements Unit and formally reiterated the invitation to the European-based

Agreements under CMS to co-locate their secretariat functions with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat;

Recalling in particular Resolution No. 1 of the Second Session of the Meeting of Parties (Bonn, July 1998) in which the Parties agreed:

“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”

and decided:

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

Expecting that the political and institutional weight of the Agreement will increase considerably through the integration into the UNEP/CMS framework and that this will facilitate the accession of other Range States to the Agreement;

Expecting also that mutual benefit will be derived from the establishment of the Agreements Unit through the pooling of resources and by strengthening the organisational and administrative potentials and increasing the efficiency of the secretariats in implementing the aims of the Agreements;

Guided by a common will to maintain the independent and autonomous functioning of each secretariat according to the instructions of their relevant bodies;

Acknowledging with gratitude the financial and administrative support provided by the German Government to the Secretariat up to its integration into the UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit;

Recognizing also the support given to the Secretariat by the Common UN Premises Administration in Bonn;

1. *Accepts* with gratitude the offer of the United Nations Environment Programme to administer the Agreement Secretariat within the Agreements Unit to be established from January 2001, including the provision of an Administrative and Fund Management Officer;
2. *Agrees* to continue to provide the necessary budget to cover the operational costs of the Secretariat;
3. *Encourages* close co-operation as well as exchange of information and expertise between the Advisory Committee of EUROBATS, the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council of CMS;

4. *Emphasises* that the Agreements Unit shall have the status of a regional centre for European-based Agreements according to Resolution 4.4 action point 18 of the fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Nairobi, June 1994);
5. *Reserves* its right, either separately or in agreement with Meetings of the Parties of other European-based Agreements, to make alternative arrangements for the location of the Agreement Secretariat and its administration if the need arises;
6. *Reaffirms* the autonomy of the Meeting of Parties as the decision-making body of the Agreement and similarly reconfirms that the Executive Secretary of EUROBATS as head of the Agreement Secretariat, albeit being an Executive Officer within the UNEP/CMS framework, shall be primarily responsible to the Meeting of Parties and the Advisory Committee;
7. *Decides* that any changes to the arrangements concerning the accommodation of the EUROBATS Secretariat and the space currently assigned to it shall be made in agreement with the host Government and the Common UN Premises Administration in Bonn and in consultation with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat;
8. *Agrees* that, for the administration of the EUROBATS Secretariat within the UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit, the Terms of Reference attached as Annex 1 to this resolution shall apply.