



**26<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**30<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

5 – 8 May 2026, Bonn, Germany

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**MONITORING BATS ACROSS EUROPE**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee)*

Summary:

This document proposes amendments to Resolution 5.4 on Monitoring Bats Across Europe, prepared by the Intersessional Working Group on Monitoring and Indicators with the assistance of the Secretariat.

Background

The draft amendments are required in light of the new *Guidelines for Long-Term Monitoring of European Bats*, developed by the Intersessional Working Group on Monitoring and Indicators, which is intended to replace EUROBATS Publication Series No. 5. A draft version of the new guidance will be made available online as an information document for comments before the joint 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee and the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee. The draft Guidelines are available as document Inf.EUROBATS.StC26-AC30.10 on the EUROBATS website.

The amendments also refer to the dataset on European bat monitoring programmes compiled and published by the Intersessional Working Group. The dataset is available under DOI 10.5281/zenodo.15346727 and on the EUROBATS website.

Regular future updates are anticipated and will require continued support from the Parties.

Recommended actions during the joint 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee and the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee:

The Standing Committee and the Advisory Committee are recommended to:  
discuss the draft amendments to Resolution 5.4: Monitoring Bats across Europe, contained in the Annex of this document, and suggest further amendments, if appropriate.

**ANNEX**

Proposed amendments to the Resolution 5.4:  
Monitoring Bats across Europe

*NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~. Changes to the order and numbering of paragraphs are not indicated.*

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

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

*Recalling Resolution 6.10 on Synergies between the Agreement and Other European Treaties for Nature Conservation, which encourages cooperation and the exchange of information between governmental institutions dealing with nature conservation at the regional, national or European level, in order to create and make use of synergies between the Agreement and other international treaties for nature conservation;*

*Recalling Resolution 6.13 on Bats as Indicators for Biodiversity, which aims to encourage cooperation platforms that facilitate the exchange of bat monitoring data required for developing bats as indicators of biodiversity;*

*Recalling Resolution 7.6 Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats that promotes the protection and monitoring of underground roosts.*

*Recalling Resolution 8.3 on Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movement of Bats, which prioritises studies calculating population sizes and trends;*

*Recalling Resolution 8.5 on Conservation and Management of Important Overground Sites for Bats, which identifies critical roosting sites that need surveillance and protection;*

*Recalling Resolution 8.6 on Bats and Light Pollution, which encourages bat monitoring for impact assessment and post-installation studies;*

*Recalling Resolution 8.7 on Bats and Climate Change, which aims at promoting research on the effects of climate change on bat populations;*

*Recalling Resolution 9.2 on Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement, which adds new species under the protection of the Agreement;*

Recalling Resolution 9.4 on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations, where bat monitoring is encouraged during appropriate impact assessment;

Recalling also the recommendations of the Agreement's Resolution 9.7 on Implementation of the 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 and international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

Noting 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 aim 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;

Noting the growing need for robust monitoring of bat population trends across European countries, in view of the lack of available data and information to support the implementation of conservation policy;

Recognising delays in a number of countries in the implementation of previous Resolutions, in particular with regard to implementing appropriate monitoring schemes;

Recognising the work of the Advisory Committee in compiling and publishing an open online database containing information on current bat monitoring programmes carried out across Europe;

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 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;~~

Recognising the work of the Advisory Committee in developing the Guidelines for Long-Term Monitoring of European Bats, as recommended in Resolution 9.7 on Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan 2023-2026;

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

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

Recognising the need for standardised monitoring protocols, as highlighted in the EUROBATS guidance documents on the conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes for bats, the consideration of bats in lighting projects, and the consideration of bats in wind farm projects;

*Recognising* the importance of 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 that the upsurge of novel technologies has significantly transformed the ways of collecting and analysing bat population data;

*Recognising* the potential possibility of ~~for~~ bats to ~~be~~ serve as indicators of environmental quality and to contribute to assessment of targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ~~CBD biodiversity targets;~~

*Urges* Parties and non-party Range States to support:

1. the development of long-term pan-European surveillance programme to provide Europe-wide population trends for as many bat species as possible and site condition monitoring of protected sites for bats, with particular reference to ~~underground~~ roosting sites; foraging and commuting areas and key habitats;
2. the development of standardised survey protocols for use in pan-European bat surveillance and monitoring, based on the recently published online database of Bat Monitoring Programmes Implemented Across Europe;
3. ~~the development of standardised survey forms for use in pan-European bat surveillance and monitoring~~ the implementation of new standardised protocols using new technologies such as passive acoustic monitoring and AI-powered classification to support bat monitoring programmes and the assessment of population trends across the Agreement area;
4. ~~the development of appropriate data storage and analysis mechanisms to facilitate the production of Europe-wide trends for bat species;~~ the implementation and use of appropriate online dynamic databases and repository services which are already available for the development of a pan-European system to facilitate data compilation, and the production of Europe-wide trends for bat species;

5. the use of the ~~Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels~~ Guidelines for Long-Term Monitoring of European Bats in developing common protocols for bat surveillance across Europe.

Also urges Parties and non-party Range States to:

6. *Maintain* collaboration and information exchange within the EUROBATS Agreement area on surveillance and monitoring activities in ~~their~~ each country;
7. *Raise* awareness of the importance of ~~underground~~ bat roosting and foraging sites ~~for bats~~ at the local, regional, national and supranational scales;
8. *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, with particular emphasis on the usage of novel technologies.

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Maintain and develop further the online database of bat monitoring programmes implemented across the Agreement area;
2. Identify key knowledge gaps and research priorities related to bat monitoring programmes;
3. Review bat monitoring programmes implemented across the Agreement area and explore opportunities for cooperation, including the development of common indicators and population trends;
4. Develop standardised survey protocols to support bat monitoring programmes, incorporating both established and emerging technologies.

Instructs the Secretariat to publish the Guidelines for Long-Term Monitoring of European Bats following circulation to all Parties through the written procedure