

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

Draft Resolution 6.10

Year of the Bat



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

Acknowledging with gratitude the support that the Agreement has received in the meanwhile nearly 20 years since it was signed – 4 December 1991 – and the steady growth by accession of new member states within this timeframe;

Recognising the success achieved by the Agreement in promoting bat conservation and protection of their habitats, combating prejudices commonly held about bats and raising public awareness, particularly through the European Bat Night and similar events;

Acknowledging that bats in other parts of the world also need protection and welcoming the support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) to tackle these issues;

Wishing to encourage countries in other continents to conclude similar Agreements and to support bat protection within their ranges;

Underlining in the UN year of the biodiversity that there are about 1,150 species of bats known worldwide of which 177 (15%) are threatened (vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered) with 204 species (18%) data deficient and 5 species extinct and that the most common threats are habitat fragmentation and deforestation, causing declines in populations and geographic range.

Decides:

1. To endorse the proposal of UNEP/CMS Secretariat to declare the years 2011 and 2012 "Year of the Bat" focusing 2011 on Europe and 2012 on a world-wide campaign;
2. To call upon the Parties to the Agreement to make additional efforts in the year 2011 – the year of the 20th anniversary of the Agreement – and if possible 2012 to promote bat conservation and public awareness of the problems bats are

facing and the need to improve the image of bats in public awareness;

3. To urge Non-Party Range States in Europe and elsewhere to accede to the Agreement and to initiate, continue and collaborate as appropriate in conservation and public awareness campaigns helping to improve the conservation status of all bat species.
4. To request IGOs and NGOs to support the “Year of the Bat” campaign by initiating conservation and awareness campaigns helping to improve the conservation status of all bat species.
5. To dedicate the European campaign within the “Year of the Bat” to the flagship subject "Together with bats: bats are fascinating and essential neighbors; protect bats and their roosts in your house and garden”.