

EUROBATS



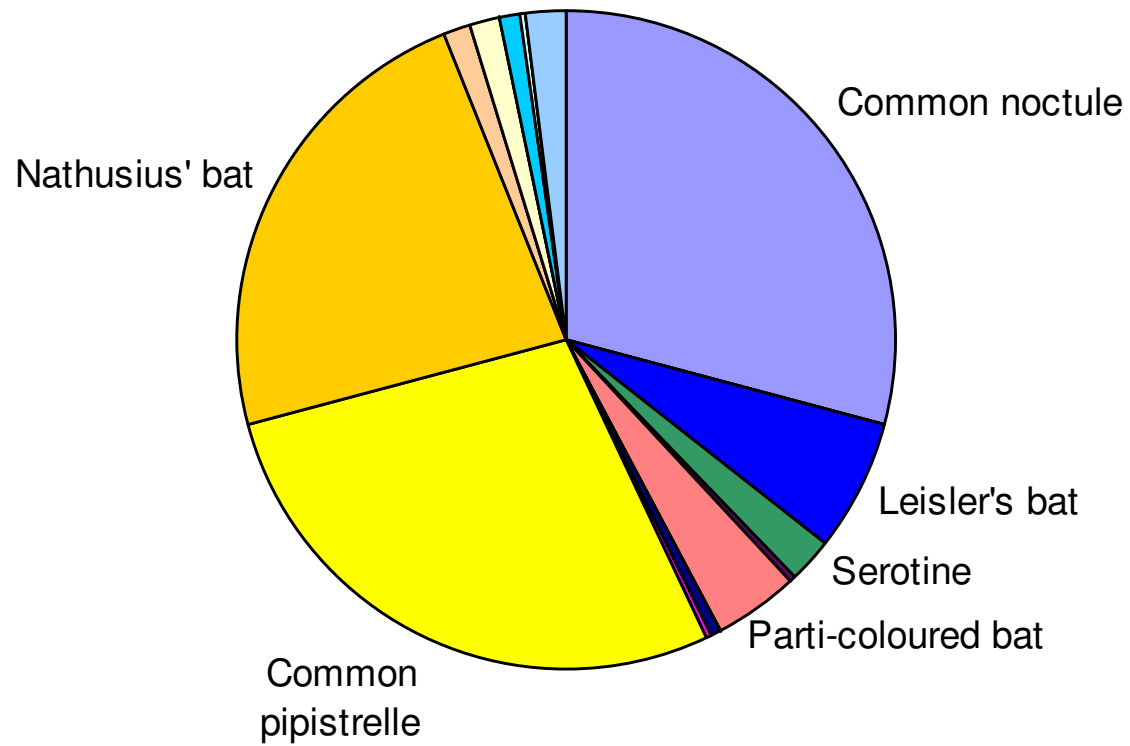
Resolution 5.6: Windturbines and Bat Populations, guidelines for the planning process and impact assessments

The development of a new obligation

by Dr. Christine Harbusch & Lothar Bach, Germany

Source: Tobias Dürr
As at September 2006
Total number of bats: 546 out of 13 species

Number of bats killed by wind turbines in Germany





Intersessional Working Group on WT and Bat populations:

Questionnaire

First step: Knowledge about the actual state of affairs (April 2005):

- a questionnaire was developed and sent to all Party and Range States;
- questionnaires were returned by 29 Party states and 6 Range states;

Results:

- **No WT** are present in 2 Party States (Albania, Georgia) and in 3 Range States (Armenia, Bosnia+Herzegovina, Liechtenstein)
- Less than 50 WT exist in 9 States
- Between 50 and 100 WT exist in 4 States
- More than 200 WT exist in 10 States



Intersessional Working Group on WT and Bat populations: questionnaire

Planning process

- A minority of States gives recommendations regarding the site selection for WT (potential sites and no-go areas)
- Of the States with more than 200 WT, 6 States identify potential and no-go sites
- Only 4 States give guidance to wind farm developers to minimize negative impacts on bats.
- 11 States have set up rules about buffer areas to prevent negative impacts of WT on protected areas, such as Natura 2000 sites.



Intersessional Working Group on WT and Bat populations: questionnaire

Impact studies

- Impact studies are required in most States and are usually undertaken by the wind farm developers on demand of the regional/national government.
- 10 States are asking for impact studies on bats and birds, but in general more concern is given to birds. Requirements for impact studies are **not standardized**.
- The majority of studies are carried out in less than one year.
- A long-term monitoring programme of bats is obligatory in only 3 States.

Consequence:

Guidelines for the planning process, site-selection and impact assessments should be developed as a standard



5 MoP, September 2006

Resolution 5.6: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

...Urges Parties and Range States to:

1. Raise awareness of the **impacts** that wind turbines might have on bat populations;
2. Raise awareness of the existence of some **unsuitable habitats** or sites for the construction of wind turbines at a local, regional and national scale;
3. Make developers of wind energy plants aware of the necessity of supporting **research and monitoring**;
4. Recognise the necessity of finding suitable methods for **assessing bat migration corridors**;
5. Develop appropriate **national guidelines**, drawing on the current version of the generic guidelines in Annex 1.



5 MoP, September 2006

**Resolution 5.6: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations:
the Guidelines**

- **Site selection phase:** recommendations

Avoid narrow bat migration routes, foraging, breeding and roosting areas

WT should not be installed within woodlands, or closer than 200 m

- **EIAs:**

Pre-survey assessment

Survey

Monitoring

- **Research priorities**



Resolution 5.6: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Examples from Europe

New obligation (09/06) which is not yet implemented in most States

- **Germany:**
a recommendation will be given to the Länder to use the Guidelines;
EIAs or BACI studies are recently carried out in all Länder
- **Luxembourg:**
will accept the Guidelines; EIAs or BACI studies are recently carried out
- **France:**
a decision about the implementation of the Guidelines is not yet taken;
EIAs or BACI studies are recently carried out

Acknowledgements

- **Eurobats Intersessional Working Group on wind turbines and bat populations:**

Luisa Rodrigues (convenor, PT), Lothar Bach (DE), Laurent Biraschi (LU), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (FR), Jane Goodwin (UK), Christine Harbusch (DE), Tony Hutson (UK), Teodora Ivanova (BG), Lauri Lutsar (EE), Katie Parsons (UK).