

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

Record of the Meeting



1. Attendance:

This is listed at **Annex 3** to this Record.

2. Opening remarks:

Mr Michel Perret (France), Chair of the Standing Committee, opened the meeting and introduced the speakers.

First was Deputy Minister Mr Tomáš Tesař who spoke on behalf of the host Government and stressed the Czech Republic's commitment to international environment protection. Professor Ivan Horáček of the Czech Bat Conservation Society, ČESON, described the history of bat conservation in the Czech Republic and in Czechoslovakia, and presented a book, "A Tribute to Bats" the launch of which coincided with the Meeting of Parties and mentioned a DVD which would be premiered at the meeting.

Mr Perret stressed the role of bats as indicators of environmental health while the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr Peter Lina (the Netherlands) emphasised the valuable research and conservation work undertaken by Czech experts.

Ms Melanie Virtue (Inter-Agency Liaison Officer, UNEP-CMS) representing the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species, Elizabeth Mrema, looked towards the forthcoming Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which was to adopt a Strategic Plan setting new goals, fully aware that the targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss had been missed. She also mentioned CMS's role in the International Year of Biodiversity and the plans being developed by CMS and EUROBATS for the Year of the Bat.

Andreas Streit, Executive Secretary of EUROBATS, commented that the Meeting was the best attended so far, with 40 countries attending, with Morocco and Lebanon represented for the first time. He thanked the Czech hosts for the excellent facilities and the enjoyable field trip the previous day.

Following the speeches, the DVD, "Of Bats and Darkness", was shown.

3. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure were adopted. These were the same as the rules adopted at MoP5 with the exception of the provision that pending the election of officers for the meeting, the Chair of the Standing Committee rather than the Chair of the Advisory Committee would preside.

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr Perret proposed Ms Dagmar Ziková of the Czech Republic as Chair of the Meeting. This was seconded by Croatia, Poland, Germany and Luxembourg. Ms Ziková called for nominations for the post of Vice-Chair. France, seconded by Sweden and Ukraine proposed Ms Irine Lomashvili of Georgia.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

There being no comments from the floor, the agenda for the meeting was adopted as presented in Document MoP6.1.Rev.1.

6. Election of the Chairpersons of the Administrative and Scientific Working Groups

It was proposed that Mr Perret as Chair of the Standing Committee should chair the Administrative Working Group. Similarly it was proposed that Mr Lina as Chair of the Advisory Committee should chair the Scientific Working Group. Both of these proposals were accepted unanimously.

7. Establishment of the Credentials Committee and Election of Chair

The United Kingdom was elected as Chair of the Credentials Committee and Sweden and Ireland were elected as the other two members.

8. Admission of observers

The list of observers among the participants was circulated to Parties. As no objections were raised, all observers present were admitted to the meeting.

9. Report of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee

Mr Perret reported on the four meetings of the Standing Committee that had taken place since the establishment of the Committee by the previous Meeting of Parties. The meetings had been held in Bonn (27 March 2007, 6 May 2008, 31 March 2009 and 3 - 6 May 2010) and primarily dealt with financial and budgetary matters and latterly preparations for the MoP. The Chair's report is contained in Doc.EUROBATS.MoP6.5.

10. Report of the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee

Peter Lina presented Doc.EUROBATS.MoP6.6, the report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee with an overview of the outcomes and decisions of the 12th to 15th Meetings.

11. Secretariat Report

Andreas Streit (Executive Secretary) presented Doc.EUROBATS.MoP6.7. He thanked Christine Boye, who had recently left the Secretariat, for her contribution to the work of the Agreement over the past ten years. He noted that all Parties with two exceptions had submitted their National Reports and urged the two that had not to do so as soon as possible. EUROBATS was cooperating with CMS over the development of a system of online national reporting to reduce the burdens on Parties. He also mentioned the continuing success of the EUROBATS Publications Series and the good work achieved by the EUROBATS Project Initiative (EPI) launched in 2008. In addition to the regular voluntary contributions received from Germany and Luxembourg, the EPI had generated a further € 24,500 in donations from Parties. The Executive Secretary concluded by thanking Norway and Germany which had both provided financial assistance which allowed participants from transition and developing countries to attend.

12. Report of the Depositary

The United Kingdom reported that since the last Meeting of the Parties, San Marino had acceded to the Agreement. A number of Parties had however still to submit their acceptance of the second amendment to the Agreement.

13. Review of the Implementation of the Agreement

All Parties, non-Party Range States and observers were invited to make a brief oral statement of activities to complement their written reports. Those Parties, Non-Parties and NGOs that wanted their statement recorded in the Meeting record were invited to provide the Secretariat with the text.

Belgium

Status and trends

Twenty species are considered as resident for Belgium, of which *Barbastella barbastellus* has become extremely rare and both *Rhinolophus* species have either disappeared (Atlantic zone) or sharply declined (continental zone) with recently better prospects to the future.

For the Atlantic biogeographical zone, as a result of major investments into bat protection and hibernation site management as a joint effort by regional authorities, local and even town governments and NGOs, all bat species hibernating in underground sites or brick fortifications showed a continuous favourable population trend over the last 2 decades.

For the continental zone, with manifold of natural underground hibernation sites, most cave dwelling bat species estimations are either favourable (*Myotis bechsteinii*, *Myotis daubentonii*) or are at a status quo. For the Atlantic zone, especially *Eptesicus serotinus* and *Myotis emarginatus* seem to be increasing in terms of known maternity colonies.

Legal initiatives

- The major activity over the last years in terms of legal status and protection of bats (for all BE regions) was related to the design of management plans for species under the EU Habitat Directive to reach or maintain a Favourable State of Conservation. Species charts -on the Regional level - compare actual and recent evolution of status and distribution, but also lists pressures and possible threats and what is to be considered sufficiently numbers to guarantee a maintained or future favourable status of conservation. Species Charts were translated into Regional Targets for a Favourable State of Conservation, describing targets and where to achieve them. For most bat species, given the idea that recent trends of the populations are stable or even positive, regional targets aim to maintain the current status, but giving a more solid basis for the protection of hibernation and/or roost sites. The last step to be achieved will be a translation of Regional aims into local implementation plans that will be endorsed.

- The Flemish Region approved a renewed Species Protection legal framework that combines legal aspects on species and ecosystem protection that were scattered over a series of regulations and ministerial decisions. The Species Protection Law strengthens the position of species protected under the Habitat and Bird Directives.

- The Walloon Government decided to restore broadleaved forests edges around public coniferous forests. New legislations were adopted allowing financial support for restoration of favourable broadleaved forests edges and old trees patches in Natura-2000 designated sites, and for several agri-environmental schemes positive for bat conservation.

Research & monitoring

- Standardized yearly winter counts in small and larger hibernation sites in Wallonia, Flanders and Brussels are going on. These monitoring initiatives are as always a crucial factor for following up the status of species, but also contribute to the design of species protection plans and favourable state of conservation plans under the EU Habitat Directive.

- Bat rabies monitoring is still ongoing, under co-ordination of the National Institute for Public Health.

- A major series of publications on bat ecology, feeding ecology and historical comparisons were published.
- The Walloon region, in collaboration with Natagora, is applying a *R. hipposideros* action plan around the relict maternity colonies. It also conducts an Interreg project together with the French Lorraine Region, including several bat surveys and actions for the restoration of bat populations in this area.
- The Flemish and Walloon Regions, in collaboration with the stakeholders involved, successfully launched management collaboration schemes for bat colony protection on church attics.
- The Brussels region is completing a broad scale bat monitoring on all of its territory.

Raising Awareness

- Both a LIFE+ project (Bat Action) and EU Interreg project (Belgian and French Lorraine) are major driving forces for bat study and protection and are raising awareness in both the Flemish and Walloon Region.
- The yearly European Bat night is still a major success.

A large amount of conservation activities in Belgium is due to the efforts of volunteers. The Belgian delegation to the EUROBATS Agreement would like to express their thanks for all this excellent work.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria 33 species of bats are recorded and no new species were recently discovered. Thirty-one species are considered resident, one is vagrant, one is migratory.

All species of bats in Bulgaria are strictly protected under the provision of the Biodiversity act.

The electronic edition on the new Red Data Book of animals and plants (The National Red Data Book of Bulgaria) was launched in April 2010 and the printed version is expected to be published in 2011.

Bulgaria has updated the list of Important Bat Underground Habitats, which will be published in the new edition of the EUROBATS Publications Series, which at present comprises 71 sites (one fortification, one mine, one building/cellar, 68 caves).

Plenty of activities, which concern conservation of bats, were organized by several Bulgarian NGOs. Communication between the Ministry of Environment and Water and the environmental NGOs has greatly improved in recent years.

European Bat Nights were successfully carried out in 2008 (one event in one city), 2009 (two events in one city) and in 2010 (six events in six cities).

During the summer of 2010, a national census of breeding bat colonies was carried by several teams from the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia and Green Balkans in Plovdiv. The project was funded by the Executive Environmental Agency and covered 45 bat sites, which were visited twice between June and September.

A two-year project on mapping of bats within the NATURA 2000 sites of Bulgaria is expected to start in November 2010.

Croatia

Out of 35 bat species recorded in Croatia 28 are resident, one is probably extinct and for the remaining six species the status is uncertain. All 35 bat species are strictly protected and 17 species are listed in the Red Book of Mammals of Croatia.

The National Ecological Network was proclaimed in 2007 on 47% of land and 39% of sea territory. It includes 28 sites for which bats are conservation objective, so guidelines for protection measures aimed at maintaining or establishing a favourable conservation status are proscribed. All speleological objects also represent an integral part of the ecological network. Nature Impact Assessment needs to be carried through for every project that can have a considerable impact on conservation objectives and the integrity of the Ecological Network.

Croatia is in the process of defining NATURA 2000 proposals. State Institute for Nature Protection is gathering data and coordinating inventory and monitoring of bats as key species in regards to the NATURA 2000 Proposal. Based on the current data on important underground sites for bat species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, the preliminary list of important underground sites for bats in Croatia was submitted to EUROBATS.

Based on the EUROBATS guidelines, the national guidelines for assessing the impact of wind turbines on bats were prepared in 2009 by the Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate in consultation with bat experts. The Ministry of Culture also requested these guidelines to be included in the general guidelines for environmental

impact assessment of wind turbines developed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction.

European Bat Night 2010 events were organized in five locations in different regions of Croatia. This was the most successful EBN in Croatia so far in terms of the number of events and regional coverage, number of visitors and media coverage.

Additionally, State Institute, bat NGOs and experts did research projects, organized events, workshops and educational lectures on bats and published posters, publications and leaflets to raise awareness on bat conservation issues.

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic 26 bat species have been recorded since 2007. One new species, *P. kuhlii*, was so far captured only once in south Moravia. 20 species are considered to be resident including *M. alcaethoe*. The last record of *R. ferrumequinum* is dated to 1979, so it was suggested to consider this species as extinct in the Czech Republic.

a) Monitoring programmes - which including long-term monitoring of hibernacula which covers more than 700 sites, monitoring of maternity colonies with special emphasis of NATURA 2000 species which covers 120 localities, monitoring of bat population in biotopes in 10 localities in PLA, monitoring of bat population at swarming sites undertaken at nine localities - were extended to monitoring of bat population in blocks of flats and presence of *Geomyces destructans* at hibernacula across the country coordinated by CBCT and universities.

b) In the last two years, insulation of block of flats appeared in a large scale, and the influence on several species (mainly noctule and pipistrelle bats) is critical. During 2009 and 2010, a grant with the Slovak Bat Trust and “Koordinationsstelle Fledermausschutz” in Thuringia dealing with this problem was signed and realized.

c) Research on influence of fragmentation of forest to bat community, research focused on wind turbines and bat casualties by road traffic were undertaken and published.

d) Publication of brochures: EUROBATS brochure n.2 about management of underground sites was translated to Czech language and distributed to NGOs and ANCLP CR. Two new brochures were published in 2009 (Guidelines for renovation of building and insulation of block of flats).

http://www.ceson.org/document/brozura_Netopyri_v5.pdf and Manual of care of bats in captivity http://www.nyctalus.cz/Content/nyctlit/manual_pece_web.pdf. The faunistic review of bats in Prague was published in 2009

(http://ceson.org/document/netopyri_prahy.pdf). National guidelines about wind turbines are almost finished.

e) web pages of CBCT (www.ceson.org) were updated and include detailed pages about reconstruction and renovation of buildings. Web pages dealing with *Geomyces destructans* infection were established (www.wns2010.webnode.cz). The consulting center of CBCT which deals with bat problematic expanded its activity.

f) activities devoted to the Year of Bat started in 2010: bat research series in scientific radio, preparing colouring books and fairy tails for children and large amount of new propagation material.

g) European Bat Nights are an important public awareness event in the country: from 29 localities in 2007 the number increased to 37 localities in 2010 with more than 4000 participants.

h) During 2009 and 2010 was large amount of activity directed to 15th IBRC in August and EUROBATs' 6th MoP in September in Prague (including edition of a book distributed during meeting "A Tribute to Bats" and DVD of the film "On Bats and Darkness", young artist competition, etc.).

Finland

During the reporting period two new species have been found in Finland. *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* was observed for the first time in 2007 and a few times after that in the coastal area. A hibernating Serotine was found in 2008 in Southernmost Finland. The individual was later found dead. No further observations of the species have been made so far.

New data on the distribution of bat species in Finland has been accumulated during recent years. For example Daubenton's bat's range reaches the Arctic Circle.

A project to study bat migration was initiated in 2008. First results indicate activity peaks in spring and autumn in coastal areas and archipelago.

A rabid bat was found for the first time in Finland in August 2009. The European bat lyssavirus type 2 isolated from the bat was genetically almost identical with the one isolated from the late bat scientist who died of rabies in 1985 in Finland. Due to this

finding, much effort was put into an active surveillance project initiated already earlier. The data collecting is done in Southern Finland.

Lots of activity to promote the awareness on bats and their conservation has been carried out. Bat courses and bat walks have been organized in several localities and the European bat night has been yearly organized at 20 or more localities. More and more people are interested in bats and bat work which helps us in for example setting up and running a monitoring scheme for bats.

France

A 34th species was added to the French bat list when specimens from a large cave-dwelling colony in the eastern Pyrenees proved to be *Myotis escaleraei*, a species previously known only from the Iberian Peninsula.

The Ministry of ecology supported the preparation of a second national action plan for bat conservation that was validated in 2008 and started to be implemented in 2009. The 26 actions of this plan fulfil the EUROBATS requirements whenever necessary, including promoting public awareness with a new bulletin available three times per year on the web.

Another important issue was the preparation and circulation of a new circular for securing the old abandoned mines promoting an adequate access to bats. The next step will be to obtain a list of sites that will be secured in the next years.

In 2008 a committee of experts prepared the French Red List of Mammals according to the IUCN criteria.

A working group, including wind farm builders, drafted new technical guidelines for the evaluation of impact assessment of wind farm projects.

After the finding of white fungus on a hibernating *Myotis*, an active surveillance was initiated. Up to now, no mortality has been recorded. Nevertheless, recommendations have been widely circulated to inform bat workers who monitor bats in hibernacula.

Georgia

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources created a new protected area - Imereti-Caves protected area. This protected area encompasses several caves that are important for bats species.

In 2006 through financial support of BP, the Dutch organization "Milieukontakt Oost-Europa" and WWF Netherlands. In the frame of the project the training workshop on ``Bats Detectors and Monitoring Methodologies`` was convened in Nunisi, Georgia, 27

June – 1 July, 2006. The workshop was attended by field researchers, scientists, bat experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations representing 6 countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Romania and Poland. The Workshop was led by invited resource persons - Herman Limpens, Society for Study and Conservation of Mammals, the Netherlands.

In 2006-2008, NGO Field Researchers` Union “Campester” was involved in the implementation of the project - “Ecology, behavior and population genetics of the forest living Bechstein’s bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*) in two glacial refuges: South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus” together with colleagues from Switzerland (Zoological Institute University of Zurich), Bulgaria (National Museum of Natural History, Sofia), Russia (Institute of Ecology of Mountain Territories, Krasnodar), Serbia (University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Biology, Novi Sad). This project was funded by Swiss National Science Foundation.

In the period of 2006-2008, The Field Researchers’ Union Campester (Georgia - Bukhnikashvili A., Kandaurov A., Natradze I.) implemented the “Development and Capacity Building of Transboundary Bats Monitoring Network in the Caucasus” Project through financial support of the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF). Within the framework of the Project, the first attempt to conduct the joint researches at the large portion of the Caucasus simultaneously was made. As a result, it became possible to simultaneously evaluate the current status of the bats. The partners to the project were Centre for Biological Diversity (Azerbaijan – Rakhmatulina I.), Union of Armenian Nature Protectors (Armenia – Yavruyan E.) and Institute of Mountain Ecology of the Kabardino-Balkarian Scientific Centre of Academy of Sciences of Russia. (Russia – Gazaryan S.). In the frame of the given project, the basis of unified Caucasian monitoring network has been created and three working meetings were convened through involving experts and volunteers from the participating countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Russia). As a result of the project, the Regional Action Plan for Caucasian Bat Conservation was developed (for 14 species). Also, one sub-regional (for the Russian Caucasus) and three National Action Plans (for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) were elaborated and submitted to the Governments. Caucasian Bat Conservation Group (CBRG) was established to conduct the joint researches at the large portion of the Caucasus, to evaluate simultaneously the status of the bats and carry out such researches for the entire territory of all four Caucasian countries.

In Autumn 2008, the project “Mitigation measures for impact on bats species in Baku-Tbilisi-Ceihan pipeline influence zone (Pilot project in Tertitskaro district)” was carried out. In the frame of this project six kinds of 50 special bat boxes have been purchased and placed which was the first case and opportunity in the Caucasus.

Germany

The German National report was based on reports of the German "Länder" and compiled by the Federal Agency for Nature Protection. - The essentials of the report are in brief:

- In the federal nature protection legislation the avoidance of unintentional killing of animals or destruction of reproduction and resting sites was improved to reach accordance with the Habitats-Directive;
- a new Red List was published in 2009 and showed in average no deterioration of former bat classifications:
- 24 species live in Germany: 5 are not threatened, 5 on the monitoring list and the other listed in the Red List.
- for the German Länder the nature conservation focus was the implementation of Natura 2000 and the Habitats-Directive - including the protection of bat roosts.
- In the context of this directive, a monitoring agreement for species including bats was elaborated.
- Research activities focussed mostly on wind-energy and bats.

Furthermore, the following activities should be mentioned additionally (cf. report of NABU):

- For the Year of the Bat, the federal government will give support to NABU for a big bat protection event.
- A report about the protection project at Mayen -supported with more than € 5 million - will follow in the next German National report.

Ireland

The Irish bat monitoring programme has continued to expand year on year with good cooperation between the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) and the national bat NGO – Bat Conservation Ireland. Where possible we have encouraged public involvement in our monitoring schemes and we are

very pleased to report that to date more than 250 volunteers have taken part in the data collection.

In 2008 the DoEHLG initiated a three year research project on the ecology of *Myotis* bats. A new Centre for Irish Bat Research has been created and four full time researchers are working on this project. They have already made some interesting discoveries on, inter alia, *Myotis* genetics and on habitat usage and on call recognition. Several papers on these topics were presented at the recent International Bat Conference in Prague and scientific publications are also being prepared.

And finally, with our colleagues in Northern Ireland, we have recently published a new Red Data List of Irish mammals in which all ten bat species recorded from Ireland are assessed. This publication can be downloaded from the website of the National Parks & Wildlife Service at: <http://www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/RedLists/>.

Italy

The many activities carried out for the implementation of the Bat Agreement in Italy in the last few years concerned bat research and conservation; they also led to a significant increase in public awareness about the importance of protecting bats and the key role these mammals play in ecosystems. Such activities all fit within the more general framework of the National Strategy for Biodiversity developed by the Italian Government. Research, mostly linked with conservation and management, has been funded in reserves and parks or special areas of conservation at several scales – from local to national. As announced in previous EUROBATS meetings, an agreement signed by the Environment Ministry and that of Cultural Heritage on the conservation of bats in historical buildings led to a handbook presenting case studies and offering guidelines for the resolution of conflicts with people that may arise at buildings where bats roost. The volume, originally written in Italian, has been translated into English to reach a wider audience (copies have been provided to all MoP participants). The Environment Ministry has also funded research work on bat rehabilitation to develop appropriate guidelines in this field and is still pursuing the ambitious objective of creating a national institute fully devoted to this issue. Among other recent activities, the EUROBATS “Bats and Forestry” leaflet was translated into Italian to best reach forestry operators and make them fully aware of the implications of forest management for bats; and web pages devoted to the role of EUROBATS and the general importance of bat protection have been made available on the Ministry website. The Ministry is also considering planning a series of initiatives for the 2011 Year of the Bat.

Luxembourg

Five points Luxembourg would like to highlight:

1. Research:

- Several annual surveys of forest-dwelling bats were carried out (Administration de la nature et des forêts & Musée national d'histoire naturelle).
- PhD on *Myotis bechsteinii* (collaboration : University of Ulm, Germany)
- Two diploma dissertations on *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (collaboration: University of Trier, Germany)

2. Monitoring:

Bat monitoring is included for the first time in the general monitoring carried out under obligations of the Habitats directive, which includes:

- Census of roosting sites
- Census of hibernation sites
- Transects of feeding sites (bat detector work)

3. Implementation of protection measures:

- five species actions (SAP) established for Appendix-2-Species (Habitats directive)
- practical implementation of the SAP for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* started
- opening of church buildings continued: around 25% of the 400 churches of Luxembourg are now accessible for bats.

4. Public awareness:

- a. 44-page brochure edited on house dwelling bats (complementing the brochure on forest-dwelling bats) in German language; this will also be translated into French
- b. participation in the yearly bat night

5. Voluntary contribution:

€ 5000 per year for projects in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ukraine and especially Romania.

Portugal

The presence of two new species was confirmed: *Eptesicus isabellinus* and *Myotis escaleraei* (apparently replacing *M. nattereri*).

In the last years there has been an increasing of data collection, done by several universities, speleologists and field technicians. Several graduation theses, MSc and PhD were prepared or are being carried out.

Two alternative roosts were created, one to attract a maternity colony of *Rhinolophus hipposideros* which had a conflict in a Historical Building, and another to replace one gallery occupied by several species in spring which was destructed by a dam.

Closing of mines has been accompanied in order to use bat friendly measures.

An analysis of the data collected during monitoring of 49 wind farms from 2001 to 2008 was prepared, and a summary is presented in the implementation report.

Information on bats (e.g., occurrence, species description, coexistence with humans) can be found in the website of Institute of Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity (ICNB).

The nomination of ICNB as the responsible body to give advice on bat conservation and management occurred very recently, and the acceptance of the second Amendment to the Agreement is expected in the near future.

Romania

The status of some species has been actualized since the last report, new distribution of the species: *Myotis alcathoe*, *Myotis brandtii*, *Myotis dasycneme*, *Plecotus austriacus* was reported. New roost sites and feeding areas have been discovered of *Rhinolophus euryale* thanks to the EPI project of the EUROBATS.

The monitoring system in Romania is working successful: it was started in 2002 with the National Bat Monitoring of Underground Sites by the initiative of the Romanian Bat Protection Association. Acoustic data are collecting in the frame of the Car Based Bat Monitoring since 2006.

The main threat bats are facing in Romania is the *Geomyces destructans*. The presence of the fungus was discovered in some of the Romanian caves in 2009.

Public awareness - European Bat Night Events are organised in each year in Romania, first 11 years ago initiated by the Romanian Bat Protection Association, but nowadays there are more and more institutions and nongovernmental organisations joining the event.

As a public event can be mentioned the 11th European Bat Research Symposium organized in 2008 in Cluj Napoca.

Slovenia

30 bat species have been recorded in Slovenia, however in the last decades 28 of them have been regularly observed.

Rhinolophus blasii is considered extinct and for *Nyctalus lasiopterus* there is just one app. 85 years old record. In 2007 *Myotis alcathoe* was found in Slovenia. Quite possible is presence of *Plecotus kolombatovici* and perhaps *Tadarida teniotis* and *Myotis dasycneme*.

The implementation of EUROBATS resolutions goes hand in hand with the implementation of the Habitats directive. There was one infringement case from the EU Commission in 2008, regarding protection of maternity roosts of *R. euryale* in cave Ajdovska jama, cave was temporarily protected with *Rules prohibiting activities threatening protected bat species in Ajdovska jama near Nemška vas* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 53/08) by which it was prohibited for tourists to enter the cave between 15th of April and 31st October. Although the Rules expired and no manager of the cave was officially chosen, strict regime of visiting is maintained.

There are no particular management plans foreseen just for bats in Slovenia. The conservation of bat populations is achieved through different sectoral policies (eg. forestry, environment etc). In Slovenia, due to its forest cover (app. 55 %), sustainable forestry is of major importance for habitat protection. The *Rules on protection of forests* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No.92/2000) regulate the use of forest in a manner to maintain the biological balance of forest ecosystem. The management of forest should protect rare and endangered species and their habitats. The exploitation of forest should be adopted to these conditions. As one of the measures, the Rules prescribe that old and dead trees should be left in the forest and as far as possible be evenly distributed.

In 2007 Government of RS has adopted "Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme" – which includes also provisions for bat conservation.

Decree on limit values due to light pollution of environment (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No.81/2007) in article 12 states: "If, in accordance with the regulations governing the conservation of nature, the illuminated building or facility is protected as habitat of endangered species habitat, the area of bat entrance hole in such building or structure, may not be lighted.

There is a big support from the Slovenian Bat Society (Slovensko društvo za proučevanje in varovanje netopirjev, SDPVN - www.sdpvn-drustvo.si) in terms of technical support, monitoring and public awareness. European night of bats is one of the highlights of their public oriented activities. Event has become quite popular and more and more organisations are joining the event.

The society carried out project *Bats in trees* in urban areas (co financed by Municipality of Ljubljana). They are organising lectures for interested public on bat biology and conservation and cooperated with Center za kartografijo favne in flore on a campaign to raise public awareness in framework of INTERREG IIIA Slovenia –Austria, *Conservation of Amphibians and Bats in the Alps-Adriatic Region*.

Biology students' society (<http://dsb.biologija.org>) is organising spring and summer research camps where bat groups are led by experts and this forms a basic education for new bat workers. Similar camps are organised for pupils by Institute Rdeči Apolon (www.rdeci-apolon.si/) and also the Societas herpetologica Slovenica – Society for the study of Amphibians and Reptiles (www.herpetolosko-drustvo.si).

Ministry of Environment and Spatial planning has commissioned 2 year project (2006-07) *Monitoring of target bat species populations*, where monitoring scheme for all bat species were defined, along with standard monitoring protocols. Project continued in years 2008-2009, and will continue in 2010-2011.

Ministry for defence has commissioned project *Nature conservation values of military areas* (Naravovarstvena vrednost vojaških območjih), where bats are included in research.

Full list of the projects and references are in the full report, available on the net.

Sweden

Census work has been carried out in all counties of Götaland with many thousand investigated areas. The main method used is the "Species richness method".

Distribution maps are now being upgraded to be published this winter. In Svealand and Norrland censuses have only been held in a few areas until now.

Pipistrellus nathusii is increasing and expanding in all Götaland and parts of Svealand. Some records are also reported from Norrland. *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* has only one known colony in Sweden. *Barbastella barbastellus* is subject to a species recovery program. In southernmost Sweden the species is increasing during the last few years

while the northernmost populations probably decreasing very rapidly. The facts behind these trends is studied in a project.

Eptesicus serotinus is now found in a new large area in northern Götaland but otherwise only with scattered observations in all Götaland. *Nyctalus leisleri* is also observed in most parts of Götaland but regular occurrence only in 3 small areas in the south. During the last few years *Myotis dasycneme* has been discovered in new areas in western parts of Götaland all the way up to the lake Vänern.

A newly found and very important hibernation site with eight species present in an old military bunker near Stockholm, has been saved from demolition and is now closed and openings grilled.

A national program for monitoring bats is planned to start in Götaland during 2011. A detailed plan has been worked out and a meeting with representatives from the county administrations will soon be held.

In Sweden and Denmark a field guide for identification of bats is being prepared. This work is also based on cooperation with experts from all over Europe. In 2009 work in Germany was focused on some rare species, especially *Myotis alcaethoe*.

Sweden and Denmark have established a rarities committee for both countries. It gives advice and examines sound recordings of rare and difficult species.

In March 2010 two courses were held for survey people. One was for advanced observers and the other for the more unexperienced. The courses presented new findings about intra-species variation and the species specific characteristics in sound and flight behaviour. Sound analysis and technical equipment were also in the programme.

During the summer of 2009, for the first time ever in the country, bats with antibodies against bat rabies were found in the south of Sweden. Out of a total of approximately 70 bats, 10% tested positive for EBL 2, all of them *Myotis daubentonii*. The test results of the Lyssa virus survey from last summer, 2010, are not yet fully analyzed.

United Kingdom

The bat species *Myotis alcaethoe* has been reported in the UK for the first time bringing the number of resident species to 17. The National Bat monitoring Programme is now in its 13th year and its statistically robust data has led to 6 bat species being included in the UK set of 'indicator species,' which help measure progress towards the Government's target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010.

The Bat Conservation Trust are working on innovative ideas to improve our monitoring with projects such as Count Bats and iBats. The main aim of the iBats project is to increase the recording of bats along roads to determine which road side habitats are important to bats. Workshops have been held in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia and Hungary.

Israel

Israel has 33 resident species, of them one is fruit bat - Egyptian fruit bat *Rousettus aegyptiacus* (that is regarded as pest), and one seems to be extinct - *Rhinolophus mehelyi*. All bats and other Israeli mammals are protected by law for the last 40 years.

Monitoring is being made by the NGO, Israel Mammals research centre in: S.P.N.I. (Society for the Protection Nature in Israel), over the last 25 years, while in the past 10 years, we made uniform surveys were made in known roosts in northern Israel resulting in better information on their population dynamics. Seasonal reports are published in Hebrew once a year.

Red Data book of vertebrates of Israel was published in 2004 (Dolev & Perevolotsky, 2004, The Red book – Vertebrates in Israel, Israel Nature and Parks Authority and The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel), that defined 29 species as threatened. The book is available online at <http://www.teva.org.il/?CategoryID=949> and linked to Google Earth with distribution maps for each threatened species.

Some scientific research is progressing in Israel over the past 10 years (ecological, physiological and behavioral).

New projects:

During the last 2 years the project "Converting old military bunkers along the Jordan River into bat houses" including public awareness raising was carried out.

Taxonomic project that is made along 2010 to learn more about cryptic species which deals also with collecting DNA samples, for understanding briefly information on Israel bat fauna. Until now 23 bat species were identified.

Local bat surveys are conducted in the planning phase of wind turbine projects. A meeting for the public about bats in Israel was held in 2010.

Jordan

A database on the bats of Jordan will be published on the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature website by January 2011. During May-July, 2010, extensive field work was conducted, and this resulted in locating new sites for the Fruit Bat, and

the newly recorded species *Barbastella leucomelas* and *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. A monograph on the bats of Jordan is being prepared and it will be published by 2011, including details on 28 species of bats. An Ecological Education Center was established along with the Badia Research and Development Center to spread public awareness on the wildlife in Jordan, including bats. Fund raising is being undertaken to expand research on the biology of some critical species in the country and to identify threats affecting the bat fauna of Jordan.

Lebanon

Lebanon was for the first time represented at a EUROBATS meeting.

Data is lacking on most mammals of Lebanon. However, in association with the Charles University Czech Republic, a bat survey started in 2006 and 20 bat species were recorded till now in Lebanon (Horacek et al 2008, and 2010). However a comprehensive baseline survey is needed to expand the Lebanese list as far as bats are concerned.

As far as conservation it is not that positive as there is a lot of habitat destruction and disturbance through quarries, smoking and setting fire in caves besides hunting in some occasions.

Awareness through the Animal Encounter “Educational Center for Wildlife Conservation” Aley – Lebanon for students and public at large through

- Lectures at the Animal encounter
- Producing an Awareness leaflet in Arabic on bats included fact sheet, importance in the ecosystem in general and farmers in particular, myths, and conservation.

Montenegro

Montenegro is perhaps one of the least studied countries considering bats in Europe and very little has been published so far. Therefore data on bats are rare and scattered in sometimes obscure publications. The lack of data on important roosts makes actions for preserving roosts difficult and estimations of the local threats almost impossible.

In Montenegro 26 bat species are recorded so far. But this number is only provisional as Montenegro has diverse landscape and climate and relatively well preserved natural ecosystems, therefore at least 6 more bat species are expected to be present in the country, based on their ecology and distribution range. Considering the bat research, monitoring is conducted periodically and only in one cave (Obod cave).

Montenegro has up to now ratified following conventions, regarding protection of bats: Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Ramsar Convention, UN Framework Convention of Climate Change and the Kyoto protocol.

Many species are endangered due to loss of habitats, i.e. loss of natural shelters, which is caused by deforestation, rapid urbanization, pollution and devastation, especially the caves, which are their natural habitats. The significant factors that endanger biological survival of bats are the use of pesticides and protective equipment in agricultural production.

Bat workers from Public enterprise for national Parks, National History Museum and NGO for Nature Research and Conservation "Plecotus" prepared a paper with overview of bat species in Montenegro with title "Materials for Atlas of Bats (Chiroptera) of Montenegro". It includes both all available literature data, as well as a lot of unpublished data collected by authors and colleagues from Serbia and Slovenia, with who exists a very successful cooperation. It was represented at the 15th International Bat Research Conference in Prague in August 2010.

The need for detailed and systematic research is evident, concerning roost and feeding habitats especially. There are only two scientists who deal with bats in Montenegro. When it is about technical conditions, some equipment has been purchased, that enables bat workers in Montenegro to conduct more quality field research now, but financial support is necessary because of the lack of funds. In the first place, there is highly expressed need for experts, trainings, equipment, etc.

The good news is that Ministry for Spatial Planning and Environment of Montenegro has prepared a draft law for the adoption of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats. It is expected to be adopted by the end of this year. Adoption of this law will be a good base for better protection of bats in Montenegro.

Bats recorded in Montenegro and protected by the Law on the Protection of Nature:

• ***Vespertilionidae***

1. *Plecotus auritus*
2. *Nyctalus noctula*
3. *Vespertilio murinus*
4. *Pipistrellus savii*
5. *Pipistrellus nathusii*

6. *Pipistrellus kuhlii*
7. *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
8. *Eptesicus serotinus*
9. *Myotis myotis*
10. *Myotis mystacinus*
11. *M.m.mystacinus*
12. *M.m.bulgaricus*
13. *Myotis blythii/oxygnathus*
14. *Myotis nattereri*
15. *Myotis emarginatus*
16. *Myotis brandtii*
17. *Myotis capaccinii*
18. *Nyctalus leisleri*
19. *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
20. *Hypsugo savii*
21. *Plecotus macbullaris*
22. *Plecotus austriacus*

- **Miniopteridae**

23. *Miniopterus schreibersi*

- **Molossidae**

24. *Tadarida teniotis*

- **Rhinolophidae**

25. *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
26. *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
27. *Rhinolophus euryale*
28. *Rhinolophus blasii*

Morocco

Morocco was participating for the first time at a EUROBATS meeting. The bat fauna of Morocco consists of about 30 species. These species are distributed through the mountainous and Sahara area. At least 18 species are within the range of European bats such as *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *Eptesicus isabellinus*, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii*, *Myotis emarginatus* etc.

Research on the ecology and distribution of bats in Morocco Atlas Mountains was being conducted, where caves harboring bats were identified.

Further research is required to update the bat fauna of Morocco. Threats affecting bats in Morocco include exploitation of caves for tourism and for traditional use in folk medicine. In addition, more efforts are urgently required for public awareness regarding the importance of bats for the public and school students.

Syria

So far the bat fauna of Syria consists of 27 species. Since the last report at the AC15 Meeting, several field trips were conducted to identify breeding and roosting sites for the bats of Syria. In June 2010 a small breeding colony of *Rhinolophus hipposideros* in Northern Syria was identified. Additionally, breeding colonies of *Rousettus aegyptiacus*, *Myotis emarginatus* and *Myotis myotis* along the Coastal Mountains were inspected. Bat research in Syria is in need for funding to record additional species using bat detectors, as well as funding for public awareness and preparing of leaflets to improve awareness of the local community on bats and bat research.

At the administrative level:

The Ministry of Environment is working to ensure a formal accession to the EUROBATS Agreement. A supportive letter from the EUROBATS Secretariat will be addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Syria in order to start the procedure of Accession.

The General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research is nominated as a national scientific focal point for the Agreement.

IUCN SSC BSG

The main concern of the IUCN SSC Bat Specialist Group relevant to EUROBATS is the imminent extinction of *Rousettus aegyptiacus* on the island of Cyprus.

This is the most northerly limit of the distribution of this species which is the only fruit bat found in Europe.

It has been persecuted by shooting along with many bird species, and numbers have fallen in recent years from tens of thousands to 190 known individuals today.

Declines in species numbers are often multi-factoral and the recent droughts are likely to have affected the bats' food supply and forest fires have also probably had a negative effect.

The Government of Cyprus cannot control the weather, but the IUCN Specialist Group would like to see protection of the remaining inhabited cave roosts of *Rousettus*

aegyptiacus and effective action taken against illegal shooting. Any help from EUROBATS at the time when we hope Cyprus will join EUROBATS will be appreciated.

NABU

This report focuses on activities since the last Advisory Committee meeting in May 2010. The national NABU project on the protection of a large former quarry in Mayen, hosting around 25.000 hibernating bats, continues to be successful. A large number of public relation activities are regularly undertaken to promote the protection of bats, also including the European Bat Night. This NABU project is financially sustained by the Federal Government. The federal Secretary of State has lately visited the area in Mayen and was impressed by the work done by the NGO.

As in every year, the European Bat Night was organized in August 2010 by the NABU in more than 250 cities in Germany with thousands of visitors attending. The main event was held in Bad Segeberg with the financial help of the Federal Government.

Finally the NABU will be one of the trustees for the funding of BatLife Europe and we are looking forward to help creating a large and powerful network of bat workers within Europe. The NABU will also be a partner for the promotion of the Year of the Bat in 2011/2012 and activities will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Federal and also the regional Governments.

14. Report of the Credentials Committee

Twenty-three credentials had been presented and all were accepted, although it was noted that eleven did not fully comply with the recommended wording provided by the Secretariat. One credential had been issued by the Ministry of Rural Affairs and not the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Two credentials remained outstanding and four Parties had not provided any at all.

15. Draft Resolution 6.1: Financial and Administrative Matters (Budget 2011 - 2014)

The Budget Resolution was adopted (**Annex 4**). The key elements were the creation of a part-time P2 post for the third and fourth years of the quadrennium, funded through withdrawals from the reserve. In the event of a larger country acceding to the Agreement, the Standing Committee received a mandate to consider commencing the post earlier or to increase the post occupancy to 80 or 100 %. Parties also took note of the possible re-classification of the two part-time posts of Administrative Assistants from the GS 5 to GS 6 level resulting from increased responsibilities. Parties contributions were frozen at the level of 2010 but based on the new UN Scales with the exception of

those Parties whose assessed contributions would fall below the newly established minimum. The minimum contribution would be phased in at € 500 in 2011, € 750 in 2012 and € 1000 thereafter. The delegate from Georgia pointed out that she had no mandate to agree to the minimum contribution. The Secretariat was authorised to use € 30,000 from the reserve towards the “Year of the Bat” campaign.

16. Draft Resolution 6.2: Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement

After clarification of the status of the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores with regard to the European Union, this Resolution was adopted (**Annex 5**).

17. Draft Resolution 6.3: Geographical Scope of the Agreement

After clarification of the status of Regional Economic Integration Organizations and non-State territories, this Resolution was adopted (**Annex 6**). Several delegations commented on the boundaries shown on the accompanying map and Denmark stressed that both the Faeroes and Greenland should be excluded.

18. Draft Resolution 6.4: Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

Following some changes to the Standard Format of Applications, requested by Luxembourg, this Resolution was adopted (**Annex 7**).

19. Draft Resolution 6.5: Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Field Work Practices

After some discussion over the terminology (such as “ownership”) and the wording of paragraph 1.2 which had been taken from other codes of ethics, this Resolution was adopted (**Annex 8**).

20. Draft Resolution 6.6: Underground Habitats

The draft resolution was withdrawn and elements included in Draft Resolution 6.17. A new Working Group would be formed to continue the associated work.

21. Draft Resolution 6.7: Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection and Control of Lethal Fungal Infections in Bats

After some discussion over the origins of strains of *Geomyces destructans*, this Resolution was renumbered to 6.6 and adopted (**Annex 9**).

22. Draft Resolution 6.8: Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes

After some discussion over the appropriate terminology for core areas around colonies this Resolution was renumbered 6.7 and adopted (**Annex 10**).

23. Draft Resolution 6.9: Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats

After some discussion over the appropriate terminology for bats' daily and seasonal movements, this Resolution was renumbered 6.8 and adopted (**Annex 11**).

24. Draft Resolution 6.10: Year of the Bat

This Resolution was renumbered 6.9 and adopted (**Annex 12**).

25. Draft Resolution 6.11: Synergies between the Agreement and Other European Treaties for Nature Conservation

This Resolution was renumbered 6.10 and adopted (**Annex 13**).

26. Draft Resolution 6.12: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Subject to redrafting to allow the Resolution adopted at MOP5 to be repealed, this Resolution was renumbered 6.11 and adopted (**Annex 14**).

27. Draft Resolution 6.13: Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

With the addition of a reference to the "Year of the Forest", this resolution was renumbered 6.12 and adopted (**Annex 15**).

28. Draft Resolution 6.14: Bats as Indicators for Biodiversity

After clarification of the responsibilities for summarizing the statistics contained in National Reports and a discussion over reporting formats, this Resolution was renumbered 6.13 and adopted (**Annex 16**).

29. Draft Resolution 6.15: Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

This Resolution was renumbered 6.14 and adopted (**Annex 17**).

30. Draft Resolution 6.16: Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock

After minor amendments to ensure the consistent use of terminology such as "anti-parasitic" and "maternities" or "maternity colonies or roosts", this Resolution was renumbered 6.15 and adopted (**Annex 18**).

31. Draft Resolution 6.17: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011 – 2014)

Subject to some drafting changes including the deletion of references to as yet unpublished guidance and further discussion of the use of the term "syndrome" rather than "disease" when referring to lethal fungal infections, this Resolution was renumbered 6.16 and adopted (**Annex 19**).

32. Draft Resolution 6.18: Amendment of Resolution 5.8 - Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee

After a discussion on the desirability of setting term limitations to ensure a rotation of membership of the Committee, this Resolution was renumbered 6.17 and adopted **(Annex 20)**.

33. Draft Resolution 6.19: Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee

Subject only to minor drafting changes, this Resolution was renumbered 6.18 and adopted **(Annex 21)**.

34. Other Draft Resolutions submitted by the Working Groups

No additional resolutions emerged from the working groups convened during the meeting.

35. Election of the Members of the Standing Committee (StC)

The following Parties were elected to serve as Members of the Standing Committee: France (proposed by Italy), Italy (proposed by France), Finland (proposed by Sweden), Belgium (proposed by Ireland), the Czech Republic (proposed by Luxembourg) and Ukraine (proposed by Moldova). The United Kingdom and Germany would continue to be ex officio members as Depositary and Host Country respectively.

Resolution 6.17 had increased the number of elected representatives from five to six.

At the brief initial meeting of the new Standing Committee, France was re-elected as Chair and Ukraine as Vice-Chair.

36. Arrangements for the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties

After an explanation by the Executive Secretary of what was involved, offers were invited to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties.

37. Any other business

The representative of the BCT announced a meeting concerning the establishment of Bat Life Europe.

38. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting

An initial draft was circulated at the end of the meeting for delegates' approval. The Secretariat undertook to prepare a final version expeditiously after the meeting.

39. Close of Meeting

After the customary expressions of thanks to all those who had contributed to the success of the conference, the Chair announced that the meeting was closed at 20:05.

Report of the Administrative Working Group

The Administrative Working Group, chaired by Michel Perret (France) held two sessions, the first on Monday 20 September and the second on Tuesday 21 September. The main item of business was discussion of financial matters.

Budget 2007-10

The Working Group agreed to recommend that report on the discharge of the budget for the previous period should be accepted. The Chair reported that the Standing Committee had noted that reserves were increasing by approximately € 20,000 per annum, principally because staff budget lines were, as a result of UN policy, set higher than the actual costs.

Budget 2011-14

The budget for the forthcoming quadrennium (2011-14) contained two major changes of substance: the introduction of a minimum contribution, following the precedent set by other international instruments including AEWA within the CMS Family; and the creation of a P2 science post within the Secretariat.

Minimum Contributions

It was agreed to recommend that a minimum contribution of € 1,000 be phased in starting at € 500 in 2011 and € 750 in 2012. AEWA, it was noted, had a minimum contribution level of € 2,000. While some Parties would face a substantial percentage increase in their contributions (some had been paying as little as € 22 per annum), the actual amounts were relatively small and many countries affected were eligible for financial support for delegates and were most likely to derive most benefit from the EUROBATS Project Initiative (EPI) and the services of the proposed P2 officer.

Other Contributions

It had been noted that the four largest contributors (France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom) accounted for approximately 75% of the Agreement's income. It was proposed that their contributions should be frozen. The consequence of this was that the greater part of any budget increases would have to be borne by the middle ranking countries, representatives of which pointed out that they too had been affected by the financial crisis and were facing expenditure cuts and the loss of posts.

The meeting was reminded that at the previous MoP, some countries which were to benefit from the budget redistribution, had agreed to forego any reductions in their

contributions. It was suggested that any countries similarly benefiting from the revised UN scales should consider doing the same. It was however calculated that this would generate only € 9,000 per annum for the Agreement.

Accessions

Earlier draft budgets presented to the Standing Committee had taken account of the possible accession of Spain, whose contributions would be significant over the quadrennium. Unfortunately, Spain's accession had apparently stalled as a result of the financial crisis. A number of other countries were also reported to be making progress with their accession procedures.

All current budget proposals presented to the MoP were based on the existing membership of the Agreement.

Withdrawals from the Trust Fund Reserve

The balance of the Trust Fund was shown to be healthy and far in excess of the operational reserve which UNEP required to be maintained to cover the equivalent of three months' staff salaries in case of emergencies. Several delegates pointed out that this money had been paid to fund the activities of the Agreement and not to sit on a bank account accumulating interest. However, warnings were made that the reserves should not be used to reduce Parties' contributions artificially, as this would only serve to store up problems later if the reserves were depleted.

The Trust Fund balances were attracting interest, but with interest rates currently low, the amounts earned were relatively small (\$ 8,000 per year).

Creation of a P2 Scientific Post

There was a lengthy and detailed discussion of the desirability of creating a P2 scientific officer post within the Secretariat. Some Parties were reluctant to create a new post in the Secretariat when posts were being abolished in national ministries and agencies, and many were attending the Meeting with a clear mandate not to accept any real increase in their contributions or the Agreement's budget.

The case was made that the Secretariat would benefit from formal scientific expertise in running the EPI projects and supporting the growing number of Working Groups, which currently depended on volunteers. As part of the tasks of the P2 officer as described in the terms of reference appeared to be administrative, consideration was given to taking advantage of the vacant G5 post to redeploy resources, but it was pointed out that the administrative staff was already working to capacity and the part-time staff had had their

hours increased from 50% to 80% to cope with the work load. It was also agreed that an officer at the P2 grade would be better placed to deputise for the Executive Secretary. Assurances were sought, and given, that an additional staff member would not place strains on other budget lines, such as staff travel.

The implications of making the P2 post a consultancy instead were also discussed. There were restrictions on the duration of the employment of consultants, who could normally only work for six months (in exceptional circumstances nine months) in any twelve-month period. Consultants' fees depended on the experience of the candidate, and could exceed the basic salaries of permanent UN staff, but overall tended to be less expensive because no dependents' allowance, relocation grants or pension contributions were paid.

There was also a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of making the P2 post part-time rather than full-time. Being part-time would probably limit the attractiveness of the post, especially to potential candidates not already based locally.

The Working Group looked at the financial viability of the post. In the latest budget option, the shortfall between contributions and expenditure was almost entirely attributable to the costs of the P2 post. Parties were reluctant to withdraw funds from the reserve to finance a structural enhancement to the Secretariat which might prove unsustainable without the accessions of more Parties. It was eventually agreed to create a 50% part-time post in the third and fourth years of the quadrennium (2013-14), funded with withdrawals from the reserve in each year. The Standing Committee would be mandated to bring forward the start date or to increase the post occupancy to 80 or 100 % if the financial position so allowed (e.g. following the accession of new Parties).

Review of Draft Resolutions

The Working Group reviewed the draft Resolutions.

Draft Resolution 6.3: Geographic Scope

The relationship of the Canaries, Madeira and the Azores to the European Union, of which they are outlying territories, was clarified. References to dependent territories were excluded from the Annex, and the word "territories" added to the heading to cater for the presence of the Palestinian Authority Territories. There was a discussion over the presence or absence of European bats in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Svalbard and the appropriateness of including them within the Agreement Area.

Draft Resolution 6.4: Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS projects Initiative (EPI)

Some minor drafting changes were proposed and accepted.

Draft Resolution 6.5: Code of Ethics for Field Work Related Activities

The discussion centred on the concept of “ownership” and the practicalities for a certification system to prove that items had not been stolen.

Draft Resolution 6.6: Underground Habitats

It was agreed to refer this draft back to a Working Group and to transfer some of the text to the Draft Resolution on the Conservation and Management plan (Draft Resolution 6.17).

Draft Resolution 6.7: Guidelines for the prevention, Detection and Control of Lethal Fungal Infections in Bats

There was a discussion concerning the use of the term “syndrome” rather than “disease”. “Syndrome” was used for cases involving large numbers of fatalities. It was also questioned whether there should be a reference to the “North American strain” as the origin of the disease was not the main issue. Some delegations said that the Resolution should not be restricted to caves, as the disease could occur elsewhere. Sweden pointed to the difficulty of closing some caves which were used for military purposes.

Draft Resolution 6.8: Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

Some minor drafting changes were proposed and accepted.

Draft Resolution 6.9: Monitoring of Bat Migration

Drafting changes were proposed to make clearer the distinction between short-term movements during foraging and long-term movements during migration.

Draft Resolution 6.10: Year of the Bat 2011/12

A reference to the International Year of the Forest was added.

Draft Resolution 6.12: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

It was proposed that the resolution be redrafted to enable the similar resolution adopted at MoP5 to be repealed.

Draft Resolution 6.13: Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

A reference to the International Year of the Forest was also added to this text.

Draft Resolution 6.15: Impacts of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

A reference to the EC Habitats Directive was added.

Draft Resolution 6.16: Impact on Bat populations of Use of Anti-parasitic Drugs for Livestock

Belgium proposed a number of technical amendments and because of their nature, many other delegates requested time to consult with experts in Ministries. Fears were expressed that if the measures proposed were too onerous, farmers might be tempted not to admit to the presence of bats on their land or even destroy them.

Draft Resolutions 6.18 and 6.19: Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee and the Advisory Committee

The additional task for the Standing Committee to facilitate the deliberations of the MoP was accepted and the task relating to the budget was expanded to cover financial planning. Provisions were added for the election of a Vice-Chairman.

It was agreed to consolidate the provisions relating the Standing Committee so that Resolution 5.8 which had established it, could be repealed.

Report of the Scientific Working Group

The Working Group met in plenary on the 20th, 21st and 22nd September, being chaired by Mr. Peter Lina (the Netherlands).

Relevant Draft Resolutions were discussed, amendments made where appropriate and then taken forward to the Administrative Working Group for submission to the Plenary of the Meeting of Parties for adoption.

Draft Resolution 6.2: Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement

Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN/SSC, UK) introduced the Draft Resolution. After discussions whether the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores are included in the geographical scope of the Agreement, the Draft Resolution was accepted without change and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.3: Geographical Scope of the Agreement

Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN/SSC, UK) introduced the Draft Resolution which is an amendment of the respective Resolutions 2.5 and 5.11. After discussions it became clear that the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores are outermost regions of the European Union and that therefore the bat species occurring in these islands are included in Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive. It was also decided to add in the Annex the Palestinian Authority Territories. The document was passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.4: Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

Mr. Peter Lina (the Netherlands) introduced the Draft Resolution. Two amendments were proposed: to increase the number of members of the EPI Selection Working Group from six to seven, and to add to point 8b of Annex 1: 'species concerned'. Since several EPI applications are waiting for assessment it was decided to elect the members of the Selection Working Group during this meeting and not to wait for the next Meeting of the Advisory Committee in 2011. The following persons were nominated to be a member of the Selection Working Group (in alphabetical order): Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Mr. Tony Hutson (UK), Mr. Peter Lina (convener, the Netherlands), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), and Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan). The nominees were elected with consensus. The document was passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.5: Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Field Work Practices.

Mr. Tony Hutson introduced the Draft Resolution. With a few amendments the Draft Resolution was approved by the SWG and was passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.6: Underground Habitats

Since Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (UK), convener of the IWG on Transboundary Programme - Habitats: Data Compilation is, due to his job change, no longer involved in EUROBATs matters, Dr. Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), being also a member of the IWG, introduced shortly the Draft Resolution. The document was approved by the SWG without change and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.7: Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection and Control of Lethal Fungal Infections in Bats

In the beginning of the Meeting of the SWG, Prof. Paul Racey (UK), convener of the IWG on the White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), presented a keynote address on the present known situation regarding the occurrence of WNS in bats in North America and Europe. Following a few amendments the Draft Resolution was approved by the SWG and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.8: Conservation and management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), convener of the eponymous IWG, introduced the Draft Resolution. The Draft Resolution was approved following minor amendments to the title and text and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.9: Monitoring Bat Migration

Dr. Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), convener of the eponymous IWG introduced the Draft Resolution.

The Draft Resolution was approved following alterations in the title, the preamble and in the paragraphs 1, 3 and 7 and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.10: Year of the Bat

The Draft Resolution was approved following minor amendments and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.12: Wind Turbines and Bat Population

The Draft Resolution was accepted without change and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.13: Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

The Draft Resolution was approved following minor amendments and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.14: Bats as Indicators for Biodiversity

Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), convener of the eponymous IWG, introduced this Draft Resolution which was approved without change and passed to the Administrative Working Group

Draft Resolution 6.15: Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

This Draft Resolution was approved following some amendments and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.16: Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic Drug for Livestock

Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN/SSSC, UK), convener of the eponymous IWG introduced the Draft Resolution. The Draft Resolution and its Annexes was approved following substantial amendments and passed to the Administrative Working Group.

Draft Resolution 6.17: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan

Since the Chair of the SWG had to join the Meeting of the Administrative Working Group to throw light on the concerning Draft Resolutions approved by the SWG, Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland) was conducting the SWG Meeting for drafting this Resolution. After this Draft Resolution was compiled and approved by the SWG, it was passed for adoption to the Plenary of the Meeting of Parties.

6th Meeting of the Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

List of Participants



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