

## 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

### Resolution 8.6

#### Bats and Light Pollution



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

*Acknowledging* the value of natural light levels for ecological processes;

*Acknowledging* the relevance of natural light rhythms for the health of humans and wildlife;

*Noting* the rapid growth and extent of artificial light at night and its detrimental impact (light pollution);

*Noting* the importance that innovative lighting schemes have in the implementation of the Kyoto protocol to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the context of combatting climate change;

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

*Recalling* Resolution 7.8 on Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes; which highlights the needs for improved understanding of landscape use by bats

*Recalling* Resolution 7.9 on Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats; which recommends that bats are taken into account during the planning of infrastructure projects

*Recalling* Resolution 8.10 on Required Experience and Skills of Experts with regard to Quality of Assessments; which recommends that ecological assessments for bats are conducted by appropriately qualified experts

*Recalling* Resolution 8.11 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2019-2022), which recognises the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

*Recalling* Resolution 8.11 on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2019-2022), which recognises the conservation of bat habitats in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or commuting routes are affected;

*Recalling* Resolution 5.7 on Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance, which recommends to ensure that overground roosts are managed in accordance with national nature conservation legislation and taking note of any guidelines adopted by the EUROBATS Agreement;

*Recalling* Resolution 8.5 on Conservation and Management of Important Overground Sites for Bats.

*Recalling* that the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe” (COM/2011/0571) recommends strengthening policies and activities for promoting energy efficiency in the use of artificial light in public areas;

*Noting* the different sensitivities of bat species towards artificial light;

*Noting* the growing scientific evidence of the impact of artificial light on bats and the predicted negative consequences for bat populations;

*Recognising* the importance of harmonising the methods used for impact assessment related to artificial light;

*Recognising* the importance of statistically robust ways to evaluate behaviours of bats related to light pollution and their impact on bat populations;

*Recognising* the importance of developing evidence-based effective avoidance and mitigation measures;

*Recognising* also the necessity of implementing research and effective monitoring;

*Recommends Parties and non-party Range States, if not already done so, to:*

1. Take into account that artificial light in general has a negative impact on bats and should be avoided wherever and whenever possible.
2. Work to ensure that planning of artificial lighting projects is undertaken in compliance with national legislation regarding bat protection and conservation

by implementing appropriate avoidance, mitigation and compensation for habitat losses.

3. Ensure that the impacts of artificial light on bats are included in impact assessment procedures.
4. Work to resolve any conflict between artificial light and bats.
5. Ensure that impact assessment procedures and post-installation/development monitoring are undertaken by appropriately experienced experts.
6. Encourage developers of lighting concepts or responsible authorities to make raw data from impact assessments and post-installation/development monitoring available for independent analysis.
7. Encourage developers of lighting concepts or responsible authorities to make reports of impact assessments and post-installation/development monitoring available for the public.
8. Encourage and support scientific research on the impacts of artificial light on bats.
9. Encourage all stakeholders to engage in research on the best methods for avoiding or mitigating the negative impacts of light pollution on bats.
10. Promote continued cooperation between lighting professionals and other stakeholders in the search for best practice to avoid or minimise the adverse impact of artificial light on bats.
11. Develop and promote implementation of national guidance taking due account of the EUROBATS Publication Series No. 8.

*Requests the Advisory Committee to:*

1. Continue to compile relevant information, including efficacy of mitigation measures and methods to assess the impact of artificial light on individual bats and bat populations.
2. Update the generic guidelines, now available as EUROBATS Publication Series No. 8, if required.
3. Publish the update, following circulation to all Parties through the written procedure.