

## NATIONAL REPORT FROM AUSTRIA 2003

### A General Information

Austria is not yet Party to the Bat Agreement

Date of Report April 2003

Period covered 1998-2002

Competent Authority not yet established

Report prepared by Friederike Spitzenberger, member of the Advisory Committee

Changes regarding:

Competent Authority

Appointed Member of the Advisory Committee

Membership of other committees/working groups

### B Status of Bats Within the Territory of the Party

1. Summary Details of Resident Species
2. Status and Trends
3. Habitats and Roost Sites
4. Threats

	Status, trends	Habitats and roosts	threats
<i>Rh. ferrumequinum</i>	breeding/ hibernating; critically endangered breeding pop. extinct	lofts and subterranean roosts	habitat fragmentation
<i>Rh. hipposideros</i>	breeding/ hibernating; vulnerable	lofts and subterranean roosts	habitat fragmentation
<i>Myotis blythii</i>	breeding; critically endangered, hibernating population extinct	lofts and subterranean roosts	change in land use
<i>M. myotis</i>	breeding/ hibernating; stable	lofts and subterranean roosts	-
<i>M. bechsteinii</i>	breeding/ hibernating, vulnerable	trees, nest boxes and subterranean roosts	forestry practice
<i>M. nattereri</i>	breeding/ hibernating, vulnerable	very variable	not known
<i>M. emarginatus</i>	breeding/ hibernating; vulnerable	lofts and subterranean roosts	-
<i>M. mystacinus</i>	breeding/ hibernating; stable	at human buildings and nest boxes, hibernation roosts not well known	direct persecution
<i>M. brandtii</i>	breeding/ hibernating; vulnerable	nest boxes and subterranean roosts	forestry practice
<i>M. daubentonii</i>	breeding/ hibernating; least concern	trees, nest boxes and subterranean roosts	-
<i>P. pipistrellus</i>	breeding/ hibernating; stable	at human buildings, hibernation in trees and subterranean roosts	direct persecution
<i>P. pygmaeus</i>	< 10 summer records; data deficient	probably trees	?
<i>P. nathusii</i>	during migration and hibernating, few summer records, breeding not confirmed; stable	at human buildings and subterranean roosts	-
<i>P. kuhlii</i>	breeding/ hibernating; vulnerable	at human buildings	direct persecution
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	breeding/ hibernating; endangered	at human buildings	direct persecution
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	breeding/ hibernating; vulnerable	trees and nest boxes	forestry practice
<i>N. noctula</i>	during migration and hibernating, summering males, breeding not proved; stable	trees and nest boxes, hibernation at human buildings	-

<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i>	breeding/ hibernating; least concern	human buildings and trees, hibernation in human buildings cold caves	-
<i>E. serotinus</i>	breeding/ hibernating; vulnerable	human buildings and subterranean roosts	habitat deterioration
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	during migration and hibernating, breeding not confirmed; stable	human buildings and subterranean roosts	-
<i>B. barbastellus</i>	breeding/ hibernating; vulnerable	trees, nest boxes and human buildings, hibernation in caves	forestry practice
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	breeding/ hibernating; least concern	trees, nest boxes and human buildings, hibernation in caves	-
<i>P. austriacus</i>	breeding/ hibernating; vulnerable	lofts, hibernation in cellars	unknown
<i>P. alpinus</i>	breeding/ hibernating; data deficient	lofts, hibernation roosts not known	?
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	during migration and hibernating; extinct (<5 individuals in hibernacula)	caves and mines	unknown

## 5. Data Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

Some 25 000 data on distribution and habitat choice of Austrian bats were analysed in F. Spitzenberger (2002): Die Säugetierfauna Österreichs (CD-ROM included). Collection of data also in Salzburg, Carinthia and Tyrol.

The same data set was used to prepare a Red List of mammals in Austria (in print).

## C Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement

### 6. *Legal measures taken to protect bats, including enforcement action*

In each of the nine provinces' nature protection laws all bat species are protected.

### 7. *Sites identified and protected which are important to the conservation of bats*

Criteria for selecting proposed sites of Community importance (pSCIs) in Austria for the eight bat species listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive were established (Spitzenberger 2002). Sites were selected according to their contribution to maintaining the species at a favourable conservation status on a national level. Lists of these evaluated sites were sent to the provincial nature protection departments. Alas, with one exception (a barbastelle cave in Salzburg) none of the sites were nominated as Natura 2000 sites in the Alpine region. In the Continental region, however, the representativity of most of the 8 species on annex II was considered insufficient.

### 8. *Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats*

The bat fauna of reserves of natural woodland in Salzburg was mapped (Spitzenberger 2000)

### 9. *Activities to promote the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats*

Bat nights were held in Thaya National Park (Lower Austria) in cooperation with Czech bat workers and in other places in Austria.

Bat groups work in Salzburg (since 1998), Carinthia (since 1999) and Tyrol (since 2001). They build a network of roost owners and train bat workers. The aim is to monitor the status and sites of populations, and promote the public awareness of bat conservation.

### 10. *Responsible bodies, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Agreement, nominated for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management.*

None existing on a national level.

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For Tyrol: Anton.Vorauer@fledermausschutz.at

### 11. *Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats*

Bat groups work in Salzburg (since 1998), Carinthia (since 1999) and Tyrol (since 2001). They build a network of roost owners and train bat workers. The aim is to monitor the status and sites of populations, and promote the public awareness of bat conservation. They are financed by the governments of Tyrol,

Salzburg, Carinthia and the Federal Ministry for the Protection of the Environment.

12. *Recent and ongoing programmes (including research and policy initiatives) relating to the conservation and management of bats. In the case of research, summaries of completed projects should be provided, giving references where possible and acknowledging the sources of funding.*

In 2001 and 2002 the bat fauna of the Lower Austrian part of the Danube National park was mapped, In 2003 the work will be completed in the Viennese part of the National Park. Up to now 12 species were found, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* is expected to occur.

13. Consideration being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats, and their food sources and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats.

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#### D Functioning of the Agreement

14. Cooperation with other Range States
15. Measures taken to implement Resolutions adopted by Meetings of Parties.