

9th Meeting of the Standing Committee
19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Heraklion, Greece, 7 – 10 April 2014

Draft Resolution 7.12
Bat Rehabilitation



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

Recalling EUROBATS Agreement Article III, especially paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5;

Noting, that bat rescue and rehabilitation involves rescuing bats and bat colonies at risk and temporarily caring for bats which have lost their roosts, or those which are diseased, injured or orphaned; then every effort is made to release them back into the wild;

Further noting Resolution 5.2 Bats Rabies in Europe that recommends rabies surveillance of bats which have died or injured bats which have been euthanized;

Further noting Resolution 5.4 Monitoring Bats across Europe for the further collection of faunistic data;

Further noting Resolution 5.7 Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance since most bats received by bat rehabilitators are found in or nearby buildings;

Further noting Resolution 6.5 Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Field Work Practices;

Further noting Resolution 6.8 Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats;

Further noting Resolution 6.16 Implementation of the Conservation and Management plan 2011-2014 that parties should continue efforts to raise public awareness to improve education;

Further noting Resolution 7.13 Bats and Insulation which recommends the collection and sharing of information on bat presence in buildings;

Recognising that

1. Relevant information obtained from bat rehabilitators (if present in the country) can be used for bat conservation and protection of their roosts, data collection, disease monitoring and other scientific research;
2. The level of bat rehabilitation varies across Parties and Non-Party Range states ranging from countries with no rehabilitators to those with established operating networks;
3. The recording protocols are not standardised and differ widely across Parties and Non-Party Range states;
4. Public awareness is important for effective bat conservation;

Recommends Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Encourage the establishment and support of bat rescue rehabilitation systems in their countries;
2. Encourage capacity building to assist bat rescue and rehabilitation;
3. Encourage cooperation amongst rehabilitators in the country by sharing basic records and try to establish a national database with standardized recording protocols;
4. Encourage collaboration between bat rehabilitators and bat scientists for the purposes of data collection, other scientific research and exchange of knowledge;
5. Not capture wild bats for public engagement. If the legislation of the country permits the use of bats for events or public engagement, then captive disabled bats should be used instead of wild bats;

Requests the Bat rehabilitation IWG to develop guidelines for bat rehabilitators.