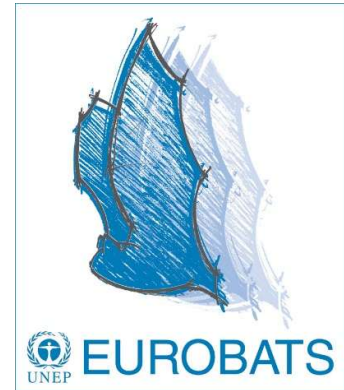


# Press Release



## **29th International Bat Night: Unveiling the Hidden World of Bats**

Since 1997, the last weekend in August has been dedicated to bats. With the support of the EUROBATS Secretariat, volunteers – both professionals and amateurs – invite the public to discover these extraordinary nocturnal mammals. From just 14 European countries at the first Bat Night, the event has grown into a global initiative, celebrated today in more than 50 countries.

Bats are fascinating creatures - and highly vulnerable. As mammals, females usually give birth to only one or two pups per year (rarely three), which makes populations slow to recover from losses. Yet threats are mounting: loss of roosts and habitats (e.g. due to building renovations, development, or intensive forestry), impact of wind turbines, rapidly increasing light pollution, etc. The decline of insect populations is another major challenge since insects are the staple food source for the bats.

Still, everyone can help to protect these unique guardians of the ecosystem. Whereas installing bat boxes might help in providing much-needed roosting sites, it is necessary to preserve existing roosts in buildings. Leaving deadwood and hollow trees in parks and forests creates natural shelters. In gardens and public spaces, planting native flowering plants and letting areas grow “wild” supports insect diversity — and with it, bats. As efficient pest controllers, a small bat can eat a quantity of insects equal in weight to 1000 mosquitoes per night. Although 70 percent of bat species feed on arthropods, the remaining species consume fruit and nectar, making them vital seed dispersers and pollinators.

By sharing such knowledge, International Bat Night not only highlights bats' ecological value but also helps dispel ancient myths and prejudices. Thanks to the tireless collaboration of scientists, volunteers and conservationists, the initiative has become an integral part of global bat conservation efforts.

For more information and event listings, please visit the EUROBATS website:

[www.eurobats.org](http://www.eurobats.org)

### **Note for Editors**

The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) is an international treaty signed in 1991 under the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

Until today, 39 of the 63 range states have joined EUROBATS, working together to safeguard bat populations across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. The Agreement, administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), provides the framework for coordinated action to protect all 55 bat species in the Agreement area.

EUROBATS promotes bat conservation through legislation, education, research, conservation measures and international cooperation, both with its member states and with countries that have not yet acceded.

### **For further inquiries, please contact:**

Zrinka Domazetović, Executive Secretary, UNEP/EUROBATS, and

Dr. Suren Gazaryan, Scientific Officer, UNEP/EUROBATS,

e-mail [eurobats@eurobats.org](mailto:eurobats@eurobats.org)

