

14th Meeting of the Standing Committee
23rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tallinn, Estonia, 14 – 17 May 2018

Draft Resolution 8.7

Bats and Climate Change



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

Noting the growing amount of scientific evidence of the impact of climate change on bats;

Recalling Resolution 2.2 on Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, which recommends the adoption of consistent monitoring methods for bats across Europe;

Recalling the Conservation and Management Plan of the Agreement, which recognises the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

Recalling further the Agreement Conservation and Management Plans, which recognise the conservation of bat habitats in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or commuting routes are affected;

Recalling CMS Resolution 12.21 on Climate Change and migratory species that reaffirms adopted Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, which requests the Parties of the Convention to assess necessary steps to help migratory species cope with climate change, to address key gaps in knowledge and future research direction based on the analysis of existing long-term and large-scale datasets and calls on capacity building, knowledge sharing etc,

Recalling the Directive No. 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment on the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment and the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council No. 2001/42/EC of June 27 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, both of which state that the scope of

information required for the purposes of impact assessments should be consistent with the current state of knowledge and methods of such assessments;

Noting the growing scientific evidence of bat species changing their range, migration, hibernation and reproductive patterns due to impact of climate change, and predicted negative consequences for populations of resident and migratory bat species;

Recognising the importance of protected areas and Natura 2000 network for bat conservation and that often will be necessary to enhance them in order to help bats cope with climate change recognizing the need for landscape connectivity ;

Recognising the importance of standardised methods for being able to develop effective monitoring and mitigation measures;

Recognising also the necessity of implementing research and monitoring;

Urges Parties and non-party Range States, if not already done so, to:

1. Seek to identify measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change;
2. Identify, use and promote standardized methodology to evaluate species and populations vulnerability to climate change;
3. Undertake vulnerability assessments of bats to climate change at the EUROBATS range level;
4. Take into account the vulnerability of bat species and populations, if necessary, for most vulnerable prepare national or regional action plans;
5. Encourage and support the identification of research gaps and research priorities across EUROBATS range on impacts of climate change on bats;
6. Identify or develop common monitoring techniques for the evaluation of the impact of climate change on bats;
7. Monitor changes in species migration, hibernation, reproductive and range-shift patterns and species interaction;
8. Ensure habitat availability and connectivity by identifying priority areas experiencing rapid climate impacts now or in the future for appropriate protection and adaptive management;
9. Ensure that climate change impact on bats is taken into account in land-use planning, environmental and strategic impact assessment in future projects evaluation;

10. Raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on bats;
11. Promote continued cooperation and collaboration between scientists, professionals, stakeholders and international bodies whose work is related to Climate Change.

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Compile all relevant scientific information in order to assess impact of climate change on bats and, if appropriate, develop guidelines for most urgent or prioritized actions identified.