

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 8 – 9 November 2007

### Report of the UNEP/EUROBATS Secretariat



#### **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee, 27 March 2007 in Bonn, Germany, Summary\***

Following a proposal of the Secretariat, the Parties had decided at MoP5 to establish a Standing Committee for administrative and financial matters and to redesign the Advisory Committee to concentrate on all scientific issues (Resolution 5.8).

France was elected as Chair and the Ukraine as Vice-Chair of the Committee. A major part of the first meeting was dedicated to the development of the Rules of Procedure.

The Committee was furthermore pleased to take note of the good budget performance and the stable financial situation of the Agreement. It authorised the Secretariat to use the 2006 interest income of the Trust Fund for contingency if needed.

“Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts with particular Reference to Roosts in Buildings of Cultural Heritage Importance” as well as “Climate Change in conjunction with Bat Populations and Wind Turbines” were conveyed to the Advisory Committee as priorities.

The development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of Resolutions was put on the agenda for the period until the next MoP.

#### **12th Meeting of the Advisory Committee, 7 - 8 May 2007 in Budapest, Hungary, Summary\***

A total of 13 Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) work on different bat conservation issues in order to implement the work programme resulting from MOP5 resolutions (see list below). The IWGs were (re-)established during the 12th Advisory Committee Meeting to carry out the work according to their respective work plans in between the AC meetings.

- Producing guidelines on Bat Monitoring methods to assess population trends at different levels
- Transboundary programme habitats – data compilation
- Bat conservation and sustainable forest management
- Bat migration
- Autecological studies for priority species
- Protection of overground roosts

- Impact of bat population of use of anti-parasitic drugs for livestock
- Wind turbines and bat populations
- Conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes
- Bats as indicators
- Impact of roads and other traffic infrastructures on bats
- Light pollution
- 2011 Year of the bat

### **Producing guidelines on Bat Monitoring methods to assess population trends at different levels**

The IWG discussed the progress with drafting the guidelines and the implementation of resolution 5.4, with reference to the Pan-European Project on monitoring underground sites. To develop the project a feasibility study was recommended to be carried out. The guidelines for conservation and management of underground sites are in press and will appear in print within the next months.

### **Bat Conservation and sustainable Forest management**

The IWG agreed to promote a leaflet to publicise the guidelines which were developed. The Parties should be encouraged to translate the guidelines into their language.

### **Bat Migration**

The work plan of the IWG was accepted and covers: (a) identification; (b) analysis of available information on long distance migrants regarding timing and distribution of migration; (c) data collection on migration routes; and (d) finding gaps in knowledge and needs for future research.

### **Autecological studies for priority species**

The IWG revised a questionnaire on roost choice by the three species of priority which should be circulated by the Secretariat. It was decided that references of relevant literature will be collected.

### **Wind turbines and bat populations**

Resolution 5.6 requests the AC to keep the generic guidelines updated. Therefore the IWG will furthermore collect data on bats and wind turbines and make comments on missing issues in the guidelines.

**Conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes**

The convenor will send updated versions of all relevant documents and an example text so that the group members can react until Christmas 2007. At the next AC meeting the group will present a first draft of the guidelines.

**Bats as Indicators**

The potential to use bats as Pan-European indicators for the 2010 targets was discussed. It was suggested that bats had potential to act as indicators for the 2010 targets, however, a lot more resources are required to develop them. The SEBI2010 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 bio-indicators and discussed the value and the feasibility of using bats to complement existing categorizations. The group suggested the importance of information and raising awareness across Europe for bats as bio-indicators.

**2011 - Year of the Bat**

The IWG endorsed the proposal for 2011 to be the “Year of the Bat” – an event primarily under the auspices of UNEP/CMS. The IWG will develop ideas for special activities in 2011.

**Date and venue of the 13th Meeting of the Advisory Committee**

In view of the fact that no funds had been allocated by MoP5 organising the AC13 Meeting in 2008, it was agreed that the most reasonable solution is to follow the recommendation to hold the Meeting back to back with the 11<sup>th</sup> European Bat Research Symposium in Cluj, Romania (August 2008). The Secretariat would contact the Romanian Ministry of Environment in order to obtain a formal invitation. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

\* The Meeting records are available at [www.eurobats.org](http://www.eurobats.org)