

# EUROBATS National Implementation Report MoP9

## A. General Information

### *Name of your country*

>>> Malta

### *Period covered by this report*

>>> 2011-2022

### *Is your country a party to EUROBATS Agreement?*

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

### *Competent authority*

Title, address, phone, fax, e-mail and other contact details

>>> Title, address, phone, fax, e-mail and other contact details

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## **Range state information**

*Please describe the situation with ratification of EUROBATS Agreement by your country*

Malta has been a party to the EUROBATS Agreement under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) since March of the year 2001. This Agreement has been enacted through the [Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations \(S.L. 549.44\)](#) which is the national legislation transposing various nature-related multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Convention on the Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its Agreements. A number of measures for the conservation of bat species have been included in the Management Plans for the protected areas, particularly terrestrial Natura 2000 sites designated under the aforesaid regulations and the related EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora).

## B. Implementation

### **Legal Requirements: measures taken to implement Article III of the Agreement Resolution 4.6. Guidelines for the issue of permits for the capture and study of captured wild bats**

***Does the system of permits or licenses for the capture of bats exist in your country?***

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

***System of permits or licenses for the keeping of bats for educational or animal welfare purposes***

*Please select only one option*

- In place  
 Doesn't exist

***System of permits or licenses for sampling, ringing, killing of bats for scientific study***

*Please select only one option*

- Exists  
 Doesn't exist

### ***Comments to section C1***

»»The aforementioned S.L. 549.44 (vide Schedule V) lists all bats species as species of community interest in need of strict protection within the Maltese Islands, which is in line with the EUROBATs Agreement to protect European bat species. As per Regulation 25 of S.L. 549.44, it is prohibited to pursue, take or attempt to take, deliberately capture, kill or attempt to kill, as well deliberately destroy, keep, transport, sell and import or export of all bats species. The deliberate disturbance of any species, particularly during periods of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration, as well as the destruction and deterioration of breeding sites or resting places is also prohibited.

Derogations and exemptions of the above activities may be issued by ERA, the Competent Authority responsible for the administration and implementation of the mentioned Regulations, by means of nature permits prior to any activities and/or projects that may possibly threaten the concerned species. Such activities could be related to species and habitat protection, research, scientific and educational studies and/or in the interests of public health and public safety.

### **Resolution 6.5. Guidelines on ethics for research and field work practices**

***National Code of Practice that addresses the context and legitimacy of acquisition, due diligence, long-term care, documentation, relevance and institutional aims***

*Please select only one option*

- Exists  
 Doesn't exist

***Please give details or provide links***

»» Malta has no official national code of practice that addresses the context and legitimacy of acquisition, due diligence, long-term care, documentation, relevance and institutional aims. However, as indicated previously, Malta has a permitting system in place for any activities and projects that may possibly threaten any species (including bats), as per Part XI of the aforementioned [Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations \(S.L. 549.44\)](#). Whenever a written application for a permit related to research and fieldwork practices is submitted to the Competent Authority (ERA), the applicant/s must describe how such research and fieldwork practices will be carried out, and should a permit be granted, the applicant would be bound by the conditions of the permit, which include issues relevant to documentation and due reporting to the competent authority on annual basis.

***Other activities carried out under this resolution (optional)***

»» /

***Which species are not protected and why?***

»» All bats are protected in Malta, as per Schedule V of the aforementioned [Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations \(S.L. 549.44\)](#).

***Please, give details of the legislation, which is protecting bats***

»» As per reply to the previous question, all bats are protected in Malta, as per Schedule V of the [Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations \(S.L. 549.44\)](#).

## Population survey and monitoring

### Resolution 2.2. Consistent monitoring methodologies

**Implementation of EUROBATS guidelines published in EUROBATS Publication n°5 to ensure consistency and information exchange between Parties and Range States**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

#### **Please give details**

>>> Every six years, Malta, as an EU Member State, submits the [EU Habitats Directive \(Directive 92/43/EC\) Article 17 report](#) on the implementation of conservation measures in relation to protected fauna under the same Directive. This report contains data (such as range, distribution, population, conservation status, conservation trends, pressures and threats) on species being reported under the said Directive, which include data related to 9 following species bat species occurring in the Republic of Malta: *Hypsugo savii*; *Myotis punicus*; *Pipistrellus kuhlii*, *Pipisterllus pipistrellus*; *Pipisterllus pygmaeus*; *Plecotus gaisleri*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and *Tadarida teniotis*. Such data is publically available and hence can be exchanged between Parties and Range States.

### Resolution 5.4. Monitoring bats across Europe

**Involvement in a long-term pan-European surveillance to provide trend data**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

#### **Involvement details**

**Please, give details of involvement**

>>>As indicated above, every six years, Malta submits the [EC Habitats Directive \(92/43/EC\) Article 17 report](#) on the implementation of measures. The report contains data such as range, distribution, population, conservation status, conservation trends, pressures and threats on species being reported under the said Directive, including the previously-mentioned 9 bat species.

#### **Awareness raising of the importance of underground sites**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

#### **Collaboration and information exchange with other Parties and range states on surveillance and monitoring activities**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

#### **Please provide details**

>>> N/A

#### **Monitoring bats in accordance with EUROBATS Publication n°5**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

#### **Capacity building of bat workers and surveyors to support the undertaking of bat surveillance projects**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

#### **Other activities under Resolution 5.4.**

>>> /

## **Resolution 6.13. Bats as indicators for biodiversity**

***Does your country support a development of national, regional and pan-European biodiversity indicators for appropriate target audiences, using bat data***

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

***Please provide details***

>>> N/A

***Bat data is incorporated within high profile national multi-taxa indicators***

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

***Body in charge for gathering the data for these indicators***

>>> The Environment and Resources Authority.

***Cooperation platforms that facilitate the required data exchange***

*Please select only one option*

Exist

Doesn't exist

***Please specify or give links***

>>> A system is in place to enable users to request environmental information, in line with the Freedom of Access to Information on the Environment Regulations ([S.L. 549.39](#)). This system is available online on PCs, mobiles and tablets at <https://cc-eris.eraportal.org/mt/new-case/submit-new-case>, enabling submission of requests for data or information as well as other enquiries, complaints and reporting of illegalities. This is coupled with a telephone and e-mail system for those who may wish to use other options.

***Other activities carried out under this resolution (optional)***

>>> /

## **Resolution 7.7. Bat conservation and sustainable forest management**

***National guidance has been developed based on the principles in the EUROBATS Bats and Forestry leaflet***

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

***Please attach a file or provide a link***

>>> /

***Examples of best practice for forest management are submitted to the Secretariat***

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

***If no, provide explanations or give links to available examples***

>>> The Maltese Islands have very few natural woodlands (only 1% of Malta's surface area is forested), most of which fall within protected areas. Coupled with the fact that there is no timber sector, forestry poses a negligible impact over local bat populations. In view of this, no national guidance has been developed. Notwithstanding this, issues concerning trees and woodlands are governed by the Trees and Woodlands Protection Regulations ([S.L. 549.123](#)), which provide a framework for the protection of trees and woodlands in Malta, the declaration of protected tree species and alien tree species, as well as protection of woodlands and the designation of Tree Protection Areas (TPAs). Some of which coincide with sites protected as Special Areas of Conservation for bats under the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations ([S.L. 549.44](#)). A permitting regime is in place in relation to trees and woodlands, which also include [Guidelines on trees, shrubs and plants for planting and landscaping in the Maltese Islands](#) and [Guidelines on Works involving Trees](#), which indirectly protected habitats. Additional information on environmental legislation and policies in Malta are available at the following links: <https://era.org/mt/legislation-policy-cat/environmental-legislation/> and <https://era.org/mt/legislation-policy/national-environmental-policies/>.

***Research in forest management that is sustainable for bats (attach file or provide links)***

»» /

***Other activities carried out under this resolution (optional)***

»» /

## Resolution 7.10. Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation

### ***Animal rescue and rehabilitation systems are effective in the country***

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

### ***Collaboration between bat rehabilitators and scientists***

Please select only one option

- Exists  
 Doesn't exist

### ***Provide examples of collaboration***

With financial assistance from the Environment & Resources Authority (ERA), as well as private investors, Nature Trust-FEE Malta (NTM), a local environmental NGO, implements rescue and rehabilitation of bats in Malta. This NGO operates through local scientists, experts and volunteers. This is also subject to a contractual agreement ERA and NTM, whereby ERA provides permitting, guidance and funding for veterinary care and rehabilitation, as applicable.

### ***Bat rehabilitators submit their data to a national database***

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

### ***Please provide information about this database***

>>>Over the past years, ERA issued a number permits to NGOs with the purpose of rescuing and rehabilitation of grounded and injured species. The use of standardised record protocols is promoted in view of data collection to be kept within ERA's database. Such database is also used in relation to national reporting purposes to various multilateral environmental agreements, ranging from reporting under the EU Habitats Directive, the Council of Europe's Bern Convention and the UN CMS and its Agreements.

### ***Other activities carried out under Resolution 7.10 (optional)***

>>> /

## Resolution 7.12. Priority species for autecological studies

### ***Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country***

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

### ***Studies on:***

	Swarming sites	Winter roosts	Summer roosts	Migration	Spatial and habitat use	Foraging behavior	Diet
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### ***Please add below or attach a list of references***

>>>The priority species under Resolution 7.12 are not present in Malta and hence, such studies were not conducted.

### ***Other activities carried out under Resolution 7.12 (optional)***

>>> /

Please select only one option

## **Resolution 8.3. Monitoring of daily and seasonal movements of bats Studies on daily/seasonal movements**

### **References**

Provide references to completed or ongoing studies on daily/seasonal movements of bats in your country in the text field below or attach a file

>>> No studies have been undertaken.

## **Resolution 8.4 Wind Turbines and Bat Populations Raising awareness on the impact of turbines on bats and the existence of some unsuitable habitats or sites for construction**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

### **If yes, how?**

>>> N/A

### **Are impact assessment procedures and post-construction monitoring undertaken by appropriately experienced experts?**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

### **Please, give details**

Past proposals for windfarms included impact assessments on bat species by experienced local experts.

### **National guidelines have been developed following Eurobats Pub. No. 6**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

### **Please, attach a file or provide a link**

>>> National guidelines have not been developed since there are no operational windfarms in the Maltese Islands.

### **National guidelines are implemented**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No  
 Partially

### **Please, provide implementation details**

>>> N/A, since there are no operational wind farms in the Maltese Islands.

### **Investigations and research for mitigating bat mortality have been undertaken**

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

### **Please, list references, attach reports and articles**

>>> N/A, since there are no operational wind farms in the Maltese Islands.

### **Post-construction monitoring, if possible, is undertaken by suitably experienced bat experts**

*Please select only one option*



If yes, give details

Please select only one option

Yes

No

**Developers of wind energy projects and responsible authorities make raw data from impact assessment and post-construction monitoring available for independent analysis.**

Please select only one option

Yes

No

**Please, list references, attach reports and articles**

>>> N/A, since there are no operational wind farms in the Maltese Islands.

**Measures such as blade feathering, higher turbine cut-in wind speeds and shutting down turbines are implemented**

Yes

No

**Please, provide details**

>>> N/A, since there are no operational wind farms in the Maltese Islands.

**Other activities carried out under Resolution 7.5 (optional)**

>>> /

Please select only one option

## **Resolution 8.10 Recommended Experience and Skills of Experts with regard to Quality of Assessments**

### **Compliance with Annex to Resolution 8.10**

***Experts/groups of experts carrying out assessment of projects, plans and programmes on populations of European bats meet the minimum standard of skills, knowledge and experience as described in the Annex to Resolution 8.10***

*Please select only one option*

- Yes, completely or partially  
 No

### **If yes**

***Please provide details***

The experts involved in the assessment of projects, plans and programmes on the populations of bats are recognized experts in the field with years of experience. These individuals are endorsed by ERA prior to the commencement of such studies.

## **Roosts**

### **Resolution 4.5. Guidelines for the use of remedial timber treatment**

***Small projects to provide basic data to allow an assessment of the potential impact of industry on bat populations***

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

***Please provide a list of references***

>>> N/A. Since most structures in Malta are built with stone rather than wood, remedial timber treatments pose little threat to local bat populations. For that reason, no such projects have been undertaken.

### ***Raising awareness of product users is taking place***

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

***Please provide details***

>>> N/A. As per reply to the previous question, since remedial timber treatments pose little threat to local bat populations, local awareness campaigns target other more significant products, such as pesticides and fertilizers.

### ***Legislation on products, which have any adverse effects on bats***

*Please select only one option*

- Exists  
 Doesn't exist

***Please attach documents or provide links***

>>> N/A. No legislation has been adopted as remedial timber treatments pose little threat to local bat populations.

### ***Comments (optional)***

>>> /

*Please select only one option*

**Resolution 5.7. Guidelines for the protection of overground roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance**

***List of national important overground roosts (including legal/physical protection status)***

- Exists  
 Doesn't exist

***Please, give details or links***

»» There are no specific guidelines for the protection of overground roosts in terms of buildings of cultural importance.

***National guidelines for custodians of historical buildings on the protection of bat roosts have been developed***

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

***Please attach a file or provide a link***

»» N/A, no guidelines have been developed.

***Summary report on interactions between the relevant cultural and natural heritage agencies (attach a file or provide a description)***

»» These interactions have not been documented.

***Other activities carried out under this resolution (optional)***

»» /

*Please select only one option*

## Resolution 7.6. Guidelines for the protection and management of important underground habitats for bats

**List of important underground sites for bats and measures of their protection (including Natura 2000, Emerald or other status) was submitted to EUROBATS**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

**When the latest update was submitted?**

»»N/A.

**Updated counts of bats at each listed site are submitted to the Secretariat**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

**Management of important underground sites for bats is in accordance with EUROBATS Publication n°2**

Please select only one option

- Yes  
 No

**Provide explanations**

»» EUROBATS Publication n°2 states that the management and protection of the important underground sites requires of a combination of legal and administrative arrangements. This has been achieved for the following underground sites;

- [Għar Dalam \(MT0000011\)](#), which is managed via conservation order: [G.N. 1375/2016](#);
- [Għar tal-Iburdan \(MT0000025\)](#), which is managed by its respective management plan: [L-Għar tal-Iburdan u l-Inħawi tal-Madwar Natura 2000 Management Plan \(SAC\)](#); and
- Għar Hasan, L-Għar l-Iswed and other various caves found within [Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Ir-Ramla taċ-Ċirkewwa sal-ponta ta' Bengħisa \(MT0000024\)](#), which is managed through the respective management plans:
  - [Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Għajn Tuffieħa Natura 2000 Management Plan \(SAC\)](#);
  - [Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Ir-Ramla ta' Għajn Tuffieħa sax-Xaqqa Natura 2000 Management Plan \(SAC/SPA\)](#);
  - [Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Mir-Ramla taċ-Ċirkewwa sar-Ramla tal-Mixquqa Natura 2000 Management Plan \(SAC\)](#); and
  - [Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Mix-Xaqqa sal-Ponta ta' Bengħisa Natura 2000 Management Plan \(SAC/SPA\)](#).

**Other relevant activities for the protection of underground habitats**

»» /

## Resolution 8.5. Conservation and Management of Important Overground Sites for Bats

**Most important overground roosts are identified at the national level considering the guidance on site selection developed by the Advisory Committee and using the national databases.**

If yes, please give details

»»Yes, this has been achieved for the fortified city of [Iċ-Ċitadella \(MT0000013\)](#), a very important overground roost. In fact, the whole site has been designated as a Natura2000 site, and it managed via Conservation Order: [G.N. 1376/2016](#).

## Resolution 8.9. Bats, Insulation and Lining Materials

**Are bats included in the impact assessment of insulation programs at a strategic level?**

If yes, please give details

»» No, since this is a negligible issue in Malta.

**Are any actions undertaken to ensure that insulation projects comply with national legislation regarding bat protection and conservation by implementing appropriate pre-insulation survey and assessment, mitigation and compensation to avoid roost loss and bat mortality?**

Please provide information concerning such actions and attach files, if required

»» No. However, Malta does have a system of permits in place for any activities and projects (including insulation projects) that may possibly threaten bat species.

**Examples provided by the review document included as Annex 1 to Resolution 8.12 are considered whenever new roosting structures are planned or existing structures are renovated for bats**

Please give details, if it is the case

»» N/A, since such project have yet to be undertaken. Currently, bat-boxes are the only man-made purposely-built roosts utilized in Malta.

**Are existing purpose-built Bat Roosts monitored and further studies on their effectiveness promoted?**

If yes, please give details

»»

Yes, site managers undertake regular monitoring of roosting boxes installed in protected areas. Effectiveness studies have yet to be undertaken since this initiative (installation of roosting boxes) started recently.

## Habitats

### **Resolution 7.8. Conservation and management of critical feeding areas, core areas around colonies and commuting routes**

***Are national guidelines which are based on the general guidance given in EUROBATS Publication No. 9 developed and published? Please provide details or add a file.***

>>>No guidelines have been developed on the basis of EUROBATS Publication No. 9. However, there are Management Plans and Conservation Orders under the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549) in place for the conservation and management of some critical feeding areas, core areas around colonies and commuting routes.

#### ***Other activities carried out under this resolution (optional)***

>>> /

### **Resolution 7.9. Impact of roads and other traffic infrastructures on bats**

***Bats are taken into account during the planning, construction and operation of roads and other infrastructure projects***

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

#### ***Please give details or attach a file with description***

>>> Bat considerations are taken into account during the planning, construction and operation of roads and other infrastructure projects as part of development planning procedures in line with the [Development Planning Act \(Cap. 552\)](#).

#### ***Pre-construction strategic and environmental impacts assessment procedures are mandatory***

*Please select only one option*

- Are mandatory  
 Required occasionally  
 Don't required

#### ***Post-construction monitoring***

*Please select only one option*

- Is mandatory  
 Required occasionally  
 Isn't required

#### ***Raw data from environmental impact assessment and post-construction monitoring is available for independent scientific analysis***

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

#### ***Please list references and attach reports and articles***

>>> Raw data from impact assessments can be found in baseline survey reports that form part of the technical reports in EIA Reports and/or ecological assessments. Reports forming part of an EIA Report are publicly available on the ERA website for the public's perusal and therefore, they are accessible for independent analysis. With regards to data from post-construction monitoring, they can be found in monitoring reports. These reports are generally submitted by the developer when requested by ERA so as to ensure that works and conditions are being adhered to.

#### ***Research into the impact of new and, where appropriate, existing roads and other infrastructure on bats and into the effectiveness of mitigation measures***

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

**Other activities carried out under Resolution 7.9 (optional)**

>>> /

**Resolution 8.6. Bats and Light Pollution**

**Is national guidance taking due account of the EUROBATS Publication Series No. 8 on Bats and Light Pollution developed and promoted? If yes, please give details or attach a file.**

>>> No national guidance has been developed following EUROBATS Publication Series No. 8 on Bats and Light. However, the [Guidelines for the reduction of light pollution in the Maltese Islands](#) published by the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) serve the same function. These guidelines were subject to a public consultation process and are currently under post-consultation review.

**Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice**

Click "expand" to see the questions!

**International Bat Night. Give details for each year: number of events and number of people participated**

>>>

Date/ Year	Number of Events	Number of People Participated/Attended	Remarks	Links
12.11.2010	1	Data not available	Malta Bat Night was held on 12 November 2010, with the collaboration of the <a href="#">National Museum of Natural History</a> . The events included an exhibition, an illustrated talk by a local bat expert, and a night walk with an attempt at bat hearing using bat detectors.	<a href="https://gozo.news/15442/night-of-the-bats-biodiversity-its-your-life-protect-it/">https://gozo.news/15442/night-of-the-bats-biodiversity-its-your-life-protect-it/</a>
19.07.2014	1	Data not available	On 19th July 2014 an organised walk was organised at one of Malta's Natura 2000 sites "Nocturnal Life at <a href="#">Majjistral Park</a> " where participants were also informed on Microchiroptera in Malta.	/
12.09.2015	1	Data not available	On 12th September 2015 a bat activity was organised by <a href="#">Heritage Malta</a> at Għar Dalam Cave in Birżebbuġa, the tour included a presentation on bats and a walk during which participants could hear the different species through a bat detector.	<a href="https://tvmnews.mt/en/news/ghar-dalam-and-creatures-of-the-night/">https://tvmnews.mt/en/news/ghar-dalam-and-creatures-of-the-night/</a>
14.10.2015	1	Data not available	On 14th October, 2015, another bat awareness event entitled 'Bat Night 2015' was organised by the environment authority in liaison with Heritage Malta to increase awareness amongst the general public. The event included informative presentations featuring the conservation status of the local bat species and the role of the environment authority in maintaining and improving such, a bat trivia exhibition, and a bat hearing exercise.	<a href="https://m.facebook.com/AtvitaletMalta/photos/a.265624380182953/872771979468187/">https://m.facebook.com/AtvitaletMalta/photos/a.265624380182953/872771979468187/</a>
06.07.2018 03.08.2018 07.09.2018 28.09.2018	4	Data not available	Three educational events under the cap 'Bat Night 2018 - Discover & Experience our Nature' were organised by ERA in collaboration with Heritage Malta, held at Għar Dalam Cave and Museum (Birżebbuġa) and the National Museum of Natural History (Mdina). These events were well received and had the aim to inform the public regarding the bat species inhabiting the Maltese Islands, their habitats, the threats and pressures affecting them, whilst providing an update on the conservation status and various conservation measures. This was carried out through interactive presentations, bat observations, bat listening sessions and a bat trivia exhibition. Due to the positive interest, an additional fourth	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/national-museum-of-natural-history-malta/bat-nights-2018-discover-experience-our-nature/210553439559227/">https://www.facebook.com/events/national-museum-of-natural-history-malta/bat-nights-2018-discover-experience-our-nature/210553439559227/</a>  <a href="https://m.facebook.com/events/g%C4%A7ar-dalam/bat-nights-2018-discover-experience-our-nature/481310745635445/">https://m.facebook.com/events/g%C4%A7ar-dalam/bat-nights-2018-discover-experience-our-nature/481310745635445/</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/d41d8cd9/bat-">https://www.facebook.com/events/d41d8cd9/bat-</a>

			session was also organized. Overall, 120 people attended these sessions.	<a href="https://era.org/press-releases/nights-2018-discover-experience-our-nature/398068787268954/">nights-2018-discover-experience-our-nature/398068787268954/</a>
06.09.2019	1	Data not available	A collaborative bat night event was done between Heritage Malta and ERA at the National Museum for Natural History at Mdina's Vilhena Palace on 6th September 2019. During this event, a number of stalls from various entities and organisations were set up to distribute information related to bats in the palace's courtyard. Following this, the official bat night event was held during the night (between 22:00 - 07:00 hrs); with informative talks and a bat hearing session before sleeping in the museum, followed with bat spotting in the early morning 39 people attended this event.	<a href="https://era.org/press-releases/bat-night-at-the-museum/">https://era.org/press-releases/bat-night-at-the-museum/</a>  <a href="https://heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/bat-night/">https://heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/bat-night/</a>
06.10.2019	1	Data not available	Heritage Malta celebrated EkoDalam on 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2019, which was an event that enabled visitors to see Għar Dalam Cave and its museum. At the same time, this event provided the latest information about environmental issues; and gave the opportunity for GOs and NGOs to organize educational, awareness stands and activities. A Bat Night, in collaboration with ERA, followed this event with 36 people attending.	<a href="https://heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/ekodalam/">https://heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/ekodalam/</a>
06.06.2022	1	Data not available	Heritage Malta offered the opportunity to enjoy the cultural and natural heritage of Għar Dalam and its surroundings in a different atmosphere and to spend the night in these grounds. This activity took place on Monday 6th June through the following Tuesday morning, Malta's Sette Giugno public holiday. Participants were first be guided through Għar Dalam Cave and then the prehistoric remains of Borg in-Nadur.	<a href="https://heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/night-stay-at-ghar-dalam/">https://heritagemalta.mt/whats-on/night-stay-at-ghar-dalam/</a>

***Details of other important activities which are worth to mention (educational centers, etc.)***

»»Over the years, ERA has been actively engaged in the promotion of awareness on biodiversity in general including bats. One of the most successful initiatives is the carrying out of biodiversity tours to a selected protected area(s), whereby various Authority officials conduct free guided tours for the general public. Another well-received initiative carried out by the Authority is its participation in 'Malta u lil Hinn Minnha', an award-winning documentary TV show that is broadcast on the national broadcaster (TVM) on Sundays, with repeats on digital platforms. During this programme, the Authority provides an overview of a protected area, with information snippets on Malta's natural heritage.

A novel public awareness initiative, which was kick-started in 2016, was the uploading of Biosnippets on ERA's website. Biosnippets are short articles aimed at disseminating information on biodiversity to the general public, such as on *Myotis punicus* and may be accessed through the following link: <https://era.org/mt/topic/biosnippets/>.

As for previous years, posters on protected species (including bats and marine mammals) were also distributed to interested parties (shared with the public during outreach events, NGOs and schools). From 2016 to date the posters were distributed to all government, church and independent primary and secondary schools in Malta and Gozo; all local councils in Malta and Gozo and to the main environmental NGOs. They were also distributed during events which ERA organized or participated in such as the Valletta Green Festivals; Nature Tours; Bats Nights and Careers Days in schools. They have also been made available in digital format on the local environmental authority's website.

***Information on training and awareness raising for forest managers and workers, farmers, road workers, stakeholders involved in insulation of buildings, etc.***

»» Training initiatives have not been undertaken locally. On the other hand, awareness raising is undertaken, as per previous answer, however its not specifically targeted for forest managers and workers, farmers, road workers, stakeholders involved in insulation of buildings, etc.



## **Resolution 4.11. Recognizing the important role of NGOs in bat conservation**

***Details of NGOs participating in /contributing to bat protection and most valuable activities that have the potential to substantially improve transboundary cooperation and mutual assistance***

»» Noteworthy NGOs in Malta that participate and contribute in bat conservation. These are included in alphabetical order, below:

- Name: BICREF, the Biological Conservation Research Foundation

Address: PO BOX 30, Hamrun, Malta

Email: [bicref@gmail.com](mailto:bicref@gmail.com)

Tel: +35699429592

Website: <http://bicref.org/>

- Name: Greenhouse Malta (GHM)

Address: 81, Triq id-Dejqa, Valletta

Email: [green.uom@gmail.com](mailto:green.uom@gmail.com)

Tel: +35621242748

Website: <https://www.greenhousengo.org/>

- Name: Nature Trust-FEE Malta (NTM)

Address: Wied Wied Ghollieqa Environment Centre, Lower Level, Car Park 1, University of Malta, Msida

Email: [info@naturetrustmalta.org](mailto:info@naturetrustmalta.org)

Tel: +35621320778

Website: <https://naturetrustmalta.org/>

## **Resolution 8.13. Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe**

***Awareness of the multiple ecological services provided by bats, especially for the agricultural sector and regarding the concerns about the published evidence of dramatic loss of insect biomass in open land is raised with land managers and other stakeholders.***

Please, give details

»»Through the implementation of the [Rural Development Programme 2014-2020](#), the Government aimed to raise awareness and encourage farmers and land managers to operate sustainably, resulting in protection of biodiversity (including bats), as well as local ecosystems, water and public health. In order to aid the implementation of such action, focused training courses were be organised to improve farmers' knowledge and promote good practice.

### **Insect declines**

## **Resolution 8.13. Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe**

***Activities to encourage and support scientific research on the impact of the insect decline on bat populations***

Please give details of such activities.

»»No activities have been undertaken to encourage and promote scientific research on the impact of the insect decline on bat populations.

### ***Requirements to ensure that bats are being considered in pesticide risk assessments***

Please describe these requirements, in case they exist

»»Pesticide Risk Assessments depend on the merits of a particular project. When a project is subject to an environmental impact assessment, involves the use of pesticides, and bats are present within the area of study, an evaluation of the potential risks on bats from such pesticide use would be relevant and required.

### ***Describe measures to avoid the use of pesticides, particularly those problematic for bats and their food resources, in and around important areas for bat conservation***

Please give details in case such measures have taken place

»»In general, pesticide use is regulated under the Pesticides Control Act ([Cap. 430](#)), which includes assessment processes. The Environment & Resources Authority is part of the Pesticides Control Board set under this Act. As to protected areas, the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulations (S.L. 430.08) regulate the use of pesticides in protected areas under the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44). The [Guidelines on Managing non-native Plant Invaders and restoring Native Plant Communities in Terrestrial Settings in the Maltese Islands](#) also address issues linked with chemical treatment and the need to address these following

stringent risk assessment and authorisation from the Competent Authority(ies). Moreover, as per resolution 8.13, through the implementation of the [Rural Development Programme 2014-2020](#), the Government aimed to raise awareness and encourage farmers and land managers to implement measures including sustainable use of pesticides, resulting in protection of biodiversity (including bats), as well as local ecosystems, water and public health. Additionally, through the Agricultural and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA), farmers may apply for agri-environmental Measures, which encourages the use of simple environmental practices via the promotion of organic farming.

## **International co-operation**

### ***Implementation of Resolutions 7.10, 7.12, 8.3, 8.7***

Please give information on the international cooperation with the aim of implementing the recommendations of Resolutions 7.10, 7.12, 8.3, 8.7.

>>> Resolution 7.12 – Since priority species do not occur in Malta no studies have been conducted. Hence, there has not been any international collaboration with respect to resolution 7.12.

Resolution 8.3 – No studies have been conducted. Hence, there has not been any international collaboration with respect to resolution 8.3.

Resolution 8.7 – No studies have been conducted. Hence, there has not been any international collaboration with respect to resolution 8.7.

Resolution 7.10 – Data related to bat rehabilitation is collected and submitted to the Environment and Resources Authority; however, there are no examples of international collaboration.

## **Diseases**

### **Resolution 5.2. Bat rabies in Europe**

#### ***National bat rabies surveillance network***

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

#### ***Please give details***

>>>There is no surveillance network in Malta since rabies transmission has never been recorded locally. This also applies for other vectors of rabies. In fact, all reported rabies cases in Malta have been imported.

#### ***Vaccination of risk groups against rabies is compulsory***

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

#### ***Details of the institution(s) in charge of recording of all test results and their submission to the WorldHealth Organization***

Title: Ministry for Health

Address: 15, Palazzo Castellania, Merchants Street, Valletta

Email links: <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/Contact-Us.aspx>

Phone: +356 2299 2444

#### ***Other activities carried out under this resolution (optional)***

>>> /

## **Resolution 6.6. Guidelines for the prevention, detection and control of lethal fungal infections in bats**

### ***Surveillance for the presence of fungal infections***

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

### ***Please provide details***

>>> No national guidelines for the prevention, detection and control of lethal fungal infections in bats have been developed. In such an event where fungal infections start being reported in Malta, Resolution 6.6 will serve as an appropriate guidance document.

## **EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)**

### ***Donations to Eurobats Project Initiative***

Has your country provided funding to EPI? Please give details below.

>>>N/A

## **Climate change**

### **Resolution 8.7. Bats and Climate Change**

#### ***Resolution 8.7 Bats and Climate Change***

Please provide details on changes in species migration, hibernation, reproductive and range shift patterns and consequent species interactions, if those changes have been studied in your country. Add files if required

>>> No studies have been undertaken in changes in species migration, hibernation, reproductive, range shift patterns, and consequent species interactions.

## **Further important activities to share with other Parties and Range States**

### ***Give details or provide links***

>>>None.

## Confirmation

### Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

*Please select only one option*

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of EUROBATS has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

### Date of submission

Fill as follows: **dd.mm**

