

5th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4 – 6 September 2006

Resolution No. 5.10

Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan
(2007- 2010)



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

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;

Recognising the value to the conservation of bats of the Action Plan for 2003 – 06, established by Resolution No. 9 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, and agreed at the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Noting the efforts of Parties, as outlined in their National Implementation Reports, and of the Advisory Committee as well as the Secretariat to the Agreement to carry out the above plans and the progress achieved;

Recognising the continuous need to prioritise actions;

Acknowledging the work being carried out in the framework of the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EC), 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;

Emphasising the importance of Resolution 4.4 on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management as well as the further development of appropriate guidelines;

Decides to establish the Action Plan for 2006 – 2010 as appended at Annex 1 and notes that this Action Plan supercedes the Action Plan made under Resolution 9 at the 4th Session of the Meeting of Parties;

Requests Parties to report to each Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the measures taken to implement the Action Plan.

Annex1

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION FOR THE PERIOD 2007 - 2010

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

1. Legal Requirements

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Resolution No. 8, Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, Annex A, 1

- Parties should continue to take measures to fully implement Article III (1) of the Agreement.

(b) The Advisory Committee should establish an Intersessional Working Group to review the implementation of the Agreement and relevant Resolutions and assess setting up a system to review requests for advice concerning the implementation addressed to the Secretariat from MoP5 onwards.

2. Population Survey and Monitoring

(a) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5, Resolution No. 2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 3 - 6.

- Parties should continue to collate data on the implementation of Resolution 2, review the methods used and the species covered. Species listed under Resolution 2 include *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis blythii*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Myotis capaccinii*, *Eptesicus serotinus*, *Eptesicus nilssonii*, *Nyctalus noctula* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*.

- In recognition of the importance of monitoring in implementing the European Action Plans for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Myotis dasycneme*, these two species should be added to the above list.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5, Resolution No. 2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 3 - 6.

- Parties should share information on experience gained in using the methods outlined in Resolution 2, with the intention of building a comprehensive dataset to be reviewed in detail in due course.

- The importance of long-term monitoring at a pan-European level to build up good datasets on species distribution and population trends should be recognised and emphasised.
- The importance of international information exchange and co-operation in developing monitoring strategies should be promoted by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee should produce guidelines on monitoring methodologies by AC12, drawing on the experience of Parties with national or regional monitoring schemes.

(c) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.6AnnexAfin and AnnexIfin, Resolution No. 3, Transboundary Programme: Species Proposals, and Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.8AnnexAfin, Resolution No. 5, Geographical Scope of the Agreement.

- The work on collating information on European species migration routes has been completed by the Advisory Committee with the publication of the Atlas on *Bat Migrations in Europe*. The Advisory Committee should consider the recommendations for further work made in the Atlas and adopt them if appropriate.

(d) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 8 and EUROBATS.AC.10.Record.Annex2, 21.

- The current work being carried out on autecological studies of the Priority List of species (*Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*, according to EUROBATS.AC4.Report.Annex C) should be updated by the Advisory Committee in accordance with Resolution 4.12, and should be made public.
- Parties should support autecological studies on the Priority List of species:
 - ◆ Investigating roost choice according to the microclimate of roosts (temperature, humidity) through the seasons (being aware that electronic devices often produce ultrasounds);
 - ◆ Identifying foraging areas (using radiotelemetry or other suitable techniques) and diet (faecal analyses);
 - ◆ Studying population structure, including metapopulation structuring (using genetic analyses, morphometrics or echolocation calls) and dispersal (flight paths when commuting from the roost to the foraging areas and when moving between seasonal roosts).

(e) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP4.10.Rev.2, Resolution No. 4.4, Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management.

- The Advisory Committee shall complete the development of guidelines for sustainable forestry practices in accordance with bat conservation.
 - Parties should promote the identification and classification of bat species and communities, which are typical of certain Forest Types for Biodiversity Assessments (FTBAs).
 - The Advisory Committee shall develop a proposal for the use of bats as indicators for sustainable land use practices, including woodland ecosystems, and the conservation status of biodiversity in Europe.
- (c) Parties should assess the status of their national bat fauna with reference to the 2010 target to significantly reduce or even stop the loss of biodiversity by the year 2010. Assessment results shall be included into the National Report to the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties.

3. Roosts

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 12 and 13.

- Information on methods used to protect roost sites other than underground sites should be gathered by the Advisory Committee, with roost sites in buildings that are part of the cultural heritage as a priority. Good practice guidance developed by the group should be completed and adopted by Parties.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.7.AnnexI fin, Resolution No. 4, Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals, Element 2: Bats Habitats.

- The list of important underground sites for bats should be reviewed and updated by 2010.

4. Foraging Habitats

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 16.

- Parties should carry out surveys to identify critical feeding areas close to maternity colonies of national and international significance. Information on the methods used should continue to be gathered by the Advisory Committee and should be disseminated to Parties by 2010.

(b) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, various.

- Parties shall take the conservation of bat habitats into consideration in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or linear features associated with roosts are affected. The Advisory Committee should

continue to prepare general guidance for the use of Parties for this purpose by 2010. National guidelines for this purpose shall be drafted.

5. Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 19.

- Parties should continue efforts to raise public awareness and improve education.

(b) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 20.

- Parties should continue to produce guidance and assess new ways of working, such as producing public attitude surveys and identifying important groups that need to be influenced by bat conservation.

- Parties are invited to send a copy of any leaflet they produce to the Secretariat.

6. Pesticides

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 22, Article III, paragraph 8 of the Agreement and Resolution 4.5.

- Parties should remain aware of the potential dangers of timber treatment chemicals to bats, especially if new products are introduced.

(b) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 23.

- The impact of anti-parasitic drugs for livestock on bat populations should continue to be reviewed by the Advisory Committee with the intention of producing a report by MoP6.

7. International co-operation

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 24, Resolution 4.12 and Resolution 4.7.

- Parties should co-operate in undertaking the actions outlined above. Parties and Range States should work co-operatively towards increasing bat expertise and knowledge in their countries and internationally.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP4.10.

The Secretariat, assisted by the Advisory Committee shall approach the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) with the aims of introducing bat conservation aspects to the activities and measures under the MCPFE, especially the development of indicators for sustainable forestry, and the appointment of EUROBATS as an observer to the MCPFE. This work should be completed by MoP6.