

## **A guide to the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)**

### **Contents**

#### **Executive Summary**

This document is intended to help Parties to implement the Eurobats Agreement. It provides an overview of the Agreement and reviews each of the commitments undertaken by Parties to the Agreement. As well as providing guidance to Parties, this document summarises the fundamental obligations of the Agreement and will be of value to all range states and other interested organizations and individuals.

EUROBATS is a daughter agreement of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its principal aim is to provide coordination and direction for the conservation, protection and research of European bat populations across their range. The fundamental obligations of Eurobats relate to the implementation of a licensing system; the identification and protection of important sites; the conservation of bat habitats; the promotion of the awareness and conservation of bats; the provision of advice in relation to bats; the need for action to safeguard threatened bat populations; the promotion of research; and consideration of the effects of pesticides. The up-to-date Resolutions pertaining to each of these obligations are summarised.

*To be finalised when document is completed*

### **1. Introduction**

#### *1.1. The Agreement*

The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (originally the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe) came into force in 1994 and by 2014 a total of 35 out of 63 range states had acceded to the Agreement. The Agreement, commonly known as EUROBATS, was set up under the auspices of the [\*Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals\*](#) (CMS or the Bonn Convention) which recognises that endangered migratory species can be properly protected only if activities are co-ordinated over the entire migratory range of the species. The EUROBATS Agreement aims to protect all European bat species (52 currently recognized) through legislation, education, conservation measures and international co-operation between Agreement members and with those who have not yet joined<sup>1</sup>. The Agreement provides a framework of co-operation for the conservation of bats throughout Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East.

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<sup>1</sup> Countries that have joined the Agreement are known as Parties. Countries within the scope of the Agreement but who have yet to join are referred to as non-Party range states.

The full text of the Agreement and the scope and activities of EUROBATS can be viewed at its web site: <http://www.eurobats.org/>.

In 1995, the First Session of the Meeting of Parties to the Agreement formed an action plan (*Res. 1.6 (MoPI Record, Annex K). Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan*), which was to be translated into international action. It also established an Advisory Committee to carry forward this Plan between the Meetings of Parties.

A history of the development of the Agreement and an assessment of its work during its first 15 years can be found in Eurobats Publication Series No.1 (UNEP/EUROBATS Secretariat, 2006). This publication also includes many statements from individual Parties giving examples of their activities to meet the objectives of the Agreement. It can be downloaded here: [http://www.eurobats.org/publications/eurobats\\_publication\\_series](http://www.eurobats.org/publications/eurobats_publication_series)

Although set up under the auspices of CMS, the Agreement is an independent international treaty with its own bodies. These are the Meeting of Parties, the Standing Committee, the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat, which reports directly to the Parties. The Secretariat is co-located with the Secretariats of the Convention and two other Agreements, sharing a joint financial and personnel administration.

The Depository for the Agreement is the UK, whose Foreign Office deals with matters of accession. The Depository also has a permanent position on the Standing Committee and is responsible for checking the credentials of Parties attending Sessions of the Meeting of Parties.

#### *1.2. Legal framework of Agreement and Resolutions*

EUROBATS is a CMS Article IV AGREEMENT. Article IV of the Convention provides *inter alia* that species which have an unfavorable conservation status and which require international Agreements for their conservation and management or would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an Agreement should be listed on Appendix II of the Convention. Parties that are Range States of migratory species listed in Appendix II shall endeavor to conclude Agreements where these should benefit the species.

Such Agreements are binding international treaties. Resolutions adopted at the Sessions of the Meeting of Parties are equally binding and may require amendments to be enacted to the national legislation of each Party.

#### *1.4. National Reports*

An important feature of the Agreement is the comprehensive National Report produced for each Session of the Meeting of Parties. This report is a requirement of all Parties. Non-Party Range States are also encouraged to submit national reports detailing, *inter alia*, how their country is progressing with the ratification of the Agreement. Up-dates are also requested for Advisory Committee meetings. All National Reports are made available online here: [http://www.eurobats.org/official\\_documents/national\\_reports](http://www.eurobats.org/official_documents/national_reports)

The National Reports allow an assessment of the progress on bat conservation on a pan-European scale. They highlight achievements of the individual countries, and include many examples of successful activities that can be adopted by other Range States, as well as reports on fresh initiatives and their success (or otherwise).

The National Reports can serve as an incentive for systematic collection of data and information related to bats and help to identify research activities which may allow opportunities for collaboration between Parties. The National Reports also help identify areas where Range States are failing to advance certain aspects of the Agreement and where further help may be beneficial. The National Report format can serve as the starting point for the planning of national implementation activities under the EUROBATS Agreement.

### *1.5. Role of Secretariat*

Following an interim secretariat based in UK, a permanent EUROBATS Secretariat was established by the First Session of the Meeting of Parties in 1995 (MoP 1 Annex G - Res. 1.3. Resolution on the establishment and the location of the permanent Secretariat)

It started working in Bonn, Germany, in 1996 and is co-located with the Secretariat of the Bonn Convention and other environment and development-related United Nations institutions at the UN Campus in Bonn. Its particular functions are to:

- exchange information and co-ordinate international research and monitoring initiatives;
- arrange the Meetings of the Parties and the Advisory and Standing Committee meetings;
- stimulate proposals for improving the effectiveness of the Agreement, and attract more countries to participate in and join the Agreement;
- stimulate public awareness of the threats to European bat species and what can be done at all levels to prevent their numbers dwindling further.”

The Secretariat currently comprises an Executive Secretary, three part-time Administrative support officers and a part-time associate scientific and project officer.

### *1.6. Roles of the Meeting of the Parties and Committees*

#### *Meeting of the Parties (MoP)*

A session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP) is held every four years<sup>2</sup>. At the MoP, Range States provide national reports on the implementation of the Agreement, the budget and scale of contributions for the next quadrennium are agreed and Resolutions to assist in implementing the principles of the Agreement, including a work programme for the next intersessional period, are discussed and adopted. The full terms of reference for the Meeting of Parties are given in Article V of the Agreement.

#### *Advisory Committee (AC)*

An Advisory Committee (AC) was established through *Res. 1.6 (MoP1 Record, Annex H). Resolution on the Establishment of an Advisory Committee*. The committee meets annually and is open to all Parties and non-Party Range States, to Observers deemed appropriate by Parties and to invited advisors. The role of the AC is to provide expert advice and information to the secretariat and the Parties on the conservation and management of bats and other matters in relation to the running of the Agreement. The operational principles of the committee are given in *Resolution 6.18: Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee*.

Working Groups may be established during MoPs (under Article V.2 of the Agreement) or at AC meetings to develop reports and/or Resolutions on matters of concern to the Agreement. Their work may be completed at the meeting, but they are often established as Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) to progress work between meetings. The AC currently has 15 such working groups covering a wide range of topics ([LINK to IWG page of website](#)).

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<sup>2</sup> MoPs used to be held every 3 years but this changed after MoP 5 (2006)

### *Standing Committee (StC)*

A Standing Committee (StC) to deal with budgetary and other administrative matters was established through *Resolution 5.8. Establishment of a Standing Committee of the Agreement*. The committee meets each year and comprises of no more than eight voting Parties, mostly elected, but all Parties may attend meetings and participate in discussions. The operational principles of the committee are given in *Resolution 6.17: Amendment of Resolution 5.8 – Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee*.

#### *1.7. Designation of a competent authority*

Article II.3. of the Agreement states that ‘Each Party to this Agreement shall designate one or more competent authorities to whom it shall assign responsibility for the implementation of this Agreement. It shall communicate the name and address of its authority or authorities to the other parties to this Agreement.’

A competent authority is the national institution or agency within a Party that is responsible for implementing the fundamental obligations arising from the Agreement as well as the decisions in the MoP Resolutions. The competent authority can be the Ministry overseeing environmental issues, but very often is a specialised national nature conservation agency or several regional agencies that are responsible for the implementation of nature and species conservation policies within a country. It is at a Party’s discretion to designate the competent authorities in its respective country.

Parties and other range states are requested to provide nominated Focal Points, one for administration and one for scientific aspects. The Focal Points act as the first contact for enquiries relating to their range state. The Secretariat maintains an up-to-date list of Focal Points [[LINK to webpage listing Focal points](#)]. Further guidance on the role of Focal Points can be found in UNEP/CMS Secretariat & UNEP/AEWA Secretariat (2013).

The Agreement makes available *Rules of Procedure* for each meeting, but it may be useful to note more generic guidelines from UNEP for those involved in negotiations for or at such meetings (Salpin *et al.*, 2007; Mace *et al.*, 2007).

#### *1.8. Funding*

On the basis of Article V Paragraph 1 of the Agreement, the Parties adopt the budget and the scale of contributions for the next financial period at each MoP. The scale of contributions can be a general one, e.g. the UN scale of assessments, or a specific one determined by the Parties. At MoP6 in 2010 a minimum contribution for the lowest contributing Parties and fixed contributions for all other Parties were adopted.

Apart from the assessed contributions Parties are invited to make voluntary contributions that are usually earmarked for research and conservation projects or other special purposes.

In 2008 the Secretariat launched the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI) which is a small size (2.000 – 5.000 EUR) to medium size (5.000 – 10.000 EUR) grants programme for research, conservation or awareness raising projects, entirely funded through voluntary contributions from Parties.

### *1.9. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)*

NGOs can be major contributors in assisting with meeting the obligations of the Agreement. They can also participate at ACs and MoPs and play an active role in IWGs. The important role of NGOs in such work is recognised in *Res. 4.11 Recognising the Important Role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Bat Conservation*.

#### **National NGOs**

In many range states there are NGOs established specifically for the conservation of bats. In most others there are NGOs with a wider remit but with competence in bat conservation. Contact with such organisations in individual countries can be obtained from BatLife Europe or from the EUROBATS website: [http://www.eurobats.org/contacts/bat\\_conservation\\_organizations](http://www.eurobats.org/contacts/bat_conservation_organizations)

#### **BatLife Europe**

*BatLife Europe* is a recently established international NGO dedicated to the conservation of bats. It is formed by a partnership of national NGOs and in February 2014, BatLife Europe had 33 partner organisations. Further details can be found at <http://www.batlife-europe.info/>.

#### **The IUCN/SSC Bat Specialist Group**

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a global government and non-government organization dedicated to the conservation of nature and natural resources, includes a number of expert 'Commissions', one of which is the Species Survival Commission (SSC). The SSC includes a number of specialist groups covering particular species, groups of species or threats. The Bat Specialist Group is a worldwide network of specialists concerned for the conservation of bats, and involved in acting for particular threats, action planning and updating the IUCN Red List. For further information see <http://www.iucnbsg.org/>

### *1.10. Relationships with other Conventions and Directives*

Several other conventions and Directives have a direct relevance to the conservation of population of European bats. *Resolution 6.10 Synergies between the Agreement and other European treaties for nature conservation*, urges the Secretariat to raise awareness for potential synergies of the Agreement and other European nature conservation treaties; through this it encourages the Parties and other Range States to support information exchange and cooperation, and instructs the Advisory Committee to harmonise contents of national reports and reduce the work load related to reporting.

#### **Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats**

The Bern / Berne Convention was adopted in 1979. It has a wide Party membership throughout Europe and acts for the conservation of species and habitats. It has appendices of threatened species, with all species of bat except *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, being included in Appendix II which requires that they be given special protection; *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* is included in Appendix III, which requires the regulation of its exploitation.

#### **Habitats Directive**

The European Union's Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora [92/43/EEC], often referred to as the Habitats Directive, lists all EU bat species under Annex IV. This obliges Member States to establish a system of strict protection, prohibiting the deliberate capture or killing of bats; the deliberate disturbance of these species, and the deterioration and destruction of their breeding sites and resting places. Derogations from these provisions are provided for, under strict circumstances, in Article 16. Some interpretation of the

requirements of Articles 12 and 16 is provided by the European Commission here: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/guidance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/guidance/index_en.htm)

Fourteen bat species are further protected under the provisions of Annex II which requires countries to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Article 6 of the Directive is of particular relevance to these. Two further Articles of the Directive are of relevance to all bats: Article 11 requires Member States to undertake surveillance of all listed species and Article 17 obliges countries to report on the conservation status of all species every six years.

The full text of the Directive, including the list of Annex II bats is available here: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm)

### **Convention on Biological Diversity**

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) does not focus on particular habitats or species but instead recognises that biodiversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. The objectives of this Convention are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Programmes of work and specific targets are established to further these objectives. The CBD's latest strategic plan consists of five over-arching goals:

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society
- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention at the national level. In many countries, bats are specifically mentioned in the National Biodiversity Strategies, and Action Plans to protect rare and endangered species of bats have been published.

The full text of the Convention is here: <http://www.cbd.int/convention/text/>  
And the latest Strategic Plan is summarized here: <http://www.cbd.int/sp/>

### **Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy**

This convention (PEBLDS) was developed by the Council of Europe and adopted in 1995 and establishes an international framework for co-operation for consolidating and extending schemes and programmes in the conservation field. It comprises a number of Action Themes. As part of the measures to implement Action Theme 11 (Action for threatened species), the Council of Europe commissioned species action plans for two bat species, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Myotis dasycneme* (Ransome & Hutson, 2000; and Limpens, Lina & Hutson, 2000).

The EU has a range of other Directives that are relevant to bats, some are examples of high level strategic action, such as the EIA and SEA Directives:

- The '**Environmental Impact Assessment**' – **EIA - Directive** (85/337/EEC). This Directive was adopted in 1985 and urges Member States to ensure that developments likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an assessment with regard to their effects (Art. 2).
- The '**Strategic Environmental Assessment**' – **SEA - Directive** (2001/42/EC) was adopted in 2001. It makes it mandatory for public plans and programmes (agriculture, forestry,

fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/ water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use) which are likely to have significant environmental effects, including effects to fauna, to have a strategic environmental assessment.

The latter two Directives do not make any explicit reference to the protection of bats but include the need to take account of environmental impacts on biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

An example of another Directive with more specific aims and perhaps more directly related to bats is the **Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides** (2009/128/EC), which also makes reference to the Habitats Directive. Bats may be impacted by pesticides, both directly (e.g. through contact with remedial timber treatment chemicals), or indirectly (e.g. through reduction of their insect prey).

## 2. Resolutions relating to the Preamble and Article 1

The Preamble and Article 1b of the Agreement state that the Agreement applies to “Bats” and that this is taken to mean ‘European populations of CHIROPTERA (Rhinolophidae and Vespertilionidae) occurring in Europe and non-European Range States’.

The geographical scope of the Agreement was defined in *Res. 2.5. Geographical Scope of the Agreement*, which includes a *List of Countries or Regional Economic Integration Organisations within the “continent of Europe”*. This was endorsed in *Res. 5.11. Geographical Scope of the Agreement*, but amended in *Res. 6.3. Geographical Scope of the Agreement* to emphasise that membership is open to all 63 range states of the western Palaearctic (while maintaining the species covered as those occurring in ‘Europe’). At the same time the European coverage was extended to include the regional Atlantic islands.

Thus ‘Europe’ for the purposes of the Agreement is as defined in Doc.

EUROBATS.MoP2.8.AnnexAFin as the Western Palaearctic region, excluding North Africa and Iceland, with the Eastern boundary drawn at Turkey and the Caucasus countries, and the Southern boundary being the south coast of the continent of Europe, with the addition of the Mediterranean states (Cyprus and Malta), the islands belonging to mainland European states; and with the addition of the Canary islands, Madeira and the Azores;

The species coverage of the Agreement was initially amended to include the family Molossidae (for *Tadarida teniotis*) in *Res. MoP1.AnnexE. Resolution Confirming the Amendment of the Scope of the Agreement*. Subsequently, it was agreed (*Res. 3.7. Amendment of the Agreement*) to replace Article I (b) with: “(b) “Bats” means populations of CHIROPTERA species as listed in Annex 1 to this Agreement occurring in Europe and in their non-European Range States”; and *Res. 3.7* also established an Annex 1 of *Bat Species Occurring in Europe to which the Agreement Applies*. This Annex is reviewed for each MoP to incorporate any changes in the fauna of the Agreement area, based on an assessment of recent research that identifies new species to the region, and changes in taxonomy or systematics.

Changes to the Annex were agreed in *Res. 4.8. Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement* (with explanatory information in Inf.EUROBATS.MoP4.13), *Res. 5.3. Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement* (with explanatory information in Inf.EUROBATS. MoP5.9.Rev.1) and *Res. 6.2. Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement* (with explanatory information in Inf.EUROBATS.MoP6.45).

The national distribution (and in most cases the national conservation status) was tabulated in Annex 1 and Annex 2 to *Res. 5.11. Geographical Scope of the Agreement*. This needs up-dating (including with reference to non-European range states – see Para 2.c.3 of *Res.6.16. Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011-2014)*).

The current list of *Bat species occurring in Europe to which this Agreement applies (Species listed in the Annex to the Agreement Text)* can be found at [http://www.eurobats.org/about/protected\\_species.htm](http://www.eurobats.org/about/protected_species.htm).

Further information about these species and their conservation status can be found in the IUCN Red List (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>). The conservation status of European species was separately assessed (Temple & Terry, 2007), and some of these assessments were modified in an assessment of Mediterranean mammals (Temple & Cuttelod, 2009). For general information about the European bat species see also Dietz et al. (2009).

### **3. Resolutions relating to Article III. Fundamental Obligations**

Article III provides, in eight bullet points, the fundamental obligations of Parties to the Agreement. These obligations relate to licensing; the identification and protection of important sites; the conservation of bat habitats; the promotion of the awareness and conservation of bats; the provision of advice in relation to bats; the need for action to safeguard threatened bat populations; the promotion of research; and consideration of the effects of pesticides.

At each MoP, resolutions are adopted to help expand on, interpret and provide advice to Parties on the implementation of these fundamental obligations (Annex 2). In particular, at each MoP a Conservation and Management Plan is adopted which identifies agreed priorities for the following period up to the next MoP. At MoP 1, Resolution 1.6 [*Res. 1.6\* (MoP1 Record, Annex K). Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan*] recognised commitments by Parties to bat conservation and acknowledged the fundamental obligations placed upon them by Article III of the Agreement. It expanded on the Fundamental Obligations and called for cooperation in conservation and management of bat habitats, as well as a programme proposal for transboundary research and monitoring of migration routes, and development of monitoring methodologies.

The Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) was complemented by *Res. 2.8* which provided for the first 3-year Action Plan. This was subsequently superseded in sequence by *Res 3.8, 4.9, 5.10, 6.16*.

We will now examine each of the eight paragraphs of Article III in turn.

#### **Article III Para 1.**

**Each Party shall prohibit the deliberate capture, keeping or killing of bats except under permit from its competent authority.**

This Paragraph requires Parties to put in place legal protection for bats. The provision of a system of permits or licences (by an appropriate Competent Authority – see Art. II.3) is also implicit under Article III.1. Such a system might usefully recognize the need and provide for the capture and keeping of bats for educational or animal welfare purposes. It might also provide for the capture, sampling, ringing and, under certain circumstances, killing of bats for scientific study.



*Res. 1.6 Resolution on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan.* Para 1 states 'Parties should take measures to fully implement Article III.1 of the Agreement' and this is repeated in its updates.

In support of this *Res. 3.4, Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for Bat Ringing Activities*, requested the Advisory Committee to provide guidance on the licensing of certain aspects of bat study. *Res. 4.6. Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats*, provides such advice and includes two annexes, one with some initial general guidelines on resources and practices (as a preliminary to a more detailed bat handlers' training manual, on the lines of those for Italy (Agnelli et al., 2006) and UK (Mitchell-Jones & McLeish, 2004)), and one on suggested ring sizes for European bat species.

Three amendments to this Resolution are provided in *Res. 5.5. Amendment to Resolution 4.6: Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats*.

*Res. 6.5. Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Field Work Practices* is also relevant to Article III.1: This urges Parties to have an appropriate Code of Practice for research and field work that addresses the context and legitimacy of acquisition, due diligence, long-term care, documentation, relevance and institutional aims. It provides advice a) to the managers of collections and of institutes under whose auspices research involving live animals, especially invasive research, is being carried out, b) to the researchers in the field or laboratory, and c) regarding the involvement of a 'host' country regulating activities of visitors from abroad to within its domain. Ignoring or avoidance of ethical practices (including licensing) may lead to the denying or withdrawing of required permits. This Resolution also instructs the Secretariat to publish up-to-date contact details of Administrative and Scientific focal points through the EUROBATS website.

Examples of other general codes of practice for scientific institutes and journals can be found in:  
1. Code of Ethics for Museums; ethical principles for all who work for or govern museums in the UK. (Museums Association, UK, 2002)

2. Animal Behaviour (journal); A Guide to Ethical Information Required for Animal Behaviour Papers. [http://www.elsevier.com/framework\\_products/promis\\_misc/ethyanbe.doc](http://www.elsevier.com/framework_products/promis_misc/ethyanbe.doc) and Anon, 2006. Guidelines for the treatment of animals in behavioural research and teaching. Animal Behaviour 71: 245-253.

3. Oryx, The International Journal of Conservation, FFI (journal); [www.oryxthejournal.org/](http://www.oryxthejournal.org/). Current Instructions for Contributors: Code of Conduct for researchers contributing articles.

**Article III Para 2. Parties shall identify those sites within its own area of jurisdiction which are important for the conservation status, including for the shelter and protection, of bats. It shall, taking into account as necessary economic and social considerations, protect such sites from damage or disturbance. In addition, each Party shall endeavour to identify and protect important feeding areas for bats from damage or disturbance.**

Further to the requirement in III.1 to protect bats themselves, III.2 provides for the legal protection of bat roosts. Compliance with Article III.2 will require Parties to become familiar with the seasonal distribution of the various bat species present in their territories. Survey and monitoring work to identify important roosts and feeding areas will also be necessary.

*Res. 1.6 Resolution on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan* and all subsequent CMPs (see *Res. 6.16. Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011-2014)*) have highlighted areas for consideration here.

With reference to roosts in underground sites a working group was established following *Res. 2.4, Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals*. With reference to underground sites, the Agreement has published guidance on their protection and management (Mitchell-Jones *et al.*, 2007) and is accumulating a database of national and internationally important sites. Parties are asked to contribute to this database and to keep it up-to-date (*Resolution 4.3. Guidelines for the Protection and Management of Important Underground Habitats for Bats and Resolution 6.16*). The working group on the Conservation of Key Underground Sites is responsible for this. A considerable amount of data is available on the Agreement website and further information may be available via the Secretariat.

[http://www.eurobats.org/activities/intersessional\\_working\\_groups/underground\\_sites](http://www.eurobats.org/activities/intersessional_working_groups/underground_sites)

*Res. 2.4, Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals* also identified forests as a habitat of concern. *Res.4.4. Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management* also identified key issues with reference to forests and roosts in trees. The Agreement has collaborated in the publication of guidance on forest management (Anon, 2001), has published a leaflet *Bats and Forestry* (available in French, German and English here: [http://www.eurobats.org/publications/eurobats\\_leaflets](http://www.eurobats.org/publications/eurobats_leaflets)), and is considering up-dating the publication of Boye & Dietz (2005) (*Res. 6.12. Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management*). The Agreement maintains a working group investigating this topic.

*Res. 5.7. Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts*, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance developed from a working group established in AC9 and referring to *Res. 4.9. Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2003-2006)*. The Agreement has published guidelines in Marnell & Presetnik (2010). Although this concentrates on buildings of cultural importance, it gives general information relevant to the protection of bat roosts in all types of buildings. There is a wealth of further information available on measures to protect, enhance and create bat roosts in buildings of all kinds, including privately owned houses and apartment blocks.

The IWG on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes is also relevant here. This group is currently developing generic guidance from which Parties can develop appropriate national guidelines (see below under Article III Para 3).

### **Article III Para 3. When deciding which habitats to protect for general conservation purposes each Party shall give due weight to habitats that are important for bats**

This paragraph requires Parties to consider the needs of bats when national protection measures for habitats are being implemented.

*Res. 1.6 Resolution on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan* and all subsequent CMPs (see *Res. 6.16. Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011-2014)*) have highlighted areas for consideration here.

*Res. 6.7 Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes* urges awareness of key areas away from the roost and that these need to be taken into account in land use and planning decisions. It also encourages research and monitoring to improve our understanding of the use of landscape by bats. A working group is currently developing generic guidance from which Parties can develop appropriate national

guidelines; a working draft of the guidelines is available at *Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.28.Rev.1. Report of the IWG on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes*.

As stated above under Article III, Para 2 the Agreement maintains a working group investigating the important topic of forest and woodland conservation. The Agreement has collaborated in the publication of guidance on forest management (Anon, 2001), has published a leaflet *Bats and Forestry*, and is considering up-dating the publication of Boye & Dietz (2005) (*Res. 6.12. Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management*).

**Article III Para 4. Each Party shall take appropriate measures to promote the conservation of bats and shall promote public awareness of the importance of bat conservation.**

This Paragraph recognizes that enhancing public awareness and understanding of the value of bats will be necessary to ensure effective bat conservation and protection. It requires Parties to take the necessary steps to achieve this e.g. through the provision of educational materials for schools, through active engagement with the media, through the promotion and support of bat NGOs.

*Res. 1.6 Resolution on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan* and all subsequent CMPs have encouraged the development of public awareness programmes and with particular attention directed to those professions which are likely to have the greatest impact on bats. The important role of NGOs in such work is recognised in *Res. 4.11 Recognising the Important Role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Bat Conservation*.

A very wide range of materials have been prepared by many range states for general public education, and for efforts more focused on particular bat conservation issues relating to species or habitats. These materials may be used for general distribution or use at organised events. They can be used as examples for the development of materials appropriate for use in individual states. A new working group on *Education* was established at AC19 (see EUROBATS.StC9-AC19.Record) with the aim of reviewing available educational materials, bringing them up to date and making them more widely available (e.g. through translation into more languages).

The Agreement provides resources to assist with the annual (usually autumn) European Bat Night, whereby publicity and education events are organised nationally as part of a Europe-wide initiative to encourage awareness of bats and their conservation.

On a grander scale, *Res. 3.5. International Year of the Bat* encouraged wider participation in this programme to celebrate the first 10 years of EUROBATS. Similarly, EUROBATS was a major contributor and co-ordinator to the UNEP/CMS initiative for a 'Year of the Bat' through 2011-2012 (*Res. 5.12 Global Year of the Bat*, and *Res. 6.9. Year of the Bat*).

The *Eurobats Project Initiative*, which receives applications for funding of research and education projects, identifies both the relevance to the Agreement and the level of international collaboration as important factors in assessing applications. Criteria for the use of this fund are identified in *Res. 6.4. Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)*.

**Article III Para 5. Each Party shall assign to an appropriate body responsibilities for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management within its territory particularly with regard to bats in buildings. Parties shall exchange information on their experiences in this matter.**

Further to the requirements to enhance awareness of bats detailed in III.4, this paragraph requires Parties to assign the role of providing information and advice on bats to a particular body (or, potentially, bodies). This could be government bodies or NGOs with competence in bat conservation and management.

*Res 1.5\* (MoP1 Record, Annex J). Format and Frequency of National Reports.* Guidelines for national reports in this Resolution and its successor (*Res. 2.7. Format of National Reports*) include in Para C.10 the need to identify such bodies in the national reports.

**Article III Para 6. Each Party shall take such additional action as it considers necessary to safeguard populations of bats which it identifies as being subject to threat and shall report under Article VI on the action taken.**

This paragraph requires Parties to take the necessary measures to manage threats to bats and to report on these measures in the National Reports. Threats may occur that do not fit easily within the other paragraphs of Article III. These may be long-standing threats, but will also be threats that arise as emergency or short-term threats that need immediate attention (such as threats of closure or disturbance to an important cave system), or that may become longer-term threats as a result of new developments (such as wind turbines).

*Res. 1.6 Resolution on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan* and all subsequent CMPs identify such potential areas for action.

One constant feature of the CMPs has been the need for population monitoring. *Res. 2.2. Consistent Monitoring Methodologies* gave some initial guidance on techniques for some target species. This has been superseded by the work of the Intersessional Working Group on monitoring and the resulting publication of Battersby (2010). Related to this is the proposal for a pan-European monitoring project based on data from counts in underground sites (*Res. 5.4. Monitoring Bats across Europe*) and a proposal to develop the use of bat monitoring data to incorporate bats within the suite of taxa used as indicators of environmental quality (*Res. 6.13. Bats as Indicators for Biodiversity*).

The development of the use of wind turbines has been of great concern since it has become increasingly clear that bat mortality from wind farms or even isolated turbines may be significant. An assessment of the impact of wind turbines on bat populations, the development of guidelines for taking bats into account in proposals for the establishment of wind turbines, and the encouragement to initiate and support further research on the matter was the subject of *Res. 4.7. Wind Turbines and Bat Populations*. Initial guidelines were presented with *Res. 5.6. Wind Turbines and Bat Populations* and generic guidelines published by EUROBATS as Rodrigues et al. (2008). *Res. 6.11. Wind Turbines and Bat Populations* seeks to ensure that Parties raise awareness of the issue and develop and ensure implementation of national guidelines appropriate to the local environment. However, the development of energy from wind sources is a rapidly developing field and with major government support, so the Advisory Committee maintains a working group on the subject to keep the generic guidelines up-to-date and to improve the methods of assessment and mitigation of the impact on bat populations. *Doc AC17.6 Report of the IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations* gives updates to various aspects of research and mitigation and to the bibliography.

In 2006, mass mortality of bats associated with a previously undescribed fungus on bats hibernating in a cave near New York, USA, was identified. This and other factors resulted in the recognition of 'White Nose Syndrome' (WNS) which has spread rapidly through the eastern parts of North America and resulted in the deaths of over five million bats by 2012. There was concern that this problem might be introduced to Europe or that it might already exist in Europe, where it may become a problem (or where bats may earlier have developed resistance to its effects). *Res. 6.6. Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection and Control of Lethal Fungal Infections in Bats*, urges awareness and liaison, surveillance and monitoring, the planning for the contingency that a lethal fungal disease becomes established in Europe, and to work closely with and make best use of scientific and technical findings to improve knowledge and to adopt measure to contain any potential spread. Note also that *Res. 4.12. Priority Species for Autecological Studies* highlighted mass mortality and roost abandonment of *Miniopterus schreibersii* in 2002, and recommended that, while recognising that this event (and possibly similar previous events) might have been due to weather conditions, there is a need to have more background knowledge of the pathology of bat species to assist in the identification of potential causes for such events in the future.

In accordance with recommendations of the CMP, *Res. 4.12. Priority Species for Autecological Studies* identified three species for particular research and identified key areas of study for each species. Since much work has been achieved through this resolution, and the list of species covered by the Agreement has changed, there is a working group currently looking to identify a revised list of priority species.

A working group on *Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts* was established at AC15. A work programme, including the preparation of a guidance publication, was described at AC16 (EUROBATS.AC16.Record: 32) and an up-date of progress given at AC16 (EUROBATS.AC17.Record: 35, 51).

A working group on the *Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructure on Bats* was established at AC12. Res 6.16 Requested the Advisory Committee to develop and publish a EUROBATS booklet highlighting the effects of roads on bats and providing guidance on minimising the impact of infrastructure projects on bats. The IWG is preparing a publication (see EUROBATS.AC17.Record: 35,52).

A working group on *Bats and Light Pollution* was established at AC12. EUROBATS.AC17.Record (p.47) reports on progress and plans for the group, including the possibility of producing guidelines for good practice in the application of lighting. The group is also considering the impact of noise pollution on bats.

New working groups on *Bats and Insulation* and *Bat Rehabilitation* were established at AC17 (see EUROBATS.AC17.Record).

**Article III Para 7. Each Party shall, as appropriate, promote research programmes relating to the conservation and management of bats. Parties shall consult each other on such research programmes, and shall endeavour to co-ordinate such research and conservation programmes.**

This Paragraph encourages Parties to undertake research on bats and, where appropriate, to co-operate with other Parties and Range States when designing and conducting such research programmes.

The first Conservation and Management Plan (*Res. 1.6*) includes several areas where survey and research are considered important and seeks the development of transboundary research and monitoring of migration routes of selected species.

*Resolution 2.3 Transboundary Programme: Species Proposals* addressed that recommendation and proposed a transboundary programme for research on one long-range migrant, *Pipistrellus nathusii*, and one medium-range migrant, *Myotis dasycneme*. It has to be said that no Europe-wide co-ordinated programme was developed, but much work has been carried out, much of it with reference to this resolution. The more general transboundary movements of bats is a key interest of the Agreement, and so there is ongoing interest in accumulating data on the daily and seasonal movements of bats in Europe (e.g. *Resolution 6.8. Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats*). For available information on bat movements in Europe see Hutterer *et al.* (2005) and general information on bat migration and study techniques see the abstracts of the 1st International Symposium on Bat Migration (Anon, 2009).

*Resolution 2.4. Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals* also addressed that recommendation in a proposal for transboundary collaboration on the conservation of two key habitats: underground sites and forest (see above under 3.2).

Through *Res. 5.2. Bats and Rabies in Europe*, Eurobats encourages the collaboration of bats workers, veterinary and public health departments with respect to research and monitoring of the occurrence of rabies-related viruses (mainly EBLV1 and EBLV2). Following a Eurobats workshop on bat rabies held in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 2004 (EUROBATS. Bat Rabies Workshop Report), guidelines for surveillance (active and passive) of bats for rabies viruses were developed with an EU Med-Vet-Net project (Workpackage 5: Molecular Epidemiology of European Bat Lyssaviruses), and a list of recommendations for research and management of rabies in bats in Europe at the First International Conference ‘Rabies in Europe’ in Kiev, Ukraine, in 2005 (Dodet *et al.*, 2006; see also Racey *et al.*, 2013).

Through its Advisory Committee, the Agreement seeks to encourage responsible research at both a national and international level. Most reports of the Advisory Committee and subsequently, through documents of the Meeting of the Parties, identify needs for further knowledge; in particular all subsequent Conservation and Management Plans have identified areas of research and for the research to be (internationally) collaborative wherever possible.

Also of relevance here is *Resolution 6.5. Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Fieldwork Practices* (see above under Article III, para 1).

A further example of international collaboration is the *Eurobats Project Initiative*, which receives applications for funding of research and other conservation projects, where both the relevance to the Agreement and the level of international collaboration are important factors in assessing applications. Criteria for the use of this fund are identified in *Res. 6.4. Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)*.

**Article III Para 8. Each Party shall, wherever appropriate, consider the potential effects of pesticides on bats, when assessing pesticides for use, and shall endeavour to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats with safer alternatives.**

Pesticides, and in particular the chemicals used to treat timbers (which may end up in bat roosts), have been identified as a cause of mortality for bats. Parties are required under this paragraph to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives wherever possible.

*Res. 1.6 (MoP1 Record, Annex K). Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan.* The resolution identified two areas of particular concern relating to bats and pesticides: timber treatment chemicals and chemicals as antiparasitic drugs for livestock (endectocides, anthelmintics).

*Res. 4.5. Guidelines for the Use of Remedial Timber Treatment.* Parties are urged to reduce or eliminate the impact on bats of chemicals used for remedial timber treatment through the use of research, liaison with manufacturers and users, the assessment of chemicals new to the market, and the sharing of information on chemicals and application practices. Some background to the use of remedial timber treatment chemicals and this resolution can be found in Doc.EUROBATS.AC7.1.Rev.3 and in Marnell & Presetnik (2010).

*Res. 6.15. Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock.* The use of certain antiparasitic drugs can have major effect on the insect dung fauna, which is important as food to many bat species. The resolution discusses measures to reduce the impact and provides management guidelines. Further background information can be found in Inf.EUROBATS.MoP6.10.

These are two of the areas where pesticides have been regarded as a particular problem for bats and thus were identified in the original Conservation and Management Plan. But it should be noted that the Article III (8) also covers concern for the general use of pesticides and encourages vigilance and appropriate action where new chemicals appear on the market.

#### **4. Resolutions relating to Article IV of the Agreement (National Implementation)**

Para 1 of Article IV states that 'Each Party shall adopt and enforce such legislation and administrative measures as may be necessary for the purpose of giving effect to this Agreement.

Arising from *Res. 6.16 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011-2014)* the Advisory Committee established an Intersessional Working Group to review the implementation of the Agreement and relevant Resolutions and also to assess setting up a system to review requests for advice concerning the implementation addressed to the Secretariat. The current document is an output from that Group.

#### **5. Resolutions relating to Article VI (Reports on Implementation)**

*Res 1.5\* (MoP1 Record, Annex J). Format and frequency of national reports* urges Parties to submit to the Secretariat a national report on their implementation of the Agreement following the agreed guidelines. It encourages coordinating authorities to cooperate with relevant institutions in their country on the preparation of national reports.

Guidelines for the production and content of national reports were revised by Res. 2.7 and Res. 3.3 and proposals for further revision **will be considered by MoP7. See also Annex ?3**

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## **ANNEXES – TO BE COMPLETED**

Annex 1 **or a text box further up??**. Article III Fundamental Obligations of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European bats

Annex 2. List of Resolutions adopted by Eurobats MoPs 1-6 with obligations separated between Parties, Secretariat, Standing Committee and Advisory Committee

Annex 3. Summary check list of topics to be addressed under Article III and Resolutions adopted by MoPs 1-7 and which should be covered in National Reports

Annex 4. Current list of species covered by the Agreement with their (global) IUCN Red List status

Annex 5. List of members of the IWG on implementation of the Agreement

## **Annex 1. Article III Fundamental Obligations of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European bats**

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Fundamental Obligations**

1. Each Party shall prohibit the deliberate capture, keeping or killing of bats except under permit from its competent authority.

2. Each Party shall identify those sites within its own area of jurisdiction which are important for the conservation status, including for the shelter and protection, of bats. It shall, taking into account as necessary economic and social considerations, protect such sites from damage or disturbance. In addition, each Party shall endeavour to identify and protect important feeding areas for bats from damage or disturbance.

3. When deciding which habitats to protect for general conservation purposes each Party shall give due weight to habitats that are important for bats.

4. Each Party shall take appropriate measures to promote the conservation of bats and shall promote public awareness of the importance of bat conservation.

5. Each Party shall assign to an appropriate body responsibilities for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management within its territory particularly with regard to bats in buildings. Parties shall exchange information on their experiences in this matter.

6. Each Party shall take such additional action as it considers necessary to safeguard populations of bats which it identifies as being subject to threat and shall report under Article VI on the action taken.

7. Each Party shall, as appropriate, promote research programmes relating to the conservation and management of bats. Parties shall consult each other on such research programmes, and shall endeavour to co-ordinate such research and conservation programmes.

8. Each Party shall, wherever appropriate, consider the potential effects of pesticides on bats, when assessing pesticides for use, and shall endeavour to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats with safer alternatives.

## Annex 2. Overview of the implementation status of Resolutions adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Meeting of Parties to EUROBATS

Res.	Title	Recalls	Summary		
1.5 <sup>3</sup> (MoP1 Record, Annex J)	Format and frequency of national reports	Recalls Art. VI of Agreement	Parties	Urges Parties to submit to the Secretariat a national report on their implementation of the Agreement following the agreed guidelines to this Resolution. Encourages coordinating authorities to cooperate with relevant institutions in their country on the preparation of national reports.	Revised by Res. 2.7 and 3.3
			AC		
			StC		
			Secretariat		
1.6 <sup>1</sup> (MoP1 Record, Annex K)	Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan	Recognizes commitments by Parties to bat conservation and acknowledges the fundamental obligation placed upon them by Art. III of the Agreement.	Part	Action Plan calls for cooperation in conservation and management of bat habitats, as well as a programme proposal for transboundary research and monitoring of migration routes, development of monitoring methodologies.	Complemented by Res. 2.8
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
2.2	Consistent monitoring methodologies	Recalls Annex K - priority 2	Part	Recommends guidelines to be employed by all Parties and NGOs to ensure consistency and information exchange between them;	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 2, (a))</i>
			AC	Instructs the Advisory Committee to review the intersessional progress of the Secretariat's and the Parties' monitoring work, advise the Secretariat in further development of the database, and finally refine the guidelines as necessary and according to experience gained during the intersessional period, and report back to the next Meeting of Parties.	
			StC		
			Secr	Instructs Secretariat to establish a monitoring database and report back at next Meeting of Parties	
2.3	Transboundary programme: species proposals	Recalls Annex K - priority 25	Part	Recommends the inclusion of <i>Myotis dasycneme</i> and <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i> in transboundary cooperation; project descriptions may be used as guidelines for the development of projects.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 2 (c))</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
2.4	Transboundary programme: habitat proposals	Recalls Annex K - priorities 10, 11 & 12	Part	Decides underground sites and forests should be subject to national research; Parties should provide data on these sites (annex I & II) and an assessment of sites experiencing man-made problems	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I)</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		

<sup>3</sup> MoP1 Resolutions originally not numbered but attached to MoP1 Record as Annexes D to K.

2.7	Format of national reports	Recalls Annex J & Art. VI of Agreement	Part	A new section was added to the national reports.	Revised by Res. 3.3
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
2.8	Implementation of the conservation and management plan	Recalls Annex K	Part	Establishes Action Plan for 1998-2001 as in Annex A. Specifies priorities: Autecological studies, information on roosts, knowledge exchange of habitat use, raising awareness of building industry, pesticides; also continue work on the use of linear features.	Superseded by Res. 3.8 → 6.16
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
3.3	Format of national implementation reports	Recalls Art. VI of Agreement & Res. 2.7	Part	A new section was added to the national reports.	In effect - <i>Implementation ongoing</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
3.4	Guidelines for the issue of permits for Bat Ringing activities	Recalls Art. III (1) of the Agreement	Part		In effect - <i>implementation ongoing - Res. 6.5</i>
			AC	Requests Advisory Committee to prepare guidelines for the issue of permits for bat ringing for AC4	
			StC		
			Secr		
3.5	International Year of the Bat	Notes that 2001 marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement	Part	Decides to declare 2001 "International Year of the Bat"; calls Parties to make additional efforts to promote bat conservation & public awareness; encourages Non-Party Range States to collaborate on such campaigns	Completed
			AC		
			SC		
			Secr		
3.8	Implementation of the conservation and management plan	Recognises Res. 2.8, Art. III of Agreement & work under 92/43/EC	Part	Requests parties to report at each Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Action Plan. Decides to establish Action Plan for 2000-2003.	Superseded by Res. 4.9 → 6.16
			AC		
			SC		
			Secr		
4.3	Guidelines for the protection and management of important underground habitats for bats	Recalls Res. 2.4, Element 2 and Res. 3.8	Part	Parties to identify and manage important underground habitats as required by Res. 2.4 and share this with the Secretariat.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 3)</i> <i>AC published EUROBATS Publication Series 2</i>
			AC	Directs Advisory Committee (AC) to complete, agree and publish Guidelines for the Conservation and Management of Underground Habitats for Bats.	
			StC		
			Secr		

4.4	Bat conservation and sustainable forest management	Recalls Res. 2.4, Element 2. Notes the definition of forests adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).	Part	Encourages the identification and monitoring of key areas/elements for bats in forests; encourages the protection and restoration of these; encourages to adopt measures, such as codes of best practice, to minimize damage to bats and their food from the use of pesticides and biocides especially in key areas. Promotes training and awareness for forest managers and workers.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 2, (e))</i> <i>AC published "Bats and Forestry" Leaflet</i>
			AC	Advisory Committee to instigate the investigation and development of the use of bats as indicators for sustainable forestry and biodiversity in certain European Habitats. Advisory Committee to develop guidelines on bat-friendly forestry practices to fulfill Actions 3.1 & 9.3 of CBD/CMS JWP 2002-5.	
			StC		
			Secr	Directs the Secretariat to collate and offer existing information for forest managers and forest workers, advising on bat conservation in forests, for translation into other languages;	
4.5	Guidelines for the use of remedial timber treatment	Recalls Art. III, Par.8 of Agreement	Part	Parties to implement small projects to provide basic data to allow an assessment of the potential impact of industry on bat populations. Raise awareness of product users; Share data and check whether products have any adverse effects on bats. Assess new pesticides.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 6, (a))</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
4.6	Guidelines for the issue of permits for the capture and study of captured wild bats	Recalls Art. III (1) of the Agreement	Part	<i>Agrees to the following guidelines.</i>	Amended by Res. 5.5
			AC	<i>Requests the Advisory Committee to continue to develop and, as appropriate, revise the attached 'Notes for the guidance of national authorities' (Annex 9b) and 'Recommended ring sizes for European bat species' (Annex 9c).</i>	
			StC		
			Secr		
4.7	Wind turbines and bat populations	Recalls Res. 7.5 of CMS Conference of Parties (CoP) and Art. III, Par. 6 of EUROBATS Agreement	Part	Encourages Parties and Range States to support investigations and research.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 7, (a))</i> <i>AC published EUROBATS Publication Series 3</i>
			AC	Decides that the Advisory Committee should assess the impact of wind turbines on bats and, if appropriate, develop guidelines for consideration of bats in wind turbine projects.	
			StC		
			Secr		
4.9	Implementation of the conservation and management plan (2003-2006)	Refers to Art. III of Agreement; Recalls Res. 2.8 & 3.8.	Part	Requests Parties to report at each Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Action Plan. Decides to establish Action Plan for 2003-2006:	Superseded by Res. 5.10 → 6.16
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		

4.10	Contribution to the CBD/CMS Joint Work Programme		Part		
			AC	<i>Instructs</i> the 9th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to review the JWP 2002 – 2005 and to develop proposals for the JWP 2006 onwards	
			StC		
			Secr	<i>Instructs</i> the Secretariat to carry forward the proposals developed by the Advisory Committee to CMS for inclusion in the next CBD/CMS JWP	
4.11	Recognizing the important role of NGOs in bat conservation		Part	Expresses its good will to further support the most valuable activities of competent NGOs and to collaborate and share experiences that have the potential to substantially improve transboundary cooperation and mutual assistance.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 7, (a))</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
4.12	Priority species for autecological studies	Recalls Annex K, Res. 2.8 & 3.8	Part	Encourages researchers to consider topics identified in Annex 15b.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 7, (a))</i>
			AC	Instructs Advisory Committee to develop a EUROBATS collaborative project focused on <i>Rhinolophus euryale</i> , <i>Myotis capaccinii</i> and <i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i> .	
			StC		
			Secr	<i>Instruct</i> the Secretariat, with advice from the Advisory Committee, to encourage the project to be developed in detail, and to support the seeking for external funding as appropriate, and to report back on progress to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties;	
5.2	Bat rabies in Europe	Recalls Res. 2.8, pt 19, 24 and Rec. of Eur. Workshop on Bat Rabies in Vilnius 2004	Part	Urges Parties and Range States to establish a national bat rabies surveillance network, ensure the implementation of precautionary advice to avoid infection; ensure bat vaccination is compulsory; ensure recording of all test results and their submission to the World Health Organisation.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 8, (a))</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
5.4	Monitoring bats across Europe	Recalls Res. 2.2 & 4.9 and notes Res. 2.4	Part	Urges Parties and Range States to support the development of long-term pan-European surveillance to provide trend data; raise awareness of underground sites; exchange information on monitoring and surveillance; support use of Guidelines for Bat Monitoring Methods to assess population trends. <i>Encourage and assist</i> with capacity building of bat workers and surveyors and, where possible, volunteer networks in their country, to carry out bat surveillance projects.	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 2, (b))</i> <i>AC published EUROBATS Publication Series 5</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		

5.5	Amendment to the Res.4.6: guidelines for the issue of permits for the capture and study of captured wild bats	Recalls Res. 4.6	Part	Res.4.6. par.8 should be replaced by ‘Licensing authorities should develop a means of recommending standards for equipment that is approved for the activities carried out in 5 above, including the recommendation of suitable sources of equipment and of the materials used for the equipment; Annex 9b ‘Ref. para.5’ to read ‘Approved methods of capture include’; Annex 9c ring size 2.9 from sized horseshoe bats, <i>Rhinolophus blasii</i> , <i>euryale</i> and <i>mehelyi</i> .	<i>Amendment completed - Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.5</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
5.6	Wind turbines and bat populations	Recalls Res. 2.2 & Res. 4.9	Part	Urges Parties and Range States to raise awareness on the impact of turbines on bats and the existence of some unsuitable habitats or sites for construction. Ensure undertaking of pre-construction impact assessments. Ensure the publication of generic guidelines and their continuous update.	Repealed by Res. 6.11 <i>AC published EUROBATS Publication Series 3</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
5.7	Guidelines for the protection of overground roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance	Recalls Res. 4.9, Element 3 (a)	Part	<i>Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to: establish national databases of important overground roosts; ensure their protection; establish working relationship with relevant agencies between cultural and natural heritage agencies; prepare guidelines for custodians of historical buildings, on the protection of bat roosts; Include in future national reports a summary of these interactions.</i>	<i>Implementation ongoing - Res. 6.16 (Annex I, 3, (a)) AC published EUROBATS Publication Series 4</i>
			AC	<i>Urges the Advisory Committee to complete and publish the guidance document (now in draft form);</i>	
			StC		
			Secr		
5.10	Implementation of the conservation and management plan	Recalls Res. 4.9	Part	Requests parties to report at each Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Action Plan. Decides to establish Action Plan for 2006-2010:	Superseded by Res. 6.16
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
5.12	2008 - Global Year of the Bat	Recognises the success achieved by the Agreement in promoting bat conservation	Part	Decides to endorse UNEP/CMS proposal to declare 2008 the international year of the bat & for Parties to make additional efforts to promote bat conservation & public awareness.	Postponed to 2011-12 - <i>Ongoing</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		

6.4	Guidelines for the implementation of the EUROBATS Project Initiative (EPI)	Recalling EPI was launched in Aug.2008 to provide funding for small/medium sized bat conservation projects.	Part	Accepts the standard formats for project applications and final reports which are attached as Annexes 1 and 2 to this Resolution	In effect - <i>EPI Selection WG established during AC16</i>
			AC	<i>Requests</i> the Advisory Committee to establish an EPI Selection Working Group of up to seven persons who assess the priority of eligible project proposals in accordance with the criteria listed above <i>Further requests</i> the Advisory Committee to provide the Secretariat with the EPI Selection Working Group assessment of project priority during the Advisory Committee	
			StC		
			Secr	<i>Instructs</i> the Secretariat to collect project applications dedicated to EPI and upon notification and consultation with National focal point/authorities pass those which are eligible to the EPI Selection Working Group for further assessments <i>Further instructs</i> the Secretariat to submit the prioritised list of project applications and the EPI Selection Working Group assessments to all Parties with an encouragement to ensure appropriate funding through voluntary contributions;	
6.5	Guidelines on ethics for research and field work practices	Recalls Art.III, Par. 1 & 7 of Agreement, Res. 3.4, 4.6 & 5.5.	Part	Urges Parties to have an appropriate Code of Practice that addresses the context and legitimacy of acquisition, due diligence, long-term care, documentation, relevance and institutional aims.	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr	Instructs Secretariat to publish up-to-date contact details of Administrative and Scientific focal points through the EUROBATS website.	
6.6	Guidelines for the prevention, detection and control of lethal fungal infections in bats	Recalls Art.III, Par.6 & 7 of Agreement, Res. 9.8 CMS CoP & EUROBATS AC14 concerns (p 44-5)	Part	Urges Parties to ensure that bat conservation and caving communities are aware of the White Nose Syndrome threat in North America; to encourage surveillance for the presence of fungal infections, plan for the contingency that lethal fungal infections become established in Europe and include precautionary measures to prevent spread.	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
6.7	Conservation and management of critical feeding areas, core areas around colonies and commuting routes	Recalls Res. 4.9, pt 4	Part	Urges Parties and Range States to: raise awareness of the importance of critical feeding areas, core areas around known colonies and commuting routes for bats; ensure that the needs of bats are taken into account in land use and planning decisions; encourage research and monitoring to improve understanding of the use of landscape by bats; Develop appropriate national guidelines, drawing on the general guidance to be published by the Advisory Committee.	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC	<i>Encourages</i> the Advisory Committee to complete their work on this important area and to publish generic guidance as soon as possible.	
			StC		
			Secr		



6.8	Monitoring of daily and seasonal movements of bats	Considers establishment of Intersessional Working Group at Meeting of Parties 5 to collect information on migration of species in the range.	Part	Urges Parties to encourage research in daily/seasonal movements, to undertake priority studies, collect info concerning migration, increase cooperation with bird banding organisation. Need to consider guidelines of EUROBATS Pub. 3 and Res.6.11.	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
6.9	Year of the Bat	Acknowledges support received in the last 20 years and the success in promoting bat conservation	Part	Endorse the proposal of UNEP/CMS Secretariat to declare the years 2011 and 2012 "Year of the Bat" focusing 2011 on Europe linked to the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of EUROBATS and followed by a worldwide campaign in 2012	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		
6.10	Synergies between the Agreement and other European treaties for nature conservation	Refers to Bern Convention of the European Council, recognizes EU membership & recalls Res. 4.6, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 & draft Res. 6.5-8	Part		In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC	<i>Instructs</i> the Advisory Committee to review the format of National Reports under the Agreement with the aims of: 1. Including bat indicator statistics or data on bats which are needed to create a European bat indicator in accordance with the outcomes of the IWG on Bats as Indicators; 2. Harmonising the contents and time schedules of National Reports and updates under the Agreement with national report for other International reporting obligations covering bats, e.g. the EU Habitats Directive; 3. Encouraging non-EU Parties and non-Party Range States to assess the conservation status of their bat populations by applying the methodology, which was agreed by EU member states for the implementation of Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, in order to enable the Advisory Committee to make pan-European assessments and identify priorities for bat conservation in the whole Agreement area; 4. Reducing the work load connected to reporting in general.	
			StC		
			Secr	Urges the Secretariat to raise awareness for potential synergies of the Agreement and other European nature conservation treaties; to support information exchange and cooperation, to harmonise contents of national reports and reduce the work load related to reporting.	
6.11	Wind turbines and bat populations	Recalls Res. 2.2	Part	Urges Parties and Range States to raise awareness on the impact of turbines on bats and existence of some unsuitable habitats or sites for construction. Ensure undertaking of pre-construction impact assessments. Develop and ensure implementation of national guidance following EUROBATS Pub.3. Advisory Committee to update guidelines and compile relevant information.	Repealed Res. 5.6 – in effect –  <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC	<i>Requests</i> the Advisory Committee to: Keep the generic guidelines updated; Continue to compile relevant information, including methods to assess the impact on bat populations	
			StC		
			Secr		

6.12	Bat conservation and sustainable forest management	Recalls Res. 4.4 and 2.4 (forests included)	Part	<i>Urges</i> Parties and Range States to: Develop their own national guidance appropriate to their bat communities, forest ecosystems and forest management practices based on the principles in the EUROBATS Bats and Forestry leaflet; Share best practice forestry guidance via the EUROBATS website <i>Calls upon</i> the Parties to explore possibilities for using the UN International Year of the Forest 2011 to bring joint issues of bat conservation in forests forward.	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC	Instructs Advisory Committee to consider the update of Boye and Dietz's " <i>The development of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats</i> ", English Nature Research Report Number 661.	
			StC		
			Secr	Secretariat to explore possibilities for using the United Nations International Year of the Forest 2011 to bring joint issues of bat conservation in forests forward.	
6.13	Bats as indicators for biodiversity	Recalls Res. 4.4, 5.4, 5.10 and 6.16	Part	<i>Urges</i> Parties and Non-Party Range States to: Support the development of (national, regional and pan-European) biodiversity indicators for appropriate target audiences, using bat data; Facilitate the incorporation of bat data within high profile multi-taxa indicators to make them more truly representative of biodiversity; Support the objective of gathering the data for these indicators; Forge cooperation platforms that facilitate the required data exchange; Work towards the provision of standardised statistics in the national reports to EUROBATS.	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC	Requests Advisory Committee to continue the development of indicators of the activities and achievements of EUROBATS from the national reports and their updates, or other information provided by Parties and Range States	
			StC		
			Secr		
6.14	Impact of roads and other traffic infrastructures on bats		Part	<i>Urges</i> Parties and Non-Party Range States to: Take bats into account during the planning, construction and operation of roads and other infrastructure projects; Promote research into the impact of new and, where appropriate, existing roads and other infrastructure on bats and into the effectiveness of mitigation measures; Develop appropriate national or supranational guidelines, drawing on the general guidance to be published by the Advisory Committee;	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC	Requests the Advisory Committee to develop and publish a EUROBATS booklet highlighting the effects of roads on bats and providing guidance on minimising the impact of infrastructure projects on bats.	
			StC		
			Secr		
6.15	Impact on bat populations of the use of antiparasitic drugs for livestock	Recalls Art.III, Par.8 of Agreement and Par.23 of Annex K and C.M.Plans.	Part	<i>Urges</i> Parties and Range States to take a precautionary approach to the use of antiparasitic drugs. Limit their impact through the development of efficient non-chemical methods to control livestock parasites and use of products of least toxicity to non-target species. Encourage research and adopt recommendations in Annex I.	In effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		

6.16	Implementation of the conservation and management plan (2011-2014)		Part	Requests parties to report at each Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Action Plan. Decides to establish Action Plan for 2011-2014:	Supersedes Res. 5.10 - in effect - <i>implementation ongoing</i>
			AC		
			StC		
			Secr		

#### **Annex 4. Current list of species covered by the Agreement with their (global) IUCN Red List status**

The conservation status of bats has recently been assessed by IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, through a European Mammals Assessment (EMA) and a Global Mammal Assessment. The status for each species identified by these programmes is given in the following table.

Details of the information used to give these assessments for Europe can be found in Temple, H.J. & Terry, A. (Compilers) 2007. *The Status and Distribution of European Mammals*. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. 48pp. [Printed summary; species details available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/ema/>]

The results of the Global Mammals Assessment were incorporated into The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2008, available only on the web at <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>.

The table covers all those species included within the wider Europe defined by Eurobats and the Berne Convention. Where appropriate, species have been marked as Not Evaluated (NE) or Not Applicable (N/A), because the species was not recognised at the time, does not occur in the region defined, or the regional populations were considered insignificant in the overall distribution. Within the EU, *Rousettus aegyptiacus* and all Microchiroptera species are protected under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive; the species which are afforded additional protection under Annex II of this Directive are indicated in the final column.

Common name (English)	Scientific name	Red List Europe	Red List Global	EU Hab Dir Annex II
Egyptian Fruit Bat	<i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i>	NE, N/A	LC	Yes
Naked-rumped Tomb Bat	<i>Taphozous nudiventris</i>	NE	LC	N/A
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	NT	LC	Yes
Greater Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	NT	LC	Yes
Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	VU	NT	Yes
Mehely's Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus mehelyi</i>	VU	VU	Yes
Blasius' Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus blasii</i>	VU	LC	Yes
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	LC	LC	No
Pond Bat	<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	NT	NT	Yes
Long-fingered Bat	<i>Myotis capaccinii</i>	VU	VU	Yes
Brandt's Bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	LC	LC	No
Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	LC	LC	No
Steppe Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis aurascens</i>	LC	LC	No
Alcathoe Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis alcathoe</i>	DD	DD	No
Asiatic Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis nipalensis</i>	NE	LC	No
Armenian Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis hajastanicus</i>	NE	CR	N/A
Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	LC	LC	No
Iberian Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis escalerai</i>	NE	NE	No
Schaub's Bat	<i>Myotis schaubi</i>	NE	DD	N/A
Geoffroy's Bat	<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>	LC	LC	Yes
Bechstein's Bat	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	VU	NT	Yes
Greater Mouse-eared Bat	<i>Myotis myotis</i>	LC	LC	Yes
Lesser Mouse-eared Bat	<i>Myotis blythii</i>	NT	(LC)	Yes
Maghrebian Mouse-eared Bat	<i>Myotis punicus</i>	NT	NT	No
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	LC	LC	No
Greater Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	DD	NT	No
Leisler's Bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	LC	LC	No
Azorean Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus azoreum</i>	EN	EN	No
Common Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	LC	LC	No
Soprano Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	LC	LC	No
Hanak's Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus hanaki</i>	NE	NE	No
Nathusius's Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	LC	LC	No
Kuhl's Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	LC	LC	No
Madeiran Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus maderensis</i>	EN	EN	No
Savi's Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	LC	LC	No
Parti-coloured Bat	<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	LC	LC	No
Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	LC	LC	No
Northern Bat	<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i>	LC	LC	No
Isabelline Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus isabellinus</i>	NE	NE	No
Botta's Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus bottae</i>	NE	NE	N/A
Anatolian Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus anatolicus</i>	NE, N/A	(LC)	No
Western Barbastelle Bat	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	VU	NT	Yes
Eastern Barbastelle Bat	<i>Barbastella darjelingensis</i>	NE	NE	N/A
Hemprich's Long-eared Bat	<i>Otonycteris hemprichii</i>	NE	LC	N/A
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	LC	LC	No
Alpine Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus macrobullaris</i>	NT	LC	No
Sardinian Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus sardus</i>	VU	VU	No
Grey Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	LC	LC	No
Balkan Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus kolombatovici</i>	NT	LC	No
Canary Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus teneriffae</i>	EN	EN	No
Anatolian Bent-winged Bat	<i>Miniopterus pallidus</i>	NE	NE	N/A
Schreiber's Bent-winged Bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	NT	NT	Yes
European Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>	LC	LC	No

Red List categories:

CR: Critically Endangered, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, NT: Near Threatened, LC: Least Concern; DD: Data Deficient, NE Not Evaluated.

## Annex 5. Working group members

*Mr. Anthony Hutson	hutson.t@btinternet.com	IUCN
*Dr. Ferdia Marnell	ferdia.marnell@ahg.gov.ie	Ireland
Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis	pangeos@nhmc.uoc.gr	Greece
Dr. Helena Jahelková	helena.jahelkova@seznam.cz	Czech Republic
Dr. Andrzej Kepel	andrzej@salamandra.org.pl	PTOP Salamandra
Ms. Monika Lesz	monika.lesz@mos.gov.pl	Poland
Ms. Jean Matthews	Jean.Matthews@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk	United Kingdom
Mr. Oliver Schall	oliver.schall@bmu.bund.de	Germany
Ms. Triinu Tõrv	tttriinu@tlu.ee	Estonia
Dr Stephane Aulagnier	aulagnie@toulouse.inra.fr	France
Dr Martin Celuch	martin.celuch@gmail.com	Slovak Republic
Dr Karen Haysom	<a href="mailto:khaysom@bats.org.uk">khaysom@bats.org.uk</a>	BCT
Dr Thierry Kervyn	<a href="mailto:thierry.kervyn@spw.wallonie.be">thierry.kervyn@spw.wallonie.be</a>	Belgium
Dr Carmi Korine	ckorine@bgu.ac.il	Israel
Ms Arjana Matushi	<a href="mailto:arjanamatushi@hotmail.com">arjanamatushi@hotmail.com</a>	Albania
Ms Ruth Petermann	<a href="mailto:ruth.petermann@bfm.de">ruth.petermann@bfm.de</a>	Germany
Dr Gunars Petersons	<a href="mailto:Gunars.Petersons@llu.lv">Gunars.Petersons@llu.lv</a>	Latvia
Mr Ullar Rammul	<a href="mailto:yllar.rammul@envir.ee">yllar.rammul@envir.ee</a>	Estonia
Mr Phillipe Theou	<a href="mailto:p.theou@gmail.com">p.theou@gmail.com</a>	University of Tirana

\* Co-chairs