



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

5 – 8 May 2026, Bonn, Germany

**PREVENTION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS OF ANTHROPOGENIC TRAPS
ON BATS**

(Prepared by the Secretariat and the AC)

Summary:

This document presents a proposed new Resolution on prevention of adverse effects of anthropogenic traps on bats, prepared by the Secretariat with the support of the Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

Background

The Intersessional Working Group on Anthropogenic Deadly Traps for Bats was established at the 27th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) in 2023, where it was decided that the tasks of the IWG should include:

1. Collecting examples of significant anthropogenic deadly traps for bats;
2. Providing details on each type of trap, such as bat species at risk, seasons when the risk occurs, preliminary assessment of the degree of threat, regional specifics (if applicable), examples, pictures, references, etc.;
3. Collecting and evaluating practices for preventing, reducing the impact of, or eliminating the effects of these traps;
4. Developing guidelines or other training materials summarising the examples collected and suggesting measures for educating various stakeholders.

It was decided that the work plan of the IWG should include:

1. Preparing an online form for reporting risks;
2. Suggesting risks and mitigation methods by IWG members;
3. Consulting with various stakeholders on the list of risks and possible solutions, including national experts, rehabilitation centres, NGOs, conservation authorities;
4. Preparing a summary (draft guidelines or other educational material).

During the 28th Meeting of the Advisory Committee in 2024, it was reported that the IWG had prepared a questionnaire for submitting descriptions of anthropogenic deadly traps for bats and of methods to avoid or mitigate their negative impacts.

At the 29th Meeting of the Advisory Committee in 2025, the Convenor of the IWG reported that 43 answers to the online questionnaire had been received, identifying 30 different

types of traps. Of these, 28 met the criteria for the inclusion in the IWG's work, namely that they caused significant mortality and required specific mitigation measures and rescue methods for bats. The IWG was tasked with:

1. Completing the list of traps;
2. Gaining a more detailed understanding of each trap type, including its geographical range, the species affected, the scale of damage caused and best practices for minimising impacts;
3. Providing detailed descriptions of individual trap types, with a division of labour among IWG members;
4. Drafting a resolution on the issue;
5. Holding a final discussion on the guidelines and, if appropriate, conducting external consultations.

The first working version of the draft resolution was presented and the IWG reported that subsequent work would be conducted online after AC29.

The deadline for the IWG convenors to submit draft guidance documents and resolutions for discussion at the joint meeting of the Standing and the Advisory Committee was 2 March 2026. This was intended to allow the Secretariat sufficient time for review and, if required, revision. Despite repeated requests, the Secretariat did not receive any updates on the activities of the IWG after AC29, nor an updated draft resolution. In consultation with the Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, the Secretariat produced a draft Resolution on the prevention of adverse effects of anthropogenic traps on bats.

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 in the activities of the IWG;
- b) suggest the next steps to be undertaken before the next Advisory Committee meeting planned for 2027;
- c) finalise the list of anthropogenic traps to be included as an annex to the draft resolution.

The Standing Committee and the Advisory Committee are invited to discuss the draft Resolution on the prevention of adverse effects of anthropogenic traps on bats, contained in the Annex of this document, and suggest further amendments, if appropriate.

Draft Resolution 10.X

Prevention of Adverse Effects of Anthropogenic Traps on Bats

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

Acknowledging the existence of scientifically sound evidence that certain man-made structures or ~~features~~ activities may unintentionally attract, capture, confine or otherwise endanger bats, resulting in an increased risk of mortality or injury (e.g. through exhaustion, drowning, disorientation or collision), and may therefore constitute anthropogenic traps;

Recalling Resolution 2.8 on Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, which recognises that those who encounter bats in the course of their work, particularly builders, roofers and members of the remedial timber treatment trade, have a particular responsibility for bat conservation;

Recalling Resolution 8.9 on Bats, Insulation and Lining Materials, which highlights that the cumulative impact of fatalities and the loss of bat roosts in buildings may have detrimental effects on bat populations, and that insulation projects should be undertaken in compliance with national legislation on bat protection by implementing appropriate pre-insulation survey and assessment, as well as mitigation and compensation measures to avoid roost loss and bat mortality;

Recommends Parties and invites non-Party Range States to:

1. Monitor, document and assess examples of bat mortality, injuries and other adverse effects caused by the anthropogenic traps, including those listed in the Annex to this Resolution, and share these examples with other Parties and non-Party Range States;
2. Raise awareness of the risks posed by anthropogenic traps to bats among relevant authorities, stakeholders and the general public, and promote collaboration with research institutions, non-governmental organisations, bat rescue centres and citizen science initiatives to enable the early detection of emerging and existing threats and to develop the most effective mitigation measures;
3. Develop and implement preventive and mitigation measures, taking into account the best available scientific and technical information and relevant EUROBATS guidance, including feasible and cost-effective solutions (e.g. covering, screening, provision of

escape structures and modification of lighting);

4. Ensure, through appropriate assessment and authorisation procedures, that the design, construction and renovation of buildings and other man-made structures avoid the creation of potential anthropogenic traps for bats, and that foreseeable risks are identified and effectively mitigated at an early stage;

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Compile and assess information on existing and potential anthropogenic traps for bats, including the scope and scale of associated mortality, injuries and other adverse effects;
2. Develop and periodically update technical guidance on the prevention and mitigation of such mortality, injuries and other adverse effects;

Requests the Secretariat to make the above-mentioned technical guidance available on the EUROBATS website and update it regularly.