

7th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Brussels, Belgium, 15 – 17 September 2014

Resolution 7.13

Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan
(2015 - 2018)



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

Referring to the commitments by the Parties to the conservation of bats in accordance with the Agreement, especially the fundamental obligations placed upon Parties in Article III;

Recognising the value to the conservation of bats of the Action Plan for 2011 – 14, established by Resolution 6.16 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, and agreed at the 6th Session of the Meeting of Parties;

Noting the efforts of Parties, as outlined in their National Implementation Reports, and of the Advisory Committee as well as the Secretariat to the Agreement to carry out the above plans and the progress achieved;

Recognising the continuous need to prioritise actions;

Acknowledging the work being carried out in the framework of the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EC), 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;

Decides to establish the Action Plan for 2015 – 2018 as appended at Annex 1 and notes that this Action Plan supersedes the Action Plan made under Resolution 16 at the 6th Session of the Meeting of Parties.

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION FOR THE PERIOD 2015 – 2018

Parties to the Agreement should consider taking forward the following actions to enhance the conservation status of bats. The Advisory Committee shall review the success that each Party or Range State has in achieving each goal, and will seek to disseminate examples of good practice between Parties and Range States.

1. Legal Requirements

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Resolution No. 8, Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, Annex A, 1:

- Parties should continue to take measures to fully implement Article III (1) of the Agreement.

(b) The Advisory Committee should examine, with the Chair of the Standing Committee, the need for a system to review requests for advice addressed to the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the Agreement.

2. Population Survey and Monitoring

(a) [With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP7.23,] the Advisory Committee should develop criteria for the required standards of experts assessing the impacts of projects, plans and programmes on populations on European bats.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5, Resolution No. 2.2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 3 – 6:

- Parties should continue to collate data on the implementation of Resolution 2.2 with special reference to species prioritised by Range States and review the methods used and the species covered.

(c) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.5, Resolution No. 2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 3 – 6, Recommendation from the AC14 Record:

- Parties should continue to share information on experience gained in using the methods outlined in the published Guidelines, with the intention of keeping those up-to-date and building a comprehensive dataset to be reviewed in detail in due course.

- The Advisory Committee should continue to promote the use of standardised monitoring methods and should review and update the monitoring guidelines as required.
- The importance of long-term monitoring at a pan-European level to build up good datasets on species distribution and population trends should be recognised and emphasised. The Advisory Committee should continue to work towards the development of standardised pan-European monitoring and capacity building for monitoring.

(d) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.6AnnexAfin and AnnexI_{fin}, Resolution No. 3, Transboundary Programme: Species Proposals, and Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.8AnnexAfin, Resolution No. 5, Geographical Scope of the Agreement and Resolution 6.3 and 6.8:

- Parties should continue to collect information on local and commuting movements among bat populations.
- Parties should also undertake priority studies to identify long distance migration routes.
- The Advisory Committee will collect information on the status of European bat species in each non-European Range State of the Western Palaearctic.
- The Advisory Committee should continue to identify specific research needs and recommend where possible the use of non-invasive techniques.

(e) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14_{fin}, Annex A, 8 and EUROBATS.MoP7.20:

- Autecological studies should be carried out on the new list of priority species identified in the Annex to Resolution 7.12. and should be made public.
- Parties should support autecological studies on the Priority List of species investigating:
 - Roosts (winter, summer, swarming)
 - Migration
 - Habitat and spatial use
 - Foraging behaviour and diet

(f) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP4.10.Rev.2, Resolution 4.4 and Resolution 7.7 on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management, Parties should:

- 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.

(g) With reference to Resolution 7.5 on the impacts of wind turbines on bat populations:

- Parties should develop, and ensure implementation of, national guidance following the most recent version of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee generic Guidelines and should encourage research and monitoring on the impacts of wind turbines on bat populations
- The Advisory Committee should continue to compile relevant information, including methods to assess the impact of wind power generation on bat populations

(h) With reference to the progress made on Resolution 6.13 and the publication of a prototype indicator of trends in European bat populations at hibernation sites (EEA tech report ref. 2014):

- The Advisory Committee should continue to expand and update this prototype to incorporate data for further countries and species and other technical improvements to assist the development of bats as indicators of ecosystem health.
- The Advisory Committee should continue to develop indicators of the activities and achievements of EUROBATS.
- Parties shall promote and support the development of bats as indicators more widely.

3. Roosts

(a) With reference to the StC9-AC19 Record:

- Information on the design of artificial, purpose-built bat roosts should continue to be gathered by the Advisory Committee. Good practice guidance being developed by the Advisory Committee should be completed and adopted by Parties at MoP8.
- The Advisory Committee will collect data on the implementation of the EUROBATS Guidelines, Publication Series No. 2 and No. 4 on the protection of underground and overground roosts.

(b) With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.MoP2.7.AnnexIfin, Resolution No. 4 Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals and Element 2: Bats Habitats:

- The Advisory Committee shall review and update the list of important underground sites for bats.
- Parties and Range States, using the revised guidance on site selection [Doc.Eurobats.MoP7.22], should continue to collate and update information on important underground sites with a view to submitting this to the Secretariat every 8 years.
- Parties should ensure that the important underground habitats they have identified are fully protected by law and, where appropriate, are physically protected against unauthorised entry.

(c) With reference to Resolution 7.11,

- The Advisory Committee should develop guidelines on bats and insulation projects.
- Parties should give due regard to bat conservation and protection during insulation projects.

4. Habitats

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 16 and Resolution 7.8 and its Annex:

- The Advisory Committee should complete its review of the conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes and publish guidelines on this topic.
- Parties should develop appropriate national guidelines, drawing on the general guidance to be finalised by the Advisory Committee.

(b) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A:

- Parties should take the conservation of bat habitats into consideration in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or linear features associated with roosts are affected.

(c) With reference to Resolution 7.9:

- The Advisory Committee should finalise and publish guidelines highlighting the effects of roads and other infrastructure on bats and providing advice on how to minimise their impact.
- Parties should develop appropriate national guidelines drawing on these generic guidelines when available.

(d) With reference to the Record of StC9-AC19.

- The Advisory Committee should finalise its guidelines on light pollution and review the need for additional guidelines on the impact of noise pollution on bats.

5. Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 19 and StC9-AC19.Record:

- Parties should continue to promote International Bat Night and continue efforts to raise public awareness and improve education.
- The Advisory Committee should continue to develop guidelines and training material for education programmes

(b) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 20:

- Parties should continue to produce guidance and assess new ways of working, such as producing public attitude surveys and identifying important groups that need to be influenced by bat conservation.
- Parties are invited to send a copy of any educational materials they produce to the Secretariat.

(c) With reference to Resolution 7.10, the Advisory Committee should develop guidelines for bat rehabilitation.

6. Pesticides

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 22, Article III, paragraph 8 of the Agreement and Resolution 4.5:

- Parties should remain aware of the potential dangers of timber treatment chemicals to bats, especially if new products are introduced.
- Parties should bring to the attention of the Advisory Committee any new information on the potential impact on bats of new insecticides in the wider countryside.

7. International co-operation

(a) With reference to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP2.14fin, Annex A, 24, Resolution 7.12:

- Parties should co-operate in undertaking the actions outlined above. Parties and Range States should work co-operatively towards increasing bat expertise and knowledge in their countries and internationally.

(b) With reference to Resolution 6.10 the Secretariat, assisted by the Advisory Committee shall raise awareness for the potential synergies of the Agreement and other European treaties for nature conservation.

8. Diseases

(a) With reference to Resolution 6.6 and Resolution 5.2:

- The Advisory Committee should continue to monitor the occurrence of emerging diseases and advise Parties on appropriate action.
- Parties are encouraged to ensure that up to date information on emerging diseases is readily available
- Parties are encouraged to continue or introduce surveillance for rabies and other lethal infections.

9. EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

With reference to resolution 6.4:

- The Advisory Committee should continue to implement the EPI;
- Parties are encouraged to continue to support the EPI.