

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

Resolution 6.11

Wind Turbines and Bat Populations



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

Noting the importance that wind energy has in the implementation of the Kyoto protocol to reduce CO₂ emissions in context of combating climate change;

Recalling Resolution 2.2 Consistent Monitoring Methodologies which recommends the adoption of consistent monitoring methods for bats across Europe;

Recalling the Agreement’s Conservation and Management Plans, which recognise the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

Recalling further the Agreement’s Conservation and Management Plans, which recognise the conservation of bat habitats in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or commuting routes are affected.

Noting the work of the Advisory Committee in producing Guidelines for the planning process and to assess the impacts of wind turbines on bats at a European level that were published as EUROBATS Publication Series No. 3;

Noting that the Guidelines are not always fully taken into account;

Recognising the importance of standardised methods to be able to develop effective mitigation and/or avoidance measures, as well as statistically robust ways to evaluate mortality rates and their impact on bat populations;

Recognising that several bat species forage offshore and that as a result offshore wind farms may negatively affect bat populations;

Recognising also the necessity of implementing research and monitoring

Urges Parties and Range States, if not already done so, to:

1. Raise awareness of the impacts that wind turbines might have on bat populations;

2. Raise awareness of the existence of some unsuitable habitats or sites for the construction of wind turbines at a local, regional and national scale;
3. Encourage developers of wind energy plants to become involved in research for mutual benefit;
4. Ensure that pre-construction impact assessments including surveys and post-construction monitoring are undertaken;
5. Develop and ensure implementation of national guidance appropriate to the local environment following the EUROBATS Publication Series No. 3;
6. Encourage the use of blade feathering to mitigate bat mortality.

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Keep the generic guidelines updated;
2. Continue to compile relevant information, including methods to assess the impact on bat populations.

Decides:

To repeal the Resolution 5.6.