

5th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4 – 6 September 2006

Resolution 5.4

Monitoring Bats across Europe



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

Recalling Resolution 2.2 Consistent Monitoring Methodologies (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5.Rev.1AnnexA), which recommends the adoption of consistent monitoring methods for bats across Europe;

Recalling also the recommendations of the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan 2003-2006 Resolution 4.9 (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP4.15.Rev.2) which recognises the importance of long-term monitoring of bat species (EUROBATS.MoP4.Record.Annex12a);

Recalling further the recommendations of the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan 2003-2006, which recognise the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

Noting the work of the Advisory Committee in producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels as recommended in the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan 2003-2006;

Noting the results and recommendations of two workshops held in the UK to develop the idea of pan-European surveillance of bats;

Noting the work of the Advisory Committee on compiling a database of information on important underground sites for bats across Europe as recommended in Resolution 2.4;

Noting also the imminent EUROBATS publication of guidelines on management of underground sites for the protection of bats;

Recognising the importance of the surveillance and monitoring of bats at a European level to report on the conservation status of bats as protected species under relevant international conventions and European Directives;

Recognising the possibility for bats to be indicators of environmental quality and to contribute to assessment of CBD biodiversity targets;

Urges Parties and Range States to:

1. *Support* the development of long-term pan-European surveillance to provide Europe wide population trends for bat species and site condition monitoring of protected sites for bats, with particular reference to underground sites;
2. *Raise awareness* of the importance of underground sites for bats at the local, regional, national and supranational scales;
3. *Maintain* collaboration and information exchange within the EUROBATS Agreement area on surveillance and monitoring activities in their country;
4. *Support* the use of the Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels in developing common protocols for bat surveillance across Europe;
5. *Support* the development of standardised survey forms for use in pan-European bat surveillance and monitoring;
6. *Support* the development of appropriate data storage and analysis mechanisms to facilitate the production of Europe-wide trends for bat species;
7. *Encourage and assist* with capacity building of bat workers and surveyors and, where possible, volunteer networks in their country, to carry out bat surveillance projects.