

7th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Brussels, Belgium, 15 – 17 September 2014



Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee

Introduction

This report summarises the activities of the Advisory Committee between the 6th and 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties. Details of the reported Advisory Committee Meetings held in this period, are available in the respective Records of these Meetings.

16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

The Ministry for Environment Protection on behalf of the Government of Georgia was hosting the Meeting that was held in Tbilisi on 4-6 April 2011. Twenty six Parties and thirteen Non-Party Range States were represented, as well as five NGO and one institution from respectively France, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom were represented. In addition, the IUCN/SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group was represented by two delegates.

17th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

The meeting took place in the city of Dublin on 15 – 17 May 2012 at the generous invitation of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Government of Ireland. Twenty four Parties and eighteen Non-Party Range States were represented together with ten NGOs, one governmental institution, one university from respectively France, Germany, Georgia, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom as well as the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group.

18th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

The Meeting was held in Sophia on 15-17 April 2013 and was hosted on behalf of the Bulgarian Government by the Ministry of Environment and Water. Twenty seven Parties and eighteen Non-Party Range States were represented. In addition six NGOs and one university from respectively Albania, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom took a part in the Meeting.

19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee / 9th Meeting of the Standing Committee

This Meeting was the second joint Meeting with the Standing Committee and was hosted by the Natural History Museum Crete. The Meeting was held in Heraklion on 7 - 10 April 2014. Twenty six Parties and sixteen Non-Party Range States were represented. In addition ten NGOs, one scientific institute, one university and the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group from respectively Albania, Croatia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Romania and the United Kingdom had sent delegates.

Intersessional Working Groups

The Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) are essential to carry forwards the work of the Advisory Committee. The following Intersessional Working Groups were acting during the review period:

- IWG on Conservation of Key Underground Sites
- IWG on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management
- IWG on Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats (previously: Bat Migration)
- IWG on Autecological Studies for Priority Species
- IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
- IWG on the Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes
- IWG on Monitoring and Indicators (IWG on Bats as Indicators and IWG on the Pan-European Monitoring Project for Underground Sites had merged at AC 16)
- IWG on the Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats
- IWG on Light Pollution
- IWG on Code of Ethics for Field Work and Related Activities
- IWG on the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)
- IWG on Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health (previously: White-Nose Syndrome)
- IWG on Man-made Purpose-built bat Roosts
- IWG on Review of the Format of National Reports
- IWG on the Implementation of the Agreement
- IWG on Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation
- IWG on Bats and Building Insulation
- IWG on Education

Ad hoc Working Groups

The following ad hoc Working Groups were acting in the review period:

- Ad-hoc Working Group on Geographical Scope of the Agreement
- Ad hoc Working Group on Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement.

Resolutions

The following Draft Resolutions were prepared by the Intersessional Working Groups of the Advisory Committee for submission to the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties:

- Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement
- Implementation of the Agreement
- Format of National Implementation Reports
- Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
- Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats
- Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management
- Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes
- Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats
- Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Bats and Building Insulation
- Priority Species for Autecological Studies
- Quality of Assessments and Qualification of Experts

Participation of the Chair of the Advisory Committee in the Meetings of the Standing Committee

The Chair of the Advisory Committee was attending as observer *ex officio* the 6st – 8th Meetings of the Standing Committee which were held in Bonn on 22 March 2011, in Paris on 28 March 2012 and in London on 21 March 2013.

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee

At the 16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee Mr. Peter Lina (the Netherlands) was re-elected as Chair of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland) was elected for the position of Vice-Chair by consensus.

Contact with the Agreement Secretariat

There was a frequent mutual feedback between the Agreement Secretariat, the Chair and the Vice-Chair about current business and special issues.

Representation

The Chair was representing the Advisory Committee at the following Meetings:

- The 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (Bergen, 20-25 November 2011);
- The 3rd International Berlin Meeting: Bats in the Anthropocene (Berlin, 1-3 March 2013);
- The Strategy and Planning Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Gaeta-Formia, 9-10 October 2013).

Peter H.C. Lina
Chair of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee 2011-2014
10 September 2014.