



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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TENTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Bergen, 20-25 November 2011
Agenda Item 10

REVIEW OF ARTICLE IV AGREEMENTS ALREADY CONCLUDED

1. The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the Tenth 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 (EUROBATS)**, to accompany document UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. The report is provided unedited in the format and language that it was submitted.

EXAMEN DES ACCORDS DE L'ARTICLE IV DEJA CONCLUS

1. Le Secrétariat diffuse ci-joint, pour l'information des participants à la dixième session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur les espèces migratrices, le rapport développé fourni par le Secrétariat de l'**Accord relatif à la Conservation des Populations de Chauves-souris d'Europe (EUROBATS)**, pour accompagner le document UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. Le rapport est fourni sans avoir été mis au point, dans le format et la langue dans lesquels il a été soumis.

REVISIÓN DE ACUERDOS ARTÍCULO IV YA CONCLUIDOS

1. La Secretaría adjunta, para información de los participantes a la décimo Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención sobre Especies Migratorias, el informe completo presentado por la Secretaría del **Acuerdo sobre la Conservación de Poblaciones de los Murciélagos en Europa (EUROBATS)**, en complemento en el documento UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9.
2. El informe se presenta sin modificaciones editoriales, bajo la forma y en el idioma original.

**Report of the EUROBATS Secretariat
to the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS**

1. Agreement Membership and Area

Since the Ninth Session of the Conference of Parties to CMS, San Marino and Montenegro have acceded to the Agreement. After some expected years of consolidated membership the Secretariat has indications from a number of states preparing the accession to the Agreement.

The Sixth Session of the Meeting of Parties decided to extend the Agreement area into Northern Africa and the Middle East. The Agreement now covers the entire Western Palearctic region.

2. Staff

The Secretariat continues to operate with an Executive Secretary, one Secretary (part-time 50%) and two Administrative Assistants (part-time 50%) as regular posts. Until end of November 2011 a Year of the Bat Campaign Assistant is being employed as a consultant. The Sixth Session of the Meeting of Parties agreed to establish a new post of Scientific and Project Management Officer starting from 2013.

3. Voluntary Contributions

The EUROBATS Secretariat gratefully receives significant voluntary contributions on a regular basis from Parties to finance the activities listed under items 4 – 7 below. In the period 2009 – 2011 voluntary contributions have been received from France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom amounting to a total of almost €170,000.

4. Special Projects

In 2009 - 2011 the Secretariat was able to finance and co-ordinate the following projects through voluntary contributions received for the EUROBATS Project Initiative (EPI):

- Workshop on the development of collaboration between bat workers and public health and veterinarian authorities: Implementation of bat conservation in Ukraine in conjunction with bat rabies.
- Estimation of effects of pesticides on bats, Germany.
- Assessment of Pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*) populations around St. Petersburg, Russia.
- The research of forest-dwelling bat species and their roosting sites in mountain forest areas with different characters and states and with special regard to *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, Hungary.
- Bats and Lighting of Monumental Buildings, Italy.
- A new chance for Romanian bats - Completion of the proposed Sites of Community Interest in Romania with chiropterological data.
- Conservation aimed inventory of the Mediterranean horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus euryale* occurrence in South-Western Romania.
- Bats of Albania - from field work and monography to conservation and education.
- Bats of the Bou Hedma National Park (Tunisia) - habitat use and conservation.
- A study on the sustainable development of riparian forests with regards to the conservation of bat species, feeding areas and bat migration (Germany).
- The conservation of vulnerable floodplain forests of Southern Danube with the help of pond bat and barbastelle (Hungary).

5. Bats in Africa

For many years already, African countries have expressed strong interest to include bats in their conservation activities and are unanimous in their desire for capacity building activities as a first step. The efforts of CMS and EUROBATS to make this happen have started to bear fruit, thanks to excellent co-operation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

FAO is organizing one week capacity building workshops on “Wildlife Health and the Human-Animal-Environmental Interface” in different regions of Africa, aiming to cover the whole continent. Supported by CMS and EUROBATS, the first of these workshops took place from 22 – 26 November 2010 near Johannesburg, South Africa, with the participation of 12 southern African countries.

One day was fully dedicated to bats and the EUROBATS Secretariat has been able to organise an excellent team of South African and European experts who have given lectures on all relevant topics. The local “Gauteng and Northern region Bat Interest Group” (GNORBIG, www.batsgauteng.org.za) also contributed exciting information about bats and organized live encounters with this fascinating species.

6. Publicity

Thanks to the outstanding work of the Advisory Committee and individual experts, the EUROBATS Publication Series has become the flagship in publicity. Volumes 2-5 were “bestsellers” even before being printed with thousands of pre-orders for each of them:

- Publication Series No. 2 “Protecting and managing underground sites for bats”.
- Publication Series No. 3 “Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects”.
- Publication Series No. 4 “Protection of overground roosts for bats.
- Publication Series No. 5 “Guidelines for Surveillance and Monitoring of European Bats”.
- Leaflet “Bats and Forestry”.

The European Bat Night continues to be successful and still grows every year all over the Agreement area. In 2011 the yearly event turned into an “International Bat Night” with e.g. Lebanon, Israel and the United States participating for the first time. Many more non-European countries are expected to participate from 2012 onwards.

The Secretariat can also report that the Agreement excites continuing public interest resulting in requests for TV, radio as well as newspaper reports and interviews.

7. Year of the Bat 2011 - 2012

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the EUROBATS Agreement, the Year of the Bat is being celebrated as a two-year long species awareness campaign undertaken jointly by CMS and EUROBATS. The primary focus is on raising the profile of the world's only flying mammal and to provide support for bat conservationists all around the globe. The campaign is working in close cooperation with the founding, global and media partners to ensure that more people are made aware of the need for bat conservation, the threats that bats face, the important role they play in terrestrial eco-systems, species biodiversity and the essential ecosystem services provided by bats. Year of the Bat campaign encourages individuals, organizations and governments to participate, and when possible, host bat conservation events and educational activities.

The Year of the Bat campaign is supported by eleven founding partners, which include the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the IUCN Bat Specialist Group, Bat Conservation International (BCI), Lubee Bat Conservancy, the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), the French Mammal Society (SFEPM) and BatLife Europe and is backed by UNEP. The campaign has also greatly benefited from the support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the French Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing. To date, the number of campaign partners stands at 63, spread over all continents.

Bat conservation and the campaign has been extensively and successfully promoted through over 400 events worldwide so far, appears in children's and nature conservation magazines and newspapers, Partner initiatives such as the successful campaign to introduce "bat postal watermarks" in Argentina by the Programme for the Conservation of Argentinian Bats (PCMA), and also radio

features. All indications point to an even greater coverage and impact of the campaign in 2012.

The campaign has produced attractive information materials in the form of flyers, a brochure, postcards and various types of stickers in an attempt to further the goals. These materials are being distributed to our partners for further dissemination during their events and are also given out during meetings and public events. The campaign is working to attract as much attention as possible from the wider public and is thus present and active on the various social media platforms such as Facebook and Wordpress whilst maintaining a dynamic and user-friendly website and a newsletter. We are also working in close cooperation with various Partners and bat conservation organizations in the United States of America in the distance learning project "BatsLive" aimed at teachers and land managers.