



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS
OF EUROPEAN BATS (EUROBATS)**

Summary:

The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, the report provided by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats.

The Report is provided unedited in the format and language that it was submitted.

Report of the EUROBATS Secretariat to the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CMS

1. Agreement Membership

Since the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS Israel has acceded to the Agreement, bringing the total number of Parties to 36. The Secretariat continues to receive indications from a number of additional states preparing the accession to the Agreement.

2. Voluntary contributions

In generous support to the implementation of the Agreement the Secretariat has received the total amount of EUR 125,800 as voluntary contributions in the reporting period. These contributions were used for special conservation and research projects, the extremely successful Eurobats Publication Series with implementation guidelines as well as publicity and outreach (e.g. International Bat Night).

3. Synergies among the CMS Family Secretariats

The Executive Secretaries of CMS, AEWA and EUROBATS are holding regular meetings on both administrative as well as programmatic issues of common concern in order to continue and enhance the close cooperation. In addition, two staff members of the EUROBATS Secretariat provide administrative services for procurement and travel administration to the CMS Family Secretariats on a regular basis.

4. Special Projects

Through the EUROBATS Project Initiative (EPI), the Secretariat could support following projects:

- Free-of-charge dissemination of scientific knowledge to European bat specialists through the World Bat Library (Geneva) and the EUROBATS network;
- Capacity Building for bat species monitoring in Northwest Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).
- “Let’s all be Bat-Men” – awareness raising in Bulgaria;
- *Plecotus sardus* on Sardinia – from knowledge to conservation (two years)
- Workshop for conservationists and foresters: Improving forest management for bats in Europe (the Netherlands);
- Survey of distribution and conservation status of bats in Armenia

- Capacity building for the development of the guidelines for wind farm construction based on field study in Macedonia (two years)
- The “Carol” line: Assessing importance of at least 150 deserted bunkers for the conservation of the Romanian-Hungarian cross-border bat fauna (Romania)
- *Nyctalus lasiopterus* in the far north? Population size and habitat use of a maternity colony in the Pripiat floodplains in the South of Belarus (two years)
- Bats across borders: Study of south-eastern bat migration way in Eastern Europe in Ukraine and Russia

The above-mentioned projects were supported with voluntary contributions of Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

In addition to these projects, the Secretariat co-financed 4th and 5th International Berlin Bat Meetings, and provided funding for publication of the book “Bats in the Anthropocene: Conservation of Bats in a Changing World” by means of German voluntary contributions.

5. Publicity

In 2015, a revised English version of the Guidelines on bats and wind farm projects was published as the EUROBATS Publication Series No.6

In 2016, the Secretariat issued the Publication Series No.7 “Common Names of European Bats”. This publication is dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the Agreement and contains common names for 53 species of bats in 50 European languages alongside concise explanations of their origin and meaning.

The various volumes of these new and former EUROBATS Publication Series and leaflets continue to be highly demanded. The release of Publication Series No. 7 in December 2016 has triggered increased attention for all available publications. From January to the first week of March 2017 almost 2.300 publications were disseminated by the Secretariat. Reprints of Publication Series and leaflets, 5.000 and 6.000 respectively, are planned for 2017.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement and the 20th anniversary of International Bat Night a special poster has been designed and made available.

Over the previous quadrennium, the International Bat Night continues to be extremely successful. Reports of events are available on the EUROBATS website.

6. Online Reporting System for National Implementation Reports

Based on the new format adopted by MoP7 the online reporting system has been further tested and will be available for the submission of the mandatory national implementation reports before MoP8.

7. Joint EU-EUROBATS Species Action Plan on Bats

In 2013 the development of a joint Species Action Plan on Bats has started between the European Commission and EUROBATS. After final consultations among the experts and EU member states, the SAP is expected to be adopted still in 2017.

8. Activities of the Intersessional Working Groups of EUROBATS Advisory Committee

At the time of reporting, there are 17 permanent along with 3 *ad hoc* working groups in the Advisory Committee:

1. Conservation of Key Underground Sites
2. Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management
3. Monitoring and Indicators
4. Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats
5. Autecological Studies for Priority Species
6. Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
7. Light Pollution
8. Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes
9. Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts
10. Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats
11. Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health
12. Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation
13. Bats and Building Insulation
14. Education
15. Quality of Assessments and Experience and Skills of Experts
16. Overground roosts for bats

17. EPI projects' assessment group

Ad hoc Working Groups:

1. Geographical Scope of the Agreement
2. Amendment of the Annex of the Agreement
3. Bats and climate change

9. Planned resolutions of 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties and future publications

At least four guidance documents adopted by the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties will be finalized by the end of this quadrennium and are expected to be published within EUROBATS Publication Series. These are Guidelines on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes, Guidelines on Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats, Guidelines on Bats and Building Insulation as well as those on Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation.

The Secretariat anticipates several new important resolutions to be adopted at the 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties. These will cover e.g. Bats and Light Pollution, Wind Turbines and Bat Populations as well as Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts.

10. Upcoming EUROBATS Meetings in 2018

The 23rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee and the 14th Meeting of the Standing Committee will jointly take place in Tallinn upon the generous invitation of the government of Estonia from 14 – 17 May 2018.

Upon the generous invitation of the government of the Principality of Monaco, the 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties will be held from 8 – 10 October 2018 in Monte Carlo.