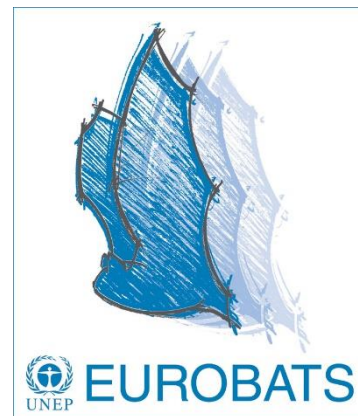


28th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Online meeting, 8-11 April 2024



Report of IWG on the Protection of Overground Roosts with Particular Reference to Roosts in Buildings of Cultural Heritage Importance for 2023/24

The Intersessional Working Group was established at [AC in Sarajevo](#) in the year 2023. In its working plan for the first year the first item was: 1.) Reviewing of the topic (analysis of national reports, ...). Therefore, an analysis of the latest national reports found on the [EUROBATS page](#) has been done.

[Resolution No. 5.7](#) *Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance* urges parties also on three related topics (not exclusively) covered by EUROBATS reporting format:

- a) on establishment of national databases of important overground roosts;
- b) on preparation of guidelines for custodians of historical buildings on the protection of bat roosts;
- c) on the interactions between the relevant cultural and natural heritage agencies.

Answers of 42 national reports (without comments) are presented in Table 1.

The results are:

- a) Just 45 percent of the national reports are less than 5 years old (Fig. 1).
-> Therefore other 55 percent might not represent the current status.
- b) A bit less than 35 percent of countries have a national database (Fig. 2). Just over 35 percent of the countries do not have such a list (but may have regional lists). No country indicated if databases of important overground roost are linked with database of cultural heritage buildings.
-> Unfortunately, no details on the number of roosts included and bats species covered were provided (with 1-2 exceptions), so no general pattern could be extracted.

c) Just 10 percent of countries have their own national guidelines for custodians of historical buildings.

-> Question arises if the topic is not important for other countries.

d) Few countries submitted relevant interactions between the relevant cultural and natural heritage agencies.

-> With one exception there is obvious lack of (reporting?) on systematic approach in connecting these two conservation bodies.

e) No national report indicated existence of schemes/grants to ensure maintenance of bats during renovation/restoration.

-> Do they exist at all?

f) Very few countries have indicated at least partial inclusion of natural heritage element in their training of architects and engineers

- > Too detailed a request?

g) Some countries face difficulties to protect the attics and other privately-owned roosts or at least this is very complicated for them as there is a lack of clear national legal framework.

Table 1: Answers in national reports of parties and range state of EUROBATs on Protection of Overground Roosts with Particular Reference to Roosts in Buildings of Cultural Heritage Importance

Party / Range state	Country	Last report	Age of report	2.4 List of national important overground roosts (including legal/physical protection status)	2.5. National guidelines for custodians of historical buildings on the protection of bat roosts have been developed	2.6. Summary report on interactions between the relevant cultural and natural heritage agencies file or provide a description)
Party	Albania	2018	6	Doesn't exist	No	Some efforts were done during the last years to protect some overground roosts, but no official list at the national level yet. The importance of cultural heritage building for bats conservation were officially mentioned by the Ministry of Environment (now Ministry of Tourism and Environment) to the Ministry of Culture, in charge of the management of these sites.
Party	Greece	2010	14	?	?	
Party	Belgium	2018	6	Exists	No	
Party	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2009	15	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	Bulgaria	2010	14	?	?	
Party	Croatia	2018	6	Doesn't exist	No	Cooperation between the cultural heritage conservation departments or managers and nature protection sector in regards to bat roosts in cultural heritage buildings has been sporadic. In a few cases restoration works have been conducted in cooperation and under supervision of bat experts. Conservation measures for bats, to be undertaken during restoration of cultural heritage buildings, were given by bat experts in a few cases.
Party	Czechia	2018	6	Exists	No	Custodes or owners of historical buildings are contacted and concrete situation is solved directly with them (damage of timber by bat urine, renovation of historical building with bat roost, holding bat events)
Party	Denmark	2021	3	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	Estonia	2022	2	Exists	Yes	
Party	Finland	2022	2	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	France	2021	3	Exists	Yes	/
Party	Georgia	2022	2	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	Germany	2022	2	Exists	No	
Party	Hungary	2022	2	Exists	No	/
Party	Ireland	2022	2	Exists	Yes	
Party	Israel	2022	2	Exists	No	Not investigated
Party	Italy	2018	6	Exists	No	There are not many cases of interactions between the relevant cultural heritage and nature conservation agencies. In some cases, a proactive and collaborative approach was adopted, but the process needs to evolve further towards a better perception of the importance of protecting bats along with the building they roost in.
Party	Latvia	2022	2	Exists	No	none
Party	Lithuania	2014	10	?	?	
Party	Luxembourg	2018	6	?	?	
Party	Malta	2022	2	Doesn't exist	No	These interactions have not been documented.
Party	Moldova	2018	6	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	Monaco	2018	6	Doesn't exist	No	Considering the small size of the territory, the important overground roots are well known to the authorities.
Party	The Netherlands	2018	6	Exists	Yes	

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Party	North Macedonia	2022	2	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	Norway	2022	2	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	Poland	2022	2	Exists	No	<p>The cooperation is going well because the works for the bats have the nature of renovation and renovation EUROBATS National Implementation Report MoP9 [Party: Poland,] Page 19 of 26 works, Below is a description of a typical activity from 2019.</p> <p>On October 13, 2019, we helped our pupils living in the Natura 2000 area Kiszewo PLH300037 located in the Notecka Forest near Poznań.</p> <p>At the request of the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Poznań, we have carried out works there that will provide better protection to the specimens of the large nock, which during their reproduction period inhabit the attic of the church in the village of Kiszewo.</p> <p>For this purpose, we secured ventilation openings to the attic, thus preventing the access of predators of these mammals, including the barn owl that inhabits the belfry of the church.</p> <p>We also secured the attic floors of the church against the harmful effects of bat droppings on the wooden structure of the attic.</p>
Party	Portugal	2018	6	Doesn't exist (but might be regional ones)	No	
Party	Romania	2022	2	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	San Marino	2010	14	?	?	
Party	Serbia	2010	14	?	?	
Party	Slovakia	2014	10	?	?	
Party	Slovenia	2010	14	?	?	
Party	Sweden	2006	18	?	?	
Party	Ukraine	2022	2	Doesn't exist	No	
Party	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2022	2	Exists	Yes	<p>A partnership made up of Natural England, Church of England (Cathedral and Church Buildings Division), Historic England, Bat Conservation Trust and Churches Conservation Trust are working together to use the latest research to provide innovative solutions that support churches with bats. You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer. Bats and Churches</p>
Range States	Algeria	2018	6	Doesn't exist	No	
Range States	Austria	2015	9	?	?	
Range States	Belarus	2022	2	Doesn't exist	No	
Range States	Russian Federation	2008	16	?	?	
Range States	Armenia	2022	2	Exists	No	
Range States	Azerbaijan	2010	14	?	?	

Fig. 1: Classes of National reports age

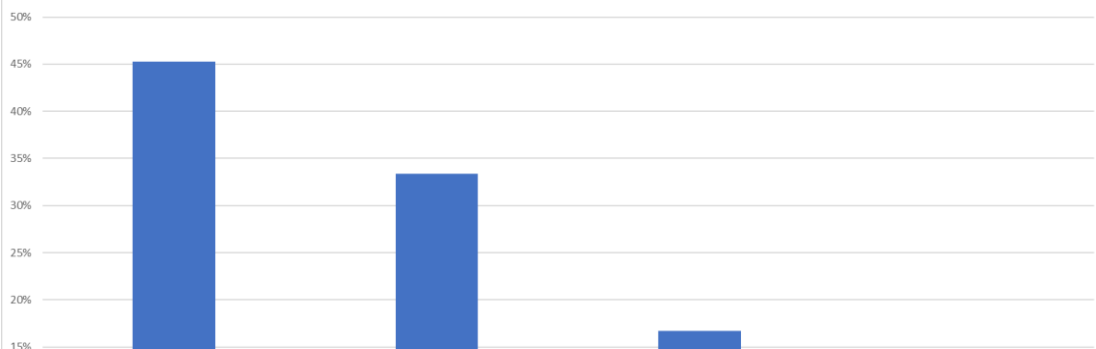


Fig. 2: Does the List of national important overground roosts exist?

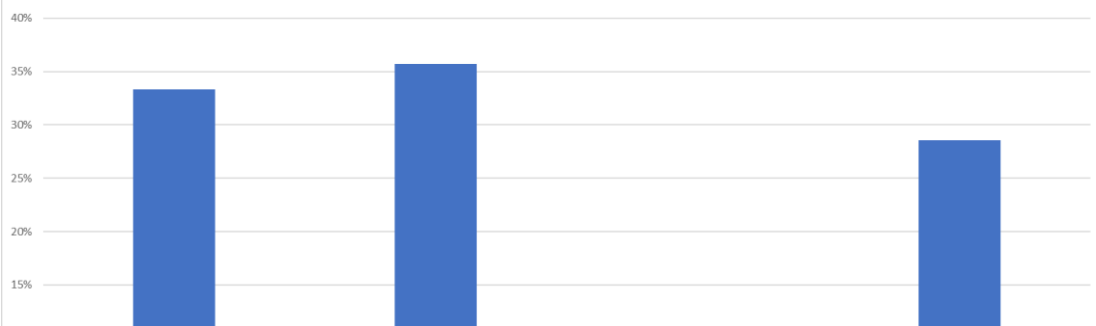


Fig. 3: Does the National guidelines for custodians of historical buildings on the protection of bat roosts exist?

