

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

Draft Resolution 6.11

Synergies between the Agreement and Other
European Treaties for Nature Conservation



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

Referring to the Berne Convention of the European Council, which places the obligation on its members to take appropriate measures to ensure the special protection of all European bat species except *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*;

Referring to the Habitats Directive of the European Union, which is binding for EU Member States and includes the duty of the implementation of a strict regime of protection for all European bat species;

Noting that 23 Parties to the Agreement and 4 non-Party range states are Members of the European Union and 30 Parties to the Agreement and 9 non-Party range states are Members of the Berne Convention;

Recognising the established network of protected areas with special value for the conservation of bats, which were designated for the Emerald Network under the Berne Convention or Natura 2000 of the European Union;

Recognising the potentials of these protected areas for the conservation of Populations of bats in accordance to the Agreement if they were managed in an appropriate way;

Noting the unsatisfying results of the first assessments of the conservation status of bats made in 2007 by all EU Member States for the biogeographic regions of Europe in accordance to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (summarised in document Inf.EUROBATS.AC13.16);

Recognising the need of internationally coordinated measures for the conservation of migratory species such as bats, because otherwise the population status of these species will be determined in the whole range by the region with the weakest conservation regime;

Recognising that EU Member States have to meet the strict conservation targets of the Habitats Directive and Members of the Berne Convention are obliged to fulfil the aims of this Convention, although neither the Habitats Directive nor the Berne Convention offer any mechanisms for common surveillance and evaluation of scientific data, the exchange of experience from the implementation of conservation measures, or any other cooperation in bat conservation, in a similar way as the Agreement efficiently does;

Recalling Resolution 5.2 “Bat Rabies”, which urges Parties and non-Party range states to take care for people who are exposed to special risks for their health when they work with bats in the course of research, surveillance or conservation;

Recalling Resolution 5.4 “Monitoring Bats across Europe”, which supports the development of a pan-European bat monitoring programme with standardised surveillance methods as a tool for accurate assessments of the conservation status of bats at the European level;

Recalling Resolutions 4.6 and 5.5 on Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats, which give advice how to acknowledge the protected status of bats during research, surveillance or conservation procedures;

Recalling Resolution 5.6 “Wind Turbines and Bat Populations” and Resolution 5.7 “Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with Particular Reference to Roosts in Buildings of Cultural Heritage Importance”;

Referring to Draft Resolution 6.5 “Code of Ethics for Field Work related Activities”, 6.7 “Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection and Control of lethal fungal Infections in Bats”, 6.8 “Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes”, 6.9 “Monitoring of Bat Migration” and the Conservation and Management Plan 2011-2013 adopted by the Meeting of Parties;

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Raise awareness for the potential synergies of the Agreement and other European treaties for nature conservation, with the Agreement as an appropriate platform for international exchange of knowledge and experience in bat conservation, which is essential to meet the targets of the Habitats Directive and the Berne Convention, as appropriate, in particular to reach or ensure a favourable conservation status of these migratory species in Europe;

2. Support further exchange and cooperation between bodies of the Agreement and those of other international treaties for nature conservation, in particular the Advisory Committee and the European Commission;
3. Encourage cooperation and exchange of governmental institutions dealing with nature conservation on regional, national or European level to create and take advantage of synergies of the Agreement and other international treaties for nature conservation;
4. Improve the conservation of bats by the implementation of Resolutions adopted by the Agreement and following the guidelines published by the Secretariat in any procedures for the implementation of the Berne Convention, the EU Habitats Directive and other international treaties for nature conservation.

Instructs the Advisory Committee to review the format of National Reports under the Agreement with the aims of

1. Including bat indicator statistics or data on bats which are needed to create a European bat indicator in accordance with the outcomes of the IWG on Bats as Indicators;
2. Harmonising the contents and time schedules of National Reports and updates under the Agreement with national report for other European treaties covering bats, in particular the EU Habitats Directive;
3. Encouraging non-EU Parties and non-Party Range States to assess the conservation status of their bat populations by applying the methodology, which was agreed by EU member states for the implementation of Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, in order to enable the Advisory Committee to make pan-European assessments and identify priorities for bat conservation in the whole Agreement area;
4. Reducing the work load connected to reporting in general.