

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

Draft Resolution 6.6

Underground Habitats



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

Recalling Resolution 2.4, Element 2: Bat Habitats, Underground Habitats agreed at its Second Session (Bonn, July 1998);

Further recalling Resolution 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, swarming 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;

Recalling Resolution 2.4: Transboundary Programme, Habitat Proposals;

Further recalling Resolution 5.10 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2007- 2010)

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;

Decides that:

1. The list of internationally important underground sites for bats identified by Parties and reviewed at the 15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee should be published in a suitable format. This should include the name of the site, site type, its geographic location and a list of species recorded at the site, provided that the publication of such details does not threaten the conservation of the site or the

bats. The site selection criteria agreed by the Advisory Committee should be published along with the site lists.

2. The Advisory Committee begin a review process to ensure that the list of sites properly represents the diversity of sites used by bats across the area of the Agreement and properly identifies the most important underground sites for bats in this area. This review process should provide further guidance to Parties on the selection of sites and Parties should be encouraged to review the lists of sites in the light of this revised guidance. The Advisory Committee should set a timetable for this review so that it is complete by the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties.
3. Parties should report on the conservation status of listed sites to each session of the Meeting of Parties as part of the established reporting requirements, provided that there is not a similar obligation like (e.g.) under the Habitats Directive.