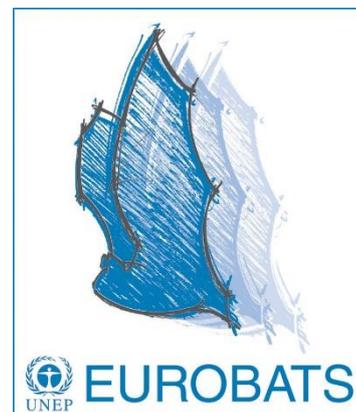


8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

Draft Resolution 8.6 Bats and Light Pollution



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

Acknowledging the value of natural light levels for ecological processes;

Acknowledging the relevance of natural light rhythms for the health of humans and wildlife;

Noting the rapid growth and extent of artificial light at night and its detrimental impact (light pollution);

Noting the importance that innovative lighting schemes have in the implementation of the Kyoto protocol to reduce CO₂ emissions in the context of combatting climate change;

Recalling Resolution 2.2 on Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, which recommends the adoption of consistent monitoring methods for bats across Europe;

Recalling Resolution 7.8 on Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes;

Recalling Resolution 7.9 on Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats;

Recalling Resolution 8.10 on Required Experience and Skills of Experts with regard to Quality of Assessments;

Recalling Resolution 8.11 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2019-2022), which recognises the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

Recalling Resolution 8.11 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2019-2022), which recognises the conservation of bat habitats in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or commuting routes are affected;

Recalling Resolution 5.7 on Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance, which recommends to ensure that overground roosts are managed in accordance with national nature conservation legislation and taking note of any guidelines adopted by the EUROBATS Agreement;

Recalling Resolution 8.5 on Conservation and Management of Important Overground Sites for Bats.

Recalling that the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe” (COM/2011/0571) recommends strengthening policies and activities for promoting energy efficiency in the use of artificial light in public areas;

Noting the different sensitivities of bat species towards artificial light;

Noting the growing scientific evidence of the impact of artificial light on bats and the predicted negative consequences for bat populations;

Recognising the importance of harmonising the methods used for impact assessment related to artificial light;

Recognising the importance of statistically robust ways to evaluate behaviours of bats related to light pollution and their impact on bat populations;

Recognising the importance of developing evidence-based effective avoidance and mitigation measures;

Recognising also the necessity of implementing research and effective monitoring;

Urges Parties and non-party Range States, if not already done so, to:

1. Take into account the fact that artificial light in general has a negative impact on bats;
2. Avoid the use of artificial light wherever and whenever possible;
3. Work to ensure that planning of artificial lighting projects are undertaken in compliance with national legislation regarding bat protection and conservation by implementing appropriate avoidance, mitigation and compensation for habitat losses;
4. Ensure that the impacts of artificial light on bats are included in impact assessment procedures;

5. Work to resolve any conflict between artificial light and bats;
6. Where governance allows ensure that impact assessment procedures and post-installation/development monitoring are undertaken by bat experts with suitable knowledge skills and experience;
7. Recommend that raw data from impact assessment and post-installation/development monitoring are made available for independent scientific analysis;
8. Encourage and support scientific research on the impacts of artificial light on bats;
9. Encourage developers of lighting concepts to engage in research on the best methods for avoiding or mitigating the negative impacts of light pollution on bats;
10. Promote continued cooperation between lighting professionals and other stakeholders in the search for best practice to avoid or minimise the adverse impact of artificial light on bats;
11. Develop and ensure implementation of national guidance following the EUROBATS publication series Number 8.

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Continue to compile relevant information, including efficacy of mitigation measures and methods to assess the impact of artificial light on individual bats and bat populations;
2. Update the guidelines if necessary.