



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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NINTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Rome, 1-5 December 2008  
Agenda Item 9.0

## REVIEW OF ARTICLE IV AGREEMENTS ALREADY CONCLUDED

- I. The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the Ninth 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.9.9.
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 neuvième 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. 9.9.
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 Novena 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 Murciélagos Europeos (EUROBATS)**, en complemento en el documento UNEP/CMS/Conf. 9.9.
2. El informe se presenta sin modificaciones editoriales, bajo la forma y en el idioma originales.

# Report of the EUROBATS Secretariat

to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS

Rome, Italy, 1 – 5 December 2008



Since the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats has seen a further boost in implementation and in refining its organisational structure. Considering that through the significant growth of the Agreement, the Advisory Committee had become too large to handle both administrative and scientific matters in a cost and work effective manner, the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties (Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 2006) decided to establish a Standing Committee consisting of seven elected members to deal with budgetary and other administrative matters relating to the continuous implementation of the Agreement. Both the newly established Standing Committee and the now exclusively scientific Advisory Committee have held two very successful meetings clearly demonstrating the advantages of the new structure in terms of work and cost effectiveness.

Taking also into consideration the extensive work programme of the Agreement that had accumulated over previous years, the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP) decided on an exceptional four year term until MoP 6 to be hosted by the Czech Republic in September 2010.

## **EUROBATS impact in the field:**

Beside the growing number of practical implementation guidelines that transform the Agreement into concrete action within the Parties, EUROBATS has already in the past provided funds for research, conservation and public awareness raising projects (with some priority given to countries with economies in transition) through voluntary contributions from Parties. The success of and need for such projects has resulted in the launch of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI) in August this year. A large and weekly growing number of valuable project proposals have already been received by the Secretariat. Thanks to substantial pledges for voluntary contributions made by France, Germany, Luxembourg and Monaco, the first EPI projects will soon enter the implementation phase. EPI is expected to become a permanent and integral part of the Agreement's activities.

## **Bats beyond EUROPE:**

Building on the high interest shown by CMS Parties outside Europe to work towards similar Agreements in their regions, EUROBATS has organised a side event on "Bats in Africa" for this CMS CoP 9 on Tuesday, 2 December. Experts will provide sound information on the importance and status of African bat populations and range states present will be invited to discuss the first concrete steps towards the development of an African Bat Agreement.

## **A lot already achieved, but more needs to be done:**

The current work programme of EUROBATS is reflected in the Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) established by the Advisory Committee:

### IWG on Transboundary Programme Habitats – Data Compilation

There are two parts of this project: The first one the database on important underground sites, and the second one the publication of the guidelines on protection and management of underground sites for bats. The relating database is continued to be updated in line with Resolution 5.10 “Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan 2007-2010”, whereas the work on the guidelines has been finalized in the meanwhile. Since 2007 the EUROBATS Publication Series No. 2 “Guidelines on protecting and managing underground sites for bats” is available and continues to meet an impressive demand, resulting a second edition in 2008.

### IWG on Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels

The IWG has already almost completed its work in drafting consistent monitoring guidelines. They will be published in early 2009.

### IWG on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

The Advisory Committee has developed high-level guidelines that are intended to be used to develop national guidelines within the Parties to suit particular forest types and forestry administration practices. A leaflet to be published also in 2009 will illustrate forest-dependent bats, bat roosts in trees and forest types showing examples of good practice. The Parties will be encouraged to translate the guidelines into their language for use by all institutions involved in forest management.

### IWG on Bat Migration

The work plan of the IWG covers: 1. identification; 2. analysis of available information on long-distance migrants regarding timing and distribution of migration; 3. data collection on migration routes; and 4. finding gaps in knowledge and needs for future research.

### IWG on Autecological Studies for Priority Species

The IWG circulated a questionnaire on roost choice by the three species of priority (*Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*), references of relevant literature will be collected and recommendations for MoP 6 will be prepared.

### IWG on Protection of Overground Roosts

Besides natural sites like trees, bats regularly use man-made structures as overground roosts across Europe like bridges, castles, churches, houses, blocks of flats, barns and stables. Comprehensive guidelines on the management of such roosts are in the process of being finalised and will be published the EUROBATS Publication Series in early 2009.

### IWG on Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Anti-Parasitic Drugs for Livestock

Since 2004 the IWG has been studying the connection between residues of anti-parasitic drugs in livestock dung, their adverse effect on dung insects and the dependency of bats on these insects. Amongst others, the IWG found out current anti-parasitic drug practices throughout Europe via a questionnaire, identified the bat species most likely to be affected by the use of the drugs and developed possible mechanisms to reduce the impact on insects and bats. The final report and a draft resolution further action required are under preparation.

### IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

The guidelines on wind turbines and bat populations were adopted at MoP5 and have to be kept updated. Therefore the IWG will furthermore collect data on bats and wind turbines and make comments on missing issues for new editions of the guidelines.

The EUROBATS Publication Series No. 3 “Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects” has been successfully launched in August 2008.

### IWG on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

The IWG continues to work on the guidance for national guidelines for bat habitat conservation.

### IWG on Bats as Indicators

Initially the IWG has examined the potential role of bats as Pan-European indicators for the 2010 targets. The SEBI2010 (Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators) panel recognised that the information for bats on a European-wide level was either not collated, or appropriate monitoring systems were not in place, and the resources required for these needed to be developed further. The IWG went through the list of headline CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) bio-indicators and discussed the value and the feasibility of using bats to complement existing categorizations. It is still intended to make a case to the CBD for including bats as bio-indicators in the long-term beyond 2010 targets. At present the IWG also contributes to the work undertaken within CMS to identify indicator species for the impact of climate change.

### IWG on Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

The IWG was newly established after MoP 5. It has already prepared and circulated a questionnaire, will collect and review the different studies, scientific literature and impact assessment reports available on bat mortality and habitat fragmentation relating to roads, railways etc. and it will produce general guidelines to raise awareness on the impact of traffic infrastructures on bats. Furthermore the IWG will prepare a resolution in order to take into account bats in impact assessments of all traffic infrastructures.

### IWG on Light Pollution

Floodlighted buildings like old churches and bridges or extensive lighting along roadsides can have a harmful impact on bat species. This new IWG will therefore work on three main areas: 1) Interaction with feeding activity, including prey distribution and intra bat species competition; 2) (In)direct effects on roosts; 3) Effects on commuting, e.g. barrier function of lit roads and fragmentation of the night landscape.

### IWG on 2011 Year of the Bat

MoP 5 has endorsed the CMS proposal for 2011 to be the “Year of the Bat”. The IWG has started developing ideas for special activities in 2011 in close cooperation with CMS.