

8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

Resolution 8.7

Bats and Climate Change



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

Noting the growing amount of scientific evidence of the impact of climate change on bats;

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

Recalling the Conservation and Management Plan of the Agreement, which recognises the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

Recalling further the Agreement Conservation and Management Plans, which recognise the conservation of bat habitats in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or commuting routes are affected;

Recalling CMS Resolution 12.21 on Climate Change and migratory species that reaffirms the adopted Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, which requests the Parties of the Convention to assess necessary steps to help migratory species cope with climate change, to address key gaps in knowledge and future research direction based on the analysis of existing long-term and large-scale datasets and calls on capacity building, knowledge sharing etc,

Recalling the Directive No. 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment on the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment and the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council No. 2001/42/EC of 27 June, 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, both of which state that the scope of information required for the purposes of impact assessments should be consistent with the current state of knowledge and methods of such assessments;

Noting the growing scientific evidence of bat species changing their range, migration, hibernation and reproductive patterns due to impact of climate change, and predicted negative consequences for populations of resident and migratory bat species;

Recognising the importance of protected areas and the Natura 2000 network for bat conservation and that often it will be necessary to enhance them in order to help bats cope with climate change recognising the need for landscape connectivity;

Recognising the importance of standardised methods for being able to develop effective monitoring and mitigation measures;

Recognising also the necessity of implementing research and monitoring;

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

1. Promote research into the effects of climate change on bats.
2. Cooperate on assessments of bat vulnerability to climate change at the EUROBATS range level.
3. Monitor changes in species migration, hibernation, reproductive and range-shift patterns and consequent species interactions.
4. Ensure habitat availability and connectivity for bats now and in the future by appropriate means of habitat protection, the establishment of ecological networks and adaptive habitat management.
5. Ensure that climate change impact on bats is taken into account in land-use planning and impact assessment in future projects evaluation.
6. Raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on bats.
7. Promote continued cooperation and collaboration between scientists, professionals and other stakeholders and international bodies whose work is related to climate change.

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Identify knowledge gaps and research priorities relating to the impacts of climate change on bats.
2. Identify standardised methodologies to evaluate species and populations vulnerability to climate change.
3. Compile all relevant scientific information to assess the impact of climate change on bats.
4. Develop guidelines for the most urgent or prioritised actions identified, if appropriate.
5. Publish any such guidelines following circulation to all Parties for approval.