

4th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Sofia, Bulgaria, 22 – 24 September 2003

Resolution No. 4.11

Recognising the Important Role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Bat Conservation



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

Aware that the expertise and the activities of competent NGOs represent a substantial contribution to the successful implementation of the Agreement;

Recognising that the governments highly benefit from the voluntary monitoring and data collection work of such NGOs;

Appreciating the enormous and most successful efforts of NGOs in public awareness raising for the need of bat conservation through the "European Bat Night" and numerous other activities;

Aware that both governments and NGOs highly benefit if they co-operate closely and solve potential conflicts in a constructive manner through recognising each others roles and responsibilities;

Further aware that NGO activities could have increased impacts if they are not only locally or nationally orientated but also seek for international co-operation and exchange of information as well as transboundary projects;

Decides to:

Express its good will to further support the most valuable activities of competent NGOs; and to

Encourage activities of NGOs to collaborate and share experience in ways that have the potential to substantially improve transboundary co-operation and exchange of information as well as mutual assistance, including, if appropriate, the establishment of a pan-European umbrella organisation.