

7th Session of the Meeting of Parties

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Secretariat Work Plan 2015 – 2018



Following up a request of the Standing Committee expressed at its 9th Meeting (Greece, April 2014) the Secretariat has analysed which activities are to be implemented resulting from Resolutions already in place and which additional activities will emerge from the draft resolutions to be finalised and adopted at MoP7. The background of this request of the Standing Committee is the fact that until the new post of a scientist at the Secretariat had been filled, the Secretariat has had no capacity to support the scientific focal points and other experts in their work in the Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) and that now the time has come to assess which additional functions and services the Secretariat will be able to deliver in the new setup.

As a result of the continually growing number of Parties and Working Groups, as well as the increasing number of resolutions which need to be implemented the Secretariat expects five major lines of activities in addition to the routine tasks previously fulfilled. For the first time since its establishment the Secretariat has the necessary scientific capacity to significantly support the IWGs in their substantive work and to assist Parties in their implementation efforts. For the time being the following areas of activities have been identified as added activities for the benefit of Parties:

1. Assistance for the Advisory Committee in data compilation and analysis

This will represent a substantial portion of work for the Secretariat since it is required in 9 resolutions or draft resolutions and 2 reports of the IWGs.

Resolutions 2.4, 4.3 and Draft Resolution 7.5 request that the Parties should identify important underground habitats for bats and transmit this information to the Secretariat. Furthermore, Draft Resolution 7.5 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 and to investigate ways of making the site data more accessible.

Resolutions 5.3, 6.2, Draft Resolution 7.3 as well as Resolutions 5.11 and 6.3 request the Advisory Committee to keep abreast of new research in order to amend the Annex from time to time and to review the geographic scope of the Agreement, should this become necessary.

Draft Resolution 7.8 (replacing Resolution 6.13) requests the Advisory Committee to continue to develop indicators of the activities and achievements of EUROBATS from the National Reports and their updates, or other information provided by Parties and Non-Party Range States. Resolution 6.11 and Draft Resolution 7.4 on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations request the Advisory Committee to continue to compile relevant information, including methods to assess the impact on bat populations.

2. Development of new Guidelines for Bat Conservation

The Secretariat expects at least four new guidelines to be developed after MoP7: Draft Resolution 7.12 on Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation, Draft Resolution 7.13 on Bats and Building Insulation request the Advisory Committee to develop guidelines on these topics. Similar requests were expressed at the AC 19 in the reports of the IWG on Light Pollution and the IWG on Education. Draft Resolution 7.14 requests the AC to develop criteria of the required standard qualifications of experts assessing the impact of projects, plans and programmes on Populations of European Bats. This implies that a new IWG will be established and new guidelines will have to be developed and published in the follow up.

3. New volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series

The following volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series will have to be published in the time period between MoP7 and MoP8 as results of the outstanding work of the Advisory Committee.

- 1. Guidance on conservation and management of critical feeding areas**
(Resolution 6.7 , Draft Resolution 7.7)
- 2. Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects (second edition)** (Resolution 6.11, Draft Resolution 7.4)

3. **Bats and Roads - Guidelines for minimising the impacts of roads and other traffic infrastructure on bat populations** (Resolution 6.14, Draft Resolution 7.8)
4. **The review on bats and forest management (updated)** (Resolution 6.12, Draft Resolution 7.6)
5. **The review of case studies on Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts** (the draft version was submitted to AC 19).

It is necessary to mention that the printing costs of these publications are not yet incorporated in the regular budget and will highly depend on voluntary contributions from Parties. From previous experience these publications will take many efforts from the Secretariat's side, including qualified expert assistance for the final peer-reviewing and text improvements as well as continuous communications with the authors and/or members of the relevant IWGs.

4. The EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

Since the launch of EPI in 2009 the number of supported projects has increased significantly and has reached 17 projects in the period 2011-2014. Further increase in the number of applications and supported projects is expected which will lead to additional work load to the Secretariat staff members with particular importance of the scientific officer who is responsible for liaising with applicants, overseeing the implementation of projects, reviewing the technical outputs of selected projects, developing proposals for follow up action and other EPI-related tasks. The EPI issues also take growing time allotments from other Secretariat employees including the Executive Secretary for fund raising and administrative personal for fund management.

5. Other issues

Resulting from Resolution 6.10 on "Synergies between the Agreement and other European Treaties for Nature Conservation" the Secretariat is requested to cooperate and exchange information between governmental institutions dealing with nature conservation on national, regional or European level and to improve the conservation of bats following the guidelines published by EUROBATS in any procedures for the implementation of the Bern Convention, the EU Habitats Directive and other international treaties for nature conservation. This demand for cooperation

urges the EUROBATS Secretariat to be represented in the meetings of advisory bodies of international treaties including the Scientific Council of CMS, the Groups of Experts of the Bern Convention, the European Commission as well as others. The scientific officer is the most suitable person to represent the Secretariat at the expert group level and in other cases the Executive Secretary will be able to consult with him on scientific matters with regard to possible synergies between EUROBATS and other relevant Treaties and Conventions.