

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

Resolution 6.9

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 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 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 to:

1. Endorse the proposal of UNEP/CMS Secretariat to declare the years 2011 and 2012 "Year of the Bat" focusing 2011 on Europe linked to the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of EUROBATS and followed by a worldwide campaign in 2012;
2. Call upon the Parties to the Agreement to make additional efforts in the year 2011 and if possible - based on the experiences gained in 2011 - to promote additionally in 2012 bat conservation and public awareness of the problems bats are facing

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

3. Call upon Parties, Non-Party Range States, IGOs and NGOs to provide financial support and/or contributions in kind for the “Year of the Bat” campaign;
4. Urge Non-Party Range States within the Agreement area 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;
5. 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;
6. Dedicate the European campaign within the “Year of the Bat” to the flagship themes:
 - bats are fascinating and essential neighbours;
 - protect bats and their roosts in your house, garden and neighbourhood with the slogan: Together with Bats.