



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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13th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 11.5

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

Summary:

The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, a report provided by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS).

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

REPORT OF THE EUROBATS SECRETARIAT TO THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CMS

1. Agreement Membership

Since the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, Serbia has acceded to the Agreement. Bosnia and Herzegovina has completed the accession procedure and the deposit of the instrument of accession is expected to happen in the near future, bringing the total number of Parties to 38. The Secretariat continues to receive indications from a number of additional states preparing the accession to the Agreement.

2. 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.

3. Outreach

The various volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series and Leaflets continue to be in high demand and regular re-prints are required.

In October 2018 Publication Series No. 8 “Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects” was released.

The new EUROBATS Publication Series No. 9 titled “Guidance on the conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes for bats” was finalised and published by the Secretariat in March 2019.

The International Bat Night continues to be extremely successful. Reports of events are available on the EUROBATS website.

4. Special Projects

- Capacity building for the development of the guidelines for wind farm construction based on field study in Macedonia.
- The “Carol” line: Assessing importance of at least 150 deserted bunkers for the

conservation of the Romanian-Hungarian cross-border bat fauna.

- *Nyctalus lasiopterus* in the far north? Population size and habitat use of a maternity colony in the Pripiat floodplains in the South of Belarus.
- Bats across borders: Study of south-eastern bat migration way in Eastern Europe in Ukraine and Russia.
- Promoting awareness and capacity building for the conservation of bats in Northwest Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia).
- Bats of eastern Europe: Challenges for conservation (A thematic conference
- Migration in European bat populations: Estimating genetic relationships between French and Spanish populations of the endangered greater noctule bat.
- Exploring and mitigating the threat of Lloviu virus re-emergence in Central European *Miniopterus schreibersii* populations / Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Bosnia & Herzegovina“.
- Bats and vaults: search and inventory of underground bat shelters in Belarus”.

5. 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Upon the generous invitation of the Principality of Monaco, the 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties has successfully taken place in Monte Carlo in October 2018.

In 12 substantive resolutions a work plan for the period 2019 – 2022 was adopted. In the follow up 13 intersessional working groups were established for the implementation.

6. European Action Plan on Bats

A very comprehensive joint EU-EUROBATS Action Plan (2018 - 2024) for all European Bat Species has been approved in November 2018 and is in force.