

7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Brussels, Belgium, 15 – 17 September 2014

Draft Resolution 7.6

Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats



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

Recalling Resolution No. 2.4, Element 2: Bat Habitats, Underground Habitats agreed at its Second Session (Bonn, July 1998);

Further recalling Resolution No. 3.8: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan agreed at its Third Session (Bristol, July 2000);

Recognising the importance of underground habitats to many species of bats, both for hibernation and breeding in different parts of their ranges;

Recognising that underground habitats, including man-made habitats, are threatened by a wide variety of anthropogenic factors and that active management of such sites is often required;

Noting further the work being carried out in the framework of the EU Habitats Directive, in particular the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, and in the framework of the Bern Convention, in particular the establishment of the Emerald network;

1. *Confirms* the importance of the EUROBATS list of underground habitats as a contribution to the maintenance of populations of European bats.
2. *Endorses* the revised guidance on site selection prepared by the Advisory Committee (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP7.22);
3. *Strongly encourages* Parties and Range States that have not yet identified their most important underground habitats to do so, using the updated guidance referred to above;
4. For sites that are already listed, encourages Parties and Range States that have not yet done so, to submit updated counts of bats at each site, being the seasonal maximum count over the preceding 8 year period. Updates should be

- submitted to the Secretariat within one year of the MoP using a data format provided by the Secretariat;
5. *Urges* Parties and encourages Range States to submit updated information about each site before every second MoP (an 8 year cycle, with the next revisions due before MoP 9), using a data format provided by the Secretariat;
 6. *Urges* Parties to ensure that the important underground habitats they have identified are fully protected by law and, where appropriate, are physically protected against unauthorised entry;
 7. *Urges* Parties to ensure that such habitats are managed in accordance with advice published by EUROBATS (Publication Series No. 2);
 8. *Urges* Parties and encourages Range States to inform the Secretariat of listed sites that have been damaged or destroyed and the reasons for this loss;
 9. *Instructs* the Secretariat to investigate cases of loss or damage to listed sites that are brought to its attention, initially by correspondence with the Party involved. Such investigations should be reported by the Secretariat at each MoP;
 10. *Instructs* the Secretariat to investigate ways of making the site data more accessible and useful whilst respecting the confidentiality of detailed site information;
 11. *Repeals* Resolution 4.3.