AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN BATS

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30 April 2026

26th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
30th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5 – 8 May 2026, Bonn, Germany

BATS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(Prepared by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee)

Summary:
This document proposes amendments to Resolution 8.7 on Bats and Climate Change prepared by the Intersessional Working Group on Bats and Climate Change. The proposed amendments were revised by the Secretariat.

Background

The EUROBATS Meeting of the Parties first addressed climate change at its 8th session in 2018 through the adoption of Resolution 8.7 *Bats and Climate Change,* which noted growing scientific evidence of bat species changing their range, migration, hibernation and reproductive patterns due to impacts of climate change, and predicted negative consequences for populations of resident and migratory bat species.

The Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on Bats and Climate Change was established ad hoc at the 22nd Advisory Committee (AC22) meeting in 2017. The IWG was re-convened as a permanent group at AC24 in Skopje and AC27 in Sarajevo.

During the 29th Meeting of the Advisory Committee in November 2025, the IWG on Bats and Climate Change reported that a questionnaire on the impacts of climate change on bats had been circulated, but only a limited number of countries responded. Thus, a new online version would be developed, and a link would be made available to all Parties to encourage active participation and to gather key information on the effects of climate change across the EUROBATS range.

A list of all published articles on the effects of climate change on bats was to be finalised and updated by the end of 2025. However, it was considered that, in the future, it might be more effective to focus on a selection of publications whose content was particularly relevant for immediate conservation actions or policy making, rather than maintaining a fully comprehensive list.

A summary of the currently observed effects of climate change on bats had also been prepared and would be made available online.

It was further decided that the IWG would amend the current Resolution 8.7 to include heatwaves, droughts, and cold spells, all directly related to climate change, as recognised causes of mortality in roosting bats. The revised resolution would also highlight the need to monitor these events and to design and position artificial roosts in ways that mitigate heatwave-induced mortality.

Recommended actions during the joint 26th Meeting of the Standing Committee and the 30th Meeting of the Advisory Committee:

The Advisory Committee is recommended to:

a) note the progress made in implementing the conclusions of AC29 and activities of the IWG;

b) suggest the next steps to be undertaken before the next Advisory Committee meeting planned for 2027.

The Standing Committee and the Advisory Committee are recommended to discuss the draft amendments to Resolution 8.7 Bats and Climate Change, contained in Annex of this document, and suggest further amendments, if appropriate.

ANNEX

Proposed amendments to the Resolution 8.7
Bats and Climate Change

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~.

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 impacts 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~~Resolution 9.7 on Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2023 – 2026), which ~~recognises the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats~~ requests Parties to monitor changes in species migration, hibernation, reproductive and range- shift patterns and consequent species interactions, as well as increasing mortality and injury rates due to extreme weather events;

~~*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 (Rev.COP15) on Climate Change and ~~m~~Migratory ~~s~~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~~provides advice to Parties and other stakeholders on priority actions to address the issues migratory species face as a result of climate change;

~~*Recalling*~~*Noting* the Directive No. 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and 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 No. 2001/42/EC 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 Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869, which aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas in order to enable the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature, contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives and meet international commitments;

Noting the growing scientific evidence of bat species changing their range, migration, hibernation and reproductive patterns due to impacts 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;

Recognising that the increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves due to climate change can cause mass mortality in bats, especially in roosts exposed to direct sunlight or with limited ventilation;

Acknowledging that artificial roosts, while valuable for bat conservation, may exacerbate heat stress if not appropriately designed or positioned, maintained or restored;

Emphasising the need to integrate thermal safety and microclimate grading considerations into roost design, maintenance, adaptation, monitoring, and management;

Noting the increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events negatively affecting breeding and hibernation of bats;

Recognising the loss of key habitat types and water sources in biogeographical regions most impacted by climate change;

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. Raise awareness of the risks that heatwaves pose to bats, promote and support monitoring of heatwave impacts on bat populations, and ensure that the design, placement, and materials of artificial roosts minimise the risk of overheating during high-temperature events.
8. Raise awareness of extreme weather events and potential importance of bat rescue centres for minimising negative consequences of such events.
~~7~~9. 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. Identify conservation measures for mitigating negative impacts of heatwaves on bats and distribute them to Parties and non-party Range States as a technical document.
5. Keep the conservation measures in the technical document up to date;
4~~6~~. Develop guidelines for the most urgent or prioritised actions identified, if appropriate~~.~~;

~~5~~7. Publish any such guidelines following circulation to all Parties for approval.