

Report of the AC8 Working Group on bat conservation and forestry

The AC8 Working Group was composed by Nikola Tvrtkovic (Croatia), Peter Boye (Germany), Gunars Petersons (Latvia), Aleksandar Nastov (Macedonia), Dumitru T. Murariu (Romania), Jana Kristanc (Slovenia), Johnny de Jong (Sweden), Andriy-Taras Bashta (Ukraine) and Anthony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom). They met twice on Tuesday, 13 May 2003, to revise the Draft Resolution 4.4, having in mind the presentation of the Intersessional Working Group on forestry practices and the additional plenary discussion.

The Draft Resolution was amended in such a way, that it refers very much to the results of the Living Forest Summit (Vienna 2003) of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the BEAR research project:

- It highlights bat conservation as an important aspect for the assessment of sustainability of forestry practices, which should be included into the MCPFE set of indicators for this purpose.
- It emphasises the need to analyse bat species' occurrence and to classify bat communities in relation to the 33 Forest Types for Biodiversity Assessments in Europe.
- It recommends to provide Red Lists of bats to meet the requirements of the agreed MCPFE indicator for biodiversity in forests.

The Working Group agreed that bat conservation in forests will need full protection of certain key areas and key elements of bats, but that appropriate forest and land management could be in accordance with bat conservation if it follows basic principals of sustainability.

The Working Group further recommended that EUROBATS should approach the MCPFE to get an observer status and give special input for the benefit of bat conservation. When such a co-operation is implemented the guidelines on bat-friendly forestry practices, which are mentioned in the joint work programme of CBD and CMS, should be developed in consultation with MCPFE bodies