

## 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

City of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 8 – 10 May 2006

### Report of the IWG on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes



#### **Members of the IWG (revised in AC10):**

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#### **Terms of reference**

Referring to the resolution 4.9, point 4: Foraging habitats; to produce a synthesis of methods used to study the critical feeding areas and commuting routes and to produce guidance for the national guidelines for bat habitat conservation.

#### **Work carried out after AC10**

After AC10 the group has sent the literature review table and list of references with background information to all scientific focal points, to be disseminated to all researchers so that they could insert any relevant published or unpublished data on critical feeding areas. 11 replies were received and for some other countries data was submitted earlier by the IWG members.

The literature list now contains approximately 140 references of which ca. 70 have been reviewed. The list is attached to this report (Appendix 1) and the group would like to encourage the participants of the meeting to check that all important literature from their countries is included. Further references relevant to the topic are most welcome.

It is apparent that for some bat species there is very little or no data included so far. Also the study methods vary which makes the analysis of the data a bit complicated. Anyhow, some conclusions can already now be drawn of the data. For example

different types of water bodies seem to be very important feeding habitats for many species. Also the importance of linear elements of the landscape is stressed in several studies.

### Work to be carried out

The next tasks for the group are reviewing all remaining references and starting the drafting of guidance for national guidelines.

A provisional list of elements to be included in the guidance is attached as Appendix 2.

### Appendix 1: List of references

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## **Appendix 2. Provisional list of elements for the guidance for national guidelines**

- introduction, background
  - o why should bat habitats be conserved and managed
  - o to whom is the guidance – for land owners and managers, foresters etc
  - o ecology of bats briefly – what do bats need in landscape
- what is an important feeding area or commuting route
  - o surveys needed to get an idea of important areas, roost sites and commuting routes
  - o surveys needed specially when land use is going to be changed
    - importance of monitoring, see monitoring guidelines
- how to protect important habitats?
  - o forest practices – see Bats in forests –brochure
  - o bats in agricultural landscape
  - o built areas?
  - o water bodies
  - o linear elements and routes to roost
- the process of taking bat habitats into account in developing etc.
- species by species guidance
  - o general guidance for all bats
  - o detailed guidance at species level from case studies
    - note the flying ability of the young
- examples of successful habitat management cases
- list of references