9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Brijuni, Croatia, 10 – 13 October 2022

Resolution 9.5:
Support to Authorities Dealing with Bat Assessment Reports

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement)",

Recalling Article III of the Agreement;

Recalling the Council Directive No. 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment and the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council No. 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, both of which state that the scope of information required for impact assessments should be consistent with the current state of knowledge and methods of such assessments;

Referring to Resolution 8.4 on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations and Resolution 8.6 on Bats and Light Pollution which recommend that appropriate assessments are undertaken;

Taking into account the increasing number of plans and projects with possible impact on populations of European Bats that require assessments;

Recognising the importance of consistently high-quality assessments on bats under the above-mentioned Directives;

Referring to Resolution 8.10 on Recommended Experience and Skills of Experts about Quality of Assessments;

Noting that the relevant authorities dealing with these assessments often have only limited capacity and expertise compared to the increasing number of assessments*;*

Being aware that the quality of assessment studies is crucial for the consideration of the conservation of bats*;*

1. Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to ensure that relevant authorities dealing with these assessment reports possess the appropriate resources and capacities to be able to assess and evaluate the results of those studies;

2. Recommends Parties and Non-Party Range States to develop a checklist for the authorities which enables the authorities to examine the assessment reports at hand in terms of completeness and soundness;

3. Encourages Parties and Non-Party Range States to use the provided checklist in the annex as a template or develop their checklist to reach this goal.

Annex

Assessment checklist for authorities to check for completeness and soundness of bat reports

Report number:				
Site name / Geographic location				
Author of bat report				
Checklist filled in by				
Date				
Item to check	*Not applicable*	*present*	*not present*	*reference page/ comments section*
An executive summary (e.g., 300 words) is available				
Task				
General information given				
Project description, including clear identification of aims and objectives				
Description of construction/ development plan				
Map of construction / development plan				
Potential conservation conflicts described				
Legal basis of evaluation/ assessment given				
Description of local conditions				
Valid geolocation provided				
Date of visit recorded				
Map of area provided				
Description of geographic features and landscape provided				
Land use and habitat types described				
Grid reference of survey points mapped or presented as table				
Photos provided				
Survey program				
Permits to carry out the study provided				
Survey programme established after consulting relevant authorities				
The survey programme follows official guidelines (e.g., Eurobats, EU or national guidelines) - if discrepancies exist, these are justified				
Already existing data on bats are provided				
Local bat workers have been contacted				
Roost surveys				
Description of roost survey plan provided				

Continuous automated acoustic recording				
Detector description				
Producer				
Type				
Set-up parameters described				
Microphone description				
Producer				
Type				
Description of recording points				
Microphone height and aspect				
Recording points shown on the map				
Recording schedule				
Period recordings were made (e.g., March 1 – Nov 1)				
Number of hours of recording				
Dates of device/battery failure				
Reason for failure				
Manual detector surveys				
Description of the detector used				
Producer				
Type				
Set-up parameters described				
Survey description				
Transects or recording points shown on map				
Surveyors' names included				
Date of recordings				
Number of sampling replicates (transects or sampling points)				
Period recordings were made (e.g., March 1 – Nov 1)				
Number of hours of recording				
Mist netting				
Description of nets				
Placement description/ location				
Number of nets				
Length and height of nets				
Net material and mesh size				
Date and duration of netting				
Net operators' names included				
Radiotracking				
General description				
Goals of radiotracking (roost finding, use of space, habitat use)				
Method used (triangulation vs homing in)				

Radiotracking operators' names included				
Date, time, and duration of radiotracking sessions				
Transmitter used				
Type and weight / main frequency				
Producer				
Glue				
Tag/bat weight				
Receiver device				
Type				
Producer				
Antenna				
Weather data				
Measurements/ recordings at location (temperature, wind speed, precipitation)				
Height above ground, device type, period of recording, data collection, evaluation described				
In case of use of data collected at a different station, station name, height above ground, period of recording, station operator's name				
Results				
Summary of results available				
Evaluation and results of automated acoustic recordings				
Analysis software used				
Criteria/approaches used to identify bat calls				
Reliability of identification evaluated				
Presentation of results				
Definition of calls, call types or activity described				
Summary for each species of bat/ call types presented				
Temporal pattern of activity per night (overall and by species)				
Temporal pattern of activity throughout the year / recording season (overall and by species)				
Temporal pattern of weather data (temperature, wind speed, and precipitation) presented				
Raw data, including bat call identity, date, time, and location provided				
Recording files provided				
Evaluation and results of manual detector or survey visits				
Analysis software used				
Criteria/approaches used to identify bat calls				
Reliability of identification evaluated				

Presentation of results				
Definition of calls, call types or activity described				
Summary for every species of bat/ call types presented				
Temporal pattern of activity per night described (overall and by species)				
Results mapped				
Mist netting results				
Date and time of netting at every location				
Number of captured individuals per species per night and location				
Individual sex, forearm length, body weight and reproduction status				
Age class of captured animals (juvenile or adult)				
Roost survey results				
Locations of surveyed roosts shown on map				
Roosts classified into categories (e.g. caves, trees, building structures)				
Date and time of each survey per roost				
Number of detected bats per species for each roost and survey				
Results of radiotracking to find roost sites				
Number of tracking days (e.g. to find different daily roosts of tree-dwelling species)				
Dates, time and duration of radiotracking				
Description and location (shown on map) of identified roosts provided				
Results of emergence counts				
Results of radiotracking to establish use of space / habitat use				
Dates, time, and duration of radiotracking				
Data (n fixes/night, total nr fixes/bat, foraging sites) shown on map				
If home range established, description of methods used (e.g., MCP, kernel analysis, etc.)				
Presentation of weather data				
Data for detector survey dates (temperature, wind speed, precipitation)				
Data for mist netting sessions				
Data for radiotracking sessions				

Summarized account of bat occurrences from all sources				
Number of species				
Short description of life history / ecology / conservation status provided for recorded species				
Activity				
Evaluation of collected data				
Bat community richness / diversity evaluated				
Bat activity evaluated				
Description of impacts before, during and after activity				
Assessment of the conservation conflict				
Measures for avoidance, mitigation or compensation of the expected impacts caused by the planned project				
Concerning planned locations				
Concerning construction-related impacts				
Concerning operation-related impacts				
Methods of compensation described				
Strategies to monitor effectiveness of mitigation/compensation measures				
Overall evaluation of the bat assessment report				
Missing or insufficiently covered points				