



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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15<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026  
Agenda Item 10.3

**REPORT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF  
EUROPEAN BATS (EUROBATS) TO CMS COP15**

*(Prepared by the UNEP/EUROBATS Secretariat)*

Summary:

This document contains a report on the progress made on activities undertaken within the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) since the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP14).

## REPORT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN BATS (EUROBATS) TO CMS COP15

### 1. Accession of Parties

In July 2024, Spain acceded to the EUROBATS Agreement, becoming the 39<sup>th</sup> Party out of 63 Range States.

### 2. EUROBATS Secretariat

In October 2024, Ms. Zrinka Domazetović entered on duty as the new Executive Secretary of the EUROBATS Agreement, replacing Mr. Andreas Streit after 25 years of distinguished service.

The EUROBATS Secretariat comprises four staff members: the Executive Secretary (P4), an Associated Scientific and Project Officer (P2, part-time 80%), and two Administrative Assistants (G6, part-time 50-80%, depending on the availability of funds).

### 3. Meetings of EUROBATS Bodies

#### 3.1. Standing Committee

Since CMS COP14, EUROBATS Standing Committee has convened three times:

- [23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee](#), June 2024
- [24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee](#), November 2024
- [25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee](#), June 2025

The implementation of the budget priorities decided by the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties in 2022 was discussed during these meetings. All three priorities have been realized:

- compensation for the withdrawal from the Trust Fund to finance the regular budget in the first year of the quadrennium;
- an increase in the occupancy rate of both Administrative Assistant posts to 80% from January 2025;
- the organisation of an in-person meeting of the Advisory Committee in autumn 2025.

As decided by the Meeting of the Parties, the EUROBATS Standing Committee meetings are held online to reduce costs and the carbon footprint, except for meetings held in the year of the Meeting of the Parties.

The next Standing Committee meeting will convene jointly with the Advisory Committee in May 2026 to discuss draft resolutions and recommendations being prepared for MoP10, which will be held in November 2026.

### 3.2. Advisory Committee

Since CMS COP14, EUROBATS Advisory Committee has convened twice.

The [28<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting](#) was held online, with representatives from 13 Parties, 8 Non-Party Range States, and 35 observers.

The [29<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting](#) was held in Bonn, hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, with representatives from 20 Parties, 5 Non-Party Range States, and 15 observers.

During the current intersessional period between two Meetings of the Parties, 19 Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) are actively working on different bat conservation issues in order to fulfill the requirements of effective resolutions, together with three ad hoc IWGs focusing on more specific issues.

The work focuses on the preparation of draft resolutions and guidance documents for MoP10, on topics including bat migration and the restoration of species across their former European ranges, monitoring data and standards, conservation of underground sites, bat rescue and rehabilitation, updates to the existing wind farm guidelines for offshore wind farms, updates to the guidelines on light pollution, on solar power, the rise of anthropogenic traps for bats, online trade in bat specimens and parts, and the impacts of climate change.

#### Active Intersessional Working Groups:

1. [Monitoring and Indicators](#)
2. [Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats](#)
3. [Autecological Studies for Priority Species](#)
4. [Wind Turbines and Bat Populations](#)
5. [Bats and Light Pollution](#)
6. [Purpose-built Bat Roosts](#)
7. [Conservation of Key Underground Sites](#)
8. [Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health](#)
9. [Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation](#)
10. [Bats and Building Insulation](#)
11. [Education](#)
12. [Protection of Overground Roosts for Bats](#)
13. [Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe](#)
14. [Bats and climate change](#)
15. Strategic Planning for the Restoration of Species Across Their Former European Range
16. [Potential Impact of Solar Power Plants](#)
17. Anthropogenic Deadly Traps for Bats
18. [Improving Methodologies of Assessment of Favourable Conservation Status in Bats](#)
19. [Bats and One Health](#)

#### Ad hoc Working Groups:

1. [Amendment of the Annex of the Agreement](#)
2. [Implementation of the Agreement](#)
3. EUROBATS Projects Initiative assessment group

### 3.3. Meeting of Parties

The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties will be held from 10 to 13 November 2026 in Valletta, at the kind invitation of the Government of Malta.

## **4. EUROBATS Publication Series and Other Publications:**

As a result of the work of the Advisory Committee and its Intersessional Working Groups, two guidance documents were published in December 2024:

- [Guidance on the consideration of bats in traffic infrastructure projects \(Publication Series No. 10\)](#)
- [Guidelines for bats, insulation and lining materials \(Publication Series No. 11\)](#)

The leaflet "[Rabies in European Bats: Information for Professionals, Volunteers and Stakeholders](#)" is currently available on the EUROBATS website in English, Ukrainian, German, Dutch, French, Spanish, and Italian, and is being translated into additional languages.

## **5. EUROBATS Projects Initiative**

Since CMS COP14, two conservation projects were implemented in 2025 under the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI):

- Survey and monitoring of bats in abandoned railway tunnels in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Creation and implementation of the international and educational illustrated assets about Caucasian bats.

Two additional projects were selected for funding in 2025 and will be implemented through 2026:

- "Bat indicator 2.0"
- "Conservation and monitoring and protecting vulnerable cave-dwelling bat communities in Racha Karst Massif, West Georgia: Biodiversity assessment and community engagement".

Further information on the [EUROBATS Projects Initiative](#), including [summaries and reports of completed EPI projects](#), is available on the EUROBATS website.

## **6. Communication, Education and Public Awareness**

The new [EUROBATS website](#) was launched in September 2025, with a layout harmonized across the CMS Family. The new website includes improved features for the International Bat Night (IBN) announcements platform and the underground sites database.

In December 2024, new [EUROBATS promotional materials](#) were produced (long-ear bat festoon, horseshoe bat coloring mask, bat coloring postcards, and bat fun-fact playing cards). Both online versions and the printed materials are available for educational purposes and for [International Bat Night](#) events, which take place on the last full weekend in August each year.

## **7. Cooperation within the CMS Family**

Enhancing synergies and cooperation within the CMS Family and with relevant international organisations is a priority for the EUROBATS Agreement. Through collaboration within the CMS Family, particularly in administrative and financial matters, IT services, and communication and awareness-raising activities, EUROBATS enhances its impact while saving resources.

Regarding programmatic synergies, the EUROBATS Secretariat is involved in the CMS Energy Task Force, which is closely correlated to the EUROBATS Intersessional Working Groups on wind turbines and bat populations and on the potential impact of solar power plants.

The EUROBATS Secretariat also supported considerations on the revision and expansion of bat species listings in the CMS Appendices. A recommendation on bat species listings was agreed upon and submitted for adoption by the CMS Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its eighth meeting and to CMS CoP15.