

# **National Report on the Implementation on the 'European Bat Agreement' HUNGARY**

## **General information**

Party: Hungary

Date of Report: February 2002

Period Covered by Report: January 2001 – February 2002

Competent Authority: The Ministry of Environment Policy

## **Status of bats within the territory of the Party**

### 1. Summary details of resident species. Their status and trends in the last year

In Hungary all bat species gained protection by law in 1901. It was prohibited to capture, killing, keeping and disturbance of bats in any way. In 1974 the theoretical value of the animals were also determined as a fine for killing, capturing or illegal trade of them. Now 26 species living in Hungary are all either protected or strictly protected. From 2001 two species got strictly protected status: *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Nyctalus lasiopterus* (1. Table).

In the last years we proved the presence of *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* in several part of Hungary (This is the 27<sup>th</sup> species).

### 2. Habitats and roosts

#### Caves

-Several information boards were placed before the most important caves.

-The intensive cave tourism still means a serious problem.

#### Mines

It occurs to be a very serious problem that several mine openings are threatened by falling in. In the last year we fixed the most dangerous entrances.

The Nature Conservation Bureau financed a project to make a database of the most important mines. The database is ready, and a new law of protection of mines will be based on this. Probably thirty mines will be protected from middle of 2002.

#### Buildings

The members of Hungarian Bat Research Society continuously check the most important roosts in churches and castles. In Hungary colonies with more than 20 individuals are 'significant' and strictly protected. Several bat-friendly reconstructions were carried out.

#### Panel buildings

In Hungary the noctule bat is the most urbanized bat species. Its main roost type occurs in blocks of houses in panel gaps. In the last fifteen years they changed their habitat and nowadays this is the most common species in Hungary. These colonies are very threatened and the local people usually expel them, because they are afraid of them and the bats make noise. They very often fly in the rooms. Therefore, it is a very important task to save these colonies.

### 3. Data collection

House-dwelling bat database (Hungarian Bat Research Society)

Fauna database (Hungarian Bat Protection Foundation)

Register of specimens of museums (Hungarian Natural Science Museum)  
Hungarian Mammal Database (Nature Foundation)

#### 4. Activities carried out to promote the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats.

To encourage bat protection we publish and distribute information booklets, and attempt to convince people of the usefulness of bats and the importance of its protection through TV and radio programmes and newspaper articles. We organise lectures to educate pupils in primary and secondary schools and universities.

We organized the „Bat Nigt” at several towns, where mainly the youngs were active.

#### 5. Recent and ongoing programmes (including research) relating to the conservation and management of bats.

- Bat boxes (Csaba Fehér, Péter Paulovics, Dénes Dobtosi, Tamás Galgóczy, István Géczi)
- Monitoring of caves (Miklós Szatyor, Zoltán Molnár, Peter Gombkötő, Péter Paulovics, Márton Juhász)
- Monitoring of mines (Zoltán Bihari, Péter Gombkötő, Zoltán Molnár, István Géczi, Sándor Boldogh)
- Forrest-dwelling bat research (Péter Estók)
- Ecological conditions of the hibernacula of *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (Miklós Szatyor, Zoltán Bihari)
- Monitoring of house-dwelling bats (Zoltán Bihari, Csaba Fehér, Dénes Dobrosi, Isván Géczi, Zoltán Molnár, Péter Gombkötő)
- Activity of hibernating bats (Péter Paulovics)
- Taxonomy, systematics and zoogeography of Old World bats (Gábor Csorba)
- Bats of wetlands (Imre Dombi, Noémi Papp, Dénes Dobrosi)
- Rehabilitation of injured and captured bats (Zoltán Molnár, Viktor Molnár)
- Study of species diversity and sex ratio at mating sites (caves) in autumn (Zoltán Molnár, Péter Paulovics)
- Ecology of *Myotis nathusii* (Csaba Fehér)
- Pathoanatomy and pathophysiology of bats (Viktor Molnár)
- Veterinary treatment of sick and injured bats (Viktor Molnár)
- Problems and factors by keeping bats in captivity (Viktor Molnár)
- Endoparasitological (coprological) and ectoparasitological studies of bats (Viktor Molnár)
- Ectoparasities of *Myotis daubentonii* (Péter Paulovics)
- Migration of *Myotis Daubentonii* and *M. dasycneme* (Imre Dombi)
- Population ecology of bats (Zoltán Bihari)
- Roost selection of *Nyctalus noctula*, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Myotis myotis* (Zoltán Bihari)

#### 6. Cooperation with other States

There has been a continuous contact for years with Slovakian bat researches in relation to the migratory routes of bats, in particular the Greater Horseshoe bat. The reason for this co-operation is that a significant proportion of the population of this species lives in Hungary, then they migrate to winter to Slovakian caves and mines.

A close co-operation with Romanian colleagues is emerging in order to survey the caves and the bat colonies in Romania.

Table 1: Bat species and their status in Hungary

Species	Population estimate	Protection status	Summer Roost	Winter Roost	Trend	Habitat	Threats
R F	10.000	S	95% A	100% CM	decline	M F S	AC, RB
R H	11.000	P	50% A	100% CME	stable	M F	AC, RB
R E	2.000	S, R	100% C	100% CM	stable	M F W	AC
M E	12.000	S, R	100% A	? C	decline	O S	AC, RB
M BEC	14.000	S, R	100% H	? CH	decline?	M F	AC, LT
M N	14.000	P	100% H	? HC	decline	M F W	AC, LT
M DAS	2.500	S	60% A	? HC	stable	O S W	AC, RB, LH
M DAU	100.000	P	90% H	? HC	?	O W F	AC, RB, LH
M MYS	25.000	P	100% H	? HC	?	M F W	LT, AC, LH
M BR	10.000	P	100% H	? HC	?	M F	LT, AC, LH
M M	50.000	P	80% A	100% CM	stable	O S	RB, AC
M BL	20.000	P	90% A	100% CM	stable?	O S	RB, AC
N N	400.000	P	60% B	? HB	increase	O S F	LT, IK
N LAS	200	S	100% H	100% H	stable	M F	LT
N LEIS	30.000	P, R	100% H	100% H	?	M F	LT
E S	200.000	P	80% A	? C B	stable	O S	RB, AC
E N	0–20	P	?	C	?	M F	AC
V M	500	P	?	?	?	O S	RB
P P	300.000	P	80% H	90% H	decline	O F S	LT
P N	10.000	P	100% H	100% H	?	O W	LT
P K	300	P	?	?	increase	O S F	?
P S	0–20	P	?	?	?	M F	?
P AUS	70.000	P	80% A	90% CM	decline	O S	RB, AC
P AUR	20.000	P	100% H	90% H	?	M F	LT, AC
B B	8.000	S, R	80% H	? CH	decline	M F	LT, AC
M S	3.500	S	100% CM	100% CM	increase	M F	AC

Abbreviations and acronyms:

**SPECIES**

R F	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum
R H	R. hipposideros
R E	R. euryale
M E	Myotis emarginatus
M BEC	M. bechsteinii
M N	M. nattereri
M DAS	M. dasycneme
M DAU	M. daubentonii
M MYS	M. mystacinus
M BR	M. brandtii
M M	M. myotis
M BL	M. blythii
N N	Nyctalus noctula
N LAS	N. lasiopterus
N LEIS	N. leisleri
E S	Eptesicus serotinus
E N	E. nilssonii
V M	Vespertilio murinus
P P	Pipistrellus pipistrellus
P N	P. nathusii
P K	P. kuhlii
P S	P. savii
P AUS	Plecotus austriacus
P AUR	P. auritus
B B	Barbastella barbastellus
M S	Miniopterus schreibersii

**PROTECTION**

P	Protected
S	Strictly protected
R	National Red List

**ROOST**

A	Attic
B	Block of house
C	Cave
E	Cellar
H	Hollow
M	Mine

**HABITAT**

F	Forest
M	Mountain region
O	All over in Hungary
S	Settlement
W	Wetland

**THREAT**

AC	Activities in caves
IK	Intentional killing in housing estates
LH	Loss of habitats
LT	Loss of old trees
RB	Reroofing / renovation of building



## 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Zagreb, Croatia, 21 – 23 February 2000

### Questionnaire of the Intersessional Working Group

#### Bat Conservation and Management Plan - Action 22

(Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones, Mr. Peter Lina, Mr. Gunnârs Pêtersons)

#### **Bats and remedial timber treatment**

Article III(8) of this Agreement requires that Parties shall „wherever appropriate, consider the potential effects of pesticides on bats, when assessing pesticides for use, and shall endeavour to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats with safer alternatives.”

In order to inform this process and assess the possible impact of remedial timber treatment on bats, the Advisory Committee for the Agreement has been asked to collect some information about current remedial timber treatment practices across Europe.

#### **Definition of remedial timber treatment (RTT) for the purposes of this questionnaire**

The *in-situ* treatment, by chemical means, of structural building timbers to prevent, control or eliminate infestations of wood-boring insects or wood-rotting fungi.

This survey does not include the pre-treatment of timber before it is incorporated into structures.

#### **Information requirement**

Information is required on 4 subjects:

- The pesticides (active ingredients) in common use
- The process by which new active ingredients are approved and whether bats are taken into account in this process. „Approval” (or registration) is a system in which a chemical can only be placed on the market when the regulatory authority has given its permission.
- The types of treatment in common use to control wood boring insects and fungi
- The size of the industry.

#### **Existing information**

Some information about the existence of an approvals process has been extracted from the OECD Series on Pesticides Number 9: Report of the Survey of OECD Member Countries' Approaches to the Regulation of Biocides (OECD, 1999). This covered the following range states: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the European Commission.

This questionnaire covers the following use categories defined in the OECD publication:

13. Wood preservatives
14. Structural pesticides.

For EU member States, the requirements of Directive 98/8/EC (the Biocides Directive) must be integrated into national law by May 2000. This will ensure that all these states have a common regulatory framework for biocides.

**Part I: Active ingredients.**

Please complete the table by ticking the appropriate boxes and adding any necessary comments to qualify the answers. If other active ingredients are used in remedial timber treatment to any significant extent, add these at the end of the table.

Active ingredient (E-ISO name)	Approved (or available) for use in RTT	Commonly used	Rarely used	Comments
Pentachlorophenol PCP	-			
Dieldrin HEOD	no data			
Lindane $\gamma$ -HCH, BHC	-			
DDT	-			
Tributyl tin compounds TBT, TBTO	-			
Synthetic pyrethroids (Permethrin, Cypermethrin etc)	+			
Boron compounds	+			
Zinc compounds	no data			
3-Iodo-2-propynyl -n-butyl carbamate Polyphase/IPBC	no data			
Propiconazole	no data			
Azaconazole	no data			
Tebuconazole	no data			

Notes. Depending on the national approvals scheme, many more products or active ingredients may be approved for use than are actually marketed or used. The 'Commonly used' and 'Rarely used' columns allow for an indication of the extent to which products are currently used in practice.

**Part 2: Approvals or registration process**

Is the supply and use of remedial timber treatment chemicals regulated by a national authority? Please name the authority.	It is quite unorganised. Our former Timber Treatment Regulation is not in force any more, and the new regulation is not ready yet.
Does the approval or registration process include an assessment of ecotoxicity?	Yes.

Are bats specifically included in the ecotoxicological assessment of products to be used to treat structural timbers in the roofs of buildings? If so, is there a formal methodology to be used?	No.
Are the directions or instructions for use (on a label or accompanying document) required to refer to ecotoxicity?	Yes.
Do the directions or instructions for use (on a label or accompanying document) of remedial timber treatment products refer to the possible hazard to bats? If so, is this a legal requirement or a voluntary agreement? Please include an example label	No.
Is advice given to the industry on ways in which any hazard to bats as a result of RTT may be minimised?	No.

### Part 3: Types of treatment and size of industry

Preliminary investigations indicate that the collection of detailed statistics on product usage and the number of properties treated annually for infestations of wood-boring insects or wood-rotting fungi is likely to be impossible as no, or few, countries collect this information. This part of the questionnaire thus requires informed estimates, preferably from individuals or organisations who are familiar with the working practices of the industry. A range of values would be acceptable.

The objective of this part of the questionnaire is to allow an estimate of the extent to which bats and biocides may come into contact.

1. What proportion of treatments of roof voids for wood-boring insects or wood-rotting fungi include the application of RTT biocides?	High (>90%)
	Medium (50% - 90%) +
	Low (< 50%)
2. Please estimate the total number of private dwellings for your country	No data.
3. Please estimate the number of <u>specialist</u> companies carrying out RTT. This does not include general builders or other non-specialist companies.	Max. 5-6.
4. Please estimate the number of roof voids treated annually by specialist companies for wood-boring insects or wood-rotting fungi.	No data.