



26th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
30th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5 – 8 May 2026, Bonn, Germany

EUROBATS STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 - 2038

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document presents a proposed new Resolution for the adoption of the EUROBATS Strategic Plan 2026 - 2038, developed by the Secretariat and the Parties following the mandate provided by the 25th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Background

The initial incentive to develop this strategic document came from the Government of Switzerland during the negotiations concerning the Swiss voluntary contribution in 2025. Switzerland noted that EUROBATS lacked an overarching long-term strategic document that would provide the Parties with a clearer time- and priority-based framework for planning activities, including as a basis for funding decisions and voluntary contributions.

The proposal was subsequently taken up at StC25 on 6 June 2025, where the overall process for developing the Strategic Plan was discussed. Members of the Standing Committee noted that the available budget was not sufficient to engage an external consultant. They agreed that this would not necessarily be advantageous, as EUROBATS' in-house expertise, given its familiarity with the Agreement's activities, history, and quadrennial implementation processes, was best placed to develop the document. With regard to indicators and reporting, the Standing Committee further emphasised that the workload for the Parties should not be increased and that, where appropriate, existing indicators already used under other international agreements should be utilised.

The first draft of the Strategic Plan was prepared by the Secretariat following the recommendations of StC25 and presented at a hybrid workshop held in conjunction with the Advisory Committee meeting in Bonn from 4 to 6 November 2025. During this session, the Secretariat presented the first version of the Vision and Strategic Plan, initiated and financially supported by the Government of Switzerland. The workshop also provided an opportunity to draw on lessons learned from colleagues involved in the strategic processes of CMS and AEWA, as well as to gain insights into the current strategy of the Bat Conservation Trust and the bat conservation system in Switzerland.

Two follow-up online workshops were subsequently held in March and April 2026 to collect further suggestions and comments from the Parties. The comments received were, to the extent possible, incorporated into the present draft version of the Strategic Plan dated 28 April 2026.

A suggestion was made that targets should more closely follow the SMART principle, meaning that they should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. At the same time, several participants noted that the Strategic Plan should remain a high-level document and should not include overly specific operational activities. It was therefore suggested, and agreed, that more detailed and specific activities should instead be outlined in the Resolution on Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan and subsequently integrated into the Secretariat's workplan.

The Secretariat later received several comments from Switzerland, which will be presented during the meeting as a separate document for further discussion.

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

The Standing Committee and the Advisory Committee are invited to discuss the draft Resolution on EUROBATS Strategic Plan 2026 - 2038, contained in the Annex to this document, and suggest further amendments, if appropriate.

ANNEX

Draft Resolution 10.X

Adoption of EUROBATS Strategic Plan 2026 - 2038

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

Taking into account the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032, which urges Parties and Non-Parties and the CMS Family of instruments to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan into relevant policy and planning instruments;

Recognising the initiative and contribution of Switzerland in developing the EUROBATS Vision and Strategic Plan;

Acknowledging the work of the Secretariat, the Parties, the Standing Committee and the Advisory Committee in preparing the draft EUROBATS Strategic Plan 2026-2038 (ESP) for presentation to the 10th Meeting of the Parties;

Noting that currently EUROBATS Resolutions on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan cover a single quadrennium, and that this timeframe is too limited to achieve long-term objectives and targets;

Recognising that the Guide to the Implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (2023), which provides practical guidance to Parties on fulfilling their commitments under the Agreement, lacks concrete timelines for implementation;

Recognising that the absence of a Strategic Plan has impeded effective long-term planning for the implementation of the Agreement, including its financing and reporting processes;

Acknowledging the importance of enhancing the harmonisation of reporting and implementation processes with other international conventions and frameworks, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EU Habitats Directive);

Appreciating that the Strategic Plan establishes priorities to guide the work of Parties, the Advisory Committee, and the EUROBATS Secretariat;

Decides to adopt the EUROBATS Strategic Plan for 2026–2038 as contained in Annex 1;

Urges Parties to take the Strategic Plan into account in the implementation of the Agreement at national level and, where appropriate, in relevant national policy, planning, monitoring and reporting processes;

Urges Parties and invites donor organisations and other relevant partners to make available financial and other resources for the full implementation of the ESP;

Instructs the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Advisory Committee, to develop a detailed budgeted workplan for the implementation of the ESP;

Instructs the Secretariat to review the national implementation reporting format, with a view to aligning it, where appropriate, with the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan;

Instructs the Advisory Committee to provide technical advice, as appropriate, on the implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Plan;

Instructs the Standing Committee to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to report on progress to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties;

Decides that the implementation of the Strategic Plan shall be reviewed by the Meeting of the Parties at its ordinary sessions and updated as necessary.

EUROBATS STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 - 2038

DRAFT VERSION 06.05.2026

EUROBATS Vision Statement: By 2038, all European bat species have favourable conservation status, connected habitats and maintain viable, self-sustaining populations (derives from the Agreement text, compatible with CMS SPMS 2024-2032^[1] and Bern Convention vision statements^[2]).

EUROBATS Mission: To secure conservation and recovery of European bat populations through international cooperation, science-based decision-making, and public engagement (Agreement text).

Strategic goal	Compatible Strategic Documents	EUROBATS Target	Corresponding Resolutions
Goal 1. The conservation status of European bat populations is improved	GBF Target 4 CMS SPMS Goal 1 Bern SP Goal 2, Target 2.1	1.1 By 2030 and thereafter, all taxonomically valid European bat species are listed in Annex 1 to the Agreement 1.2 By 2030, a standard methodology for assessing conservation status of bats in the Agreement area is defined, consistent with existent methodologies 1.3 By 2030, studies on the ecology of bat species with unfavourable status are appropriately prioritised 1.4 By 2032, species with unfavourable conservation status are identified in the entire Agreement area or in parts thereof	9.2. Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement 2.3: Transboundary Programme: Species Proposals 5.4 Monitoring Bats across Europe 2.2: Consistent Monitoring Methodologies 10. X Improving Methodologies of Assessment of Favourable Conservation Status in Bats 6.3: Geographical Scope of the Agreement 9.3 Priority Species for Autecological Studies 4.4 and 9.4: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
Goal 2. Important bat habitats sites are identified, protected and	GBF Targets 1-3, 10, 12 CMS SPMS goal 2	2.1 By 2030, the most important bat sites are identified by Parties 2.2 By 2034, most important bat sites are protected and monitored	7.6: Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats 8.5: Conservation and Management of Important Overground Sites for Bats 2.4: Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals

<p>if necessary improved</p>	<p>Bern SP Goal 1, Target 1.1</p>	<p>2.3 By 2034, the loss, degradation and fragmentation of important bat sites is reduced to level that does not negatively impact the conservation status of bat populations</p> <p>2.4 Restoration and creation of bat habitats is considered in developing national conservation plans</p>	<p>5.7: Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with Particular Reference to Roosts in Buildings of Cultural</p> <p>7.8: Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes</p> <p>8.3: Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats</p> <p>8.12: Purpose-built Man-made Roosts</p> <p>4.4 and 9.4: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations</p> <p>4.4 and 7.7: Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management</p>
<p>Goal 3. Threats to European bats are identified and significantly reduced</p>	<p>GBF Targets 5-8, 14 CMS SPMS Goal 3 Bern SP Goal 2, Target 2.2</p>	<p>3.1 By 2030, all major threats and causes of population declines in European bats are identified and addressed through resolutions or guidance documents</p> <p>3.2 By 2034, Parties have strategies in place to reduce threats to a level that does not negatively impact the conservation status of bat populations</p>	<p>8.13: Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe</p> <p>7.10: Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation 8.8: Guidelines for Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation</p> <p>6.6: Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection and Control of Lethal Fungal Infections in Bats</p> <p>7.7: Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management</p> <p>4.4 and 9.4: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations</p> <p>8.9: Bats, Insulation and Lining Materials</p> <p>7.9: Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats</p> <p>8.6: Bats and Light Pollution</p> <p>4.5: Guidelines for the Use of Remedial Timber Treatment</p> <p>6.15: Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock</p> <p>8.7: Bats and Climate Change</p>
<p>Goal 4. Implementation of EUROBATS is supported by effective governance,</p>	<p>GBF Targets 14, 21 CMS SPMS Goals 5 and 6</p>	<p>4.1 By 2030, Parties have mechanisms in place, including national legislation and enforcement mechanisms where relevant, to implement the Agreement</p>	<p>6.13: Bats as Indicators for Biodiversity</p> <p>10. X: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2027 - 2030)</p> <p>9.5: Support to Authorities Dealing with Bat Assessment Reports</p>

<p>including the use of the best available science and information, necessary resources and collaborative working</p>	<p>Bern SP Goal 2, Target 2.2 GBF Targets 19-21 CMS SPMS Goal 4 Bern SP Goal 4</p>	<p>4.2 By 2034, national guidance documents and recommendations are developed by Parties, drawing on generic EUROBATS guidelines and recommendations</p> <p>4.3 By 2030 and thereafter, Parties submit up-to-date national reports on the implementation of the Agreement to each MoP in a timely manner</p> <p>4.4 Sufficient resources are available to implement this Strategic Plan as soon as possible</p> <p>4.5 Parties collaborate with NGOs and other stakeholders to implement the Agreement</p> <p>4.6. By 2038, all Range States are Parties to EUROBATS</p>	<p>8.10: Recommended Experience and Skills of Experts with regard to Quality of Assessments</p> <p>4.6 as amended by 5.5: Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats</p> <p>3.4: Guidelines for the issue of permits for Bat Ringing activities</p> <p>3.3 and 7.4: Format of National Implementation Reports</p> <p>1.6: Format and Frequency of National Reports</p> <p>7.3: Implementation of the Agreement</p> <p>3.1: Integration of the EUROBATS Secretariat into the UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit</p> <p>6.10: Synergies between the Agreement and Other European Treaties for Nature Conservation</p> <p>4.10: Contribution to the CBD/CMS Joint Work Programme</p> <p>8.3: Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats</p> <p>6.4 as amended by 7.15: Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)</p> <p>5.2: Bat Rabies in Europe</p> <p>9.6: Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health</p> <p>6.5: Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Field Work Practices</p> <p>6.9: Year of the Bat</p> <p>6.13: Bats as Indicators for Biodiversity</p> <p>4.11: Recognising the Important Role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Bat Conservation</p> <p>1.1: Clarification of the Area of the Agreement</p>
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^[1] See at https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop14_res.14.1_samarkand-spms-2024-2032_e.pdf

^[2] See at [Vision & Strategic Plan 2030 - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats](#)