

PRIORITIES FOR BAT CONSERVATION FOR THE PERIOD 2003 - 2006

Parties to the Agreement should consider taking forward the following actions to enhance the conservation status of bats. The Advisory Committee shall review the success that each Party or Range State has in achieving each goal, and will seek to disseminate examples of good practice between Parties and Range States.

1. Legal Requirements

(a) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 1.

- Parties should continue to take measures to fully implement Article III (1) of the Agreement.

2. Population Survey and Monitoring

(a) With reference to Document MoP.2.5, Resolution 2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, and Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 2-6.

- Parties should continue to collate data on the implementation of Resolution 2, review the methods used and the species covered. Species listed under Resolution 2 include *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis blythii*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Myotis capaccini*, *Eptesicus serotinus*, *Eptesicus nilssoni*, *Nyctalus noctula* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*.
- In recognition of the importance of monitoring in implementing the European Action Plans for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Myotis dasycneme*, these two species should be added to the existing list.

(b) With reference to Document MoP.2.5, Resolution 2, Consistent Monitoring Methodologies and Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 2-6.

- Parties should share information on experience gained in using the methods outlined in Resolution 2, with the intention of building a comprehensive dataset to be reviewed in detail in due course.
- The importance of long-term monitoring to build up good datasets on species distribution and population trends should be recognised and emphasised.
- The importance of promoting international information exchange and co-operation in developing monitoring strategies should be recognised.

(c) With reference to Document MoP2.6, Element 1, Bat Monitoring Programmes.

- The work on collating information on European species migration routes should be completed.
- Recommendations on future work required to assess the timing and distribution patterns of migration should be made by 2006. This should lead in due course to recommendations on the conservation of migratory species.

(d) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Resolution 8, Annex A, 8.

- The current work being carried out on autecological studies of the Priority List of species (defined by the Advisory Committee, AC4, Report Annex C) should be completed.
- Information collected as a result of this work should be made public.
- Ways of making information on the autecology of species more widely available (e.g. over the internet) should be investigated.
- The state of autecological knowledge of the priority species should be reviewed before the next Conservation and Management Plan is set up.

(e) With reference to Draft Resolution MoP4.4

- Parties and Range States should promote the identification and classification of bat species and communities, which are typical for certain Forest Types for Biodiversity Assessments and which can be used as indicators for sustainable forestry in Europe.

3. Roosts

(a) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 12 and 13.

- The work carried out on producing guidelines for the conservation and management of underground roost sites should continue, with the intention of publishing guidelines by 2006.
- Information on methods used to protect roost sites other than underground sites should be gathered, with roost sites in buildings that are part of the cultural heritage as a priority. The results should be disseminated by 2006.

(b) With reference to Document MoP2.7, Element 1, Underground Habitats.

- The work currently in progress to identify and list important underground sites for bats should be completed and reviewed by 2006.

4. Foraging Habitats

(a) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 16.

- Surveys should be carried out to identify critical feeding areas close to maternity colonies of national and international significance. Information on the methods used should be gathered and disseminated to Parties.

(b) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, various.

- The conservation of bat habitats shall be taken into consideration in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or linear features directing to roosts are affected. National guidelines for this purpose shall be drafted by 2006.

5. Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice

(a) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 19.

- Parties should continue efforts to raise public awareness and education.
- With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 20. Parties should continue to produce guidance and assess new ways of working, such as producing public attitude surveys and identifying important groups that need influencing.

6. Pesticides

(a) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 22.

- No recommendation for further work at Eurobats or Advisory Committee level.

(b) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 23.

- The impact of anti-parasitic drugs for livestock on bat populations should be reviewed, in conjunction with work being carried out under the Bern Convention and with the intention of producing a report in 2006.

7. International co-operation

(a) With reference to Document Inf.MoP2.14, Annex A, 24.

- Parties and Range States should co-operate in undertaking the actions outlined above. Parties and Range States should work co-operatively

towards increasing bat expertise and knowledge in their countries and internationally.

- Actions identified in the CBD/CMS joint work programme should be linked to actions in the Conservation and Management Plan.

(b) With reference to Draft Resolution 4.4

- Parties and Range States, in collaboration with the Secretariat, shall approach the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) with the aims of an introduction of bat conservation aspects to the activities and measures under the MCPFE, especially the development of indicators for sustainable forestry, and the appointment of EUROBATs as an observer of the MCPFE.