

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE

NATIONAL REPORT

A. General Information

Name of the Non-party State: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Date of Report: May 2004

Period Covered: 2003 to May 2004.

Competent Authorities: Federal Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBH) Ministry of Urbanism, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska

Organization providing support: Speleological Association of B&H (SA)

Appointed members of the Advisory Committee:

Mr. Jasminko Mulaomerovic, (SA)

Mr. ? (FB&H)

The report was prepared by: Jasminko Mulaomerovic, member of Speleological society SPELEO DODO, Sarajevo

B. Status of Bats within the Territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Summary Data on Resident Species

Introduction

On territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina there are 26 known species from 3 families (Rhinolophidae, Vespertilionidae and Molossidae). Data come from different sources, mostly from literature, the existing collection of the Earth Museum in Sarajevo and new researches.

Species *Pteropus* is known by only one specimen, caught in year 1886 near Mostar (in collection of Lands Museum in Sarajevo).

First data about bats in B&H appear in the beginnings of the 20th century. Before WW II few specimens were collected by S. Bolkay and shortly after the war K. Martino also collected only few specimens (both of them were custodians in the Lands Museum in Sarajevo) but nobody was engaged in any more serious research. In their bat researches some explorers from area of ex Yugoslavia also did some research on bats from B& only on the (B. Djulic, Dj. Miric). Now B. Karapandza from Belgrade does research on bats from B&H but we have no data about his research. Nobody is researching bats in science institutions in B&H (museums, faculties, institutes).

Checklist of the species:

R. blasii, *R. euryale*, *R. ferrumequinum*, *R. hipposideros*, *R. mehelyi*, *M. blythii*, *M. capaccinii*, *M. emarginatus*, *M. myotis*, *M. mystacinus*, *M. nattereri*, *M. bechsteinii*, *N. lasiopterus*, *N. lesleri*, *N. noctula*, *E. serotinus*, *P. kuhlii*, *P. pipistrellus*, *P. nathusii*, *P. savii*, *P. auritus*, *P. austriacus*, *V. murinus*, *M. schreibersii*, *T. teniotis*, *B. barbastellus*.

Three big bat colonies of cca 10.000, 6.000 and 6.000 bats registered in Mišarica cave near Banja Luka, Vukovska cave near Ključ and Fajtovačka cave near Sanski Most.

2. Status and Trends

There are no relevant data for any conclusions.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Data about open roost sites are only known from literature. There are reliable data only for speleological objects (thirty caves and pits).

4. Threats

Main threat factors of bats are forest devastation and cutting.

5. Data Collection

Only Speleological association of B&H through its societies does the registration of sites (especially underground) as well as popularization of bat protection.

C. Measures Taken To Implement Article III of The Agreement

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

Bosnia and Herzegovina had ratified the following international conventions and agreements related to bat conservation:

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands,

National legislation related to bat protection:

- Decree of Protection of Natural Rarities (2003),

- Decree of Protection of Environment (2003).

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

The only activities for promoting the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been carried out by speleologist. Center for collecting of data about bats has been founded within Speleological Association of B&H.

Published materials:

There was no new published material. During various actions previously published material was given away. Within different support on behalf of city and country funds, there were no funds for this purpose.

- Occasional postal cancels.

Education:

- In the frame of speleological educational activities,
- Through public appearances in radio shows,
- Exhibitions about bats in philately.

10. Responsible bodies nominated for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management

At level of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Environmental Steering Committee.

At level of Entities:

- Federal Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Ministry of Urbanism, Civil Engen. and Ecology of Republika Srpska,
- Institute of Nature Protection of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Institute of Nature Protection of Republika Srpska.

11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats

- Setting bat boxes in town Sarajevo and Zavidovici,
- Urging suitable ministries to take up activities for joining the Agreement (letter about the need of joining B&H to the Agreement with the basic data is sent to the relevant institutions of country and entity, but there was no response).

12. Recent and ongoing programs relating to the conservation and management of bats

- Making of database of bat roosts, records and references in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

D. Functioning of the Agreement

13. Co-operation with other Range States

- There is no institutional cooperation with any organization from agreement signatory countries.
- There are individual contacts with bat workers from Slovenia, Serbian and Croatia.