

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE

Technical notes on the implementation of the Agreement in S. Marino Republic

A. General Information

Non-Party Range: S. MARINO REPUBLIC

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Covered Period: 2006 – 2007

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B. Status of Bats within the Territory of the Republic

1. Summary Details of Resident Species

Actually we know 13 bat species in the territory of San Marino Republic (Table 1). The atlas project is led by the national Museum of Natural History (Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese)

Table 1. San Marino Republic species

	<i>Taxa</i>	Italian name
1.	<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	Ferro di cavallo euriale
2.	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Ferro di cavallo maggiore
3.	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Ferro di cavallo minore
4.	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Vespertilio di Bechstein
5.	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Vespertilio di Natterer
6.	<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Vespertilio maggiore
7.	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	Pipistrello albolimbato
8.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrello nano
9.	<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	Pipistrello di Savi
10.	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Serotino
11.	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Orecchione
12.	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	Orecchione meridionale
13.	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Miniottero

2. Status and Trends

There are no information on trends for the Republic. Only the wintering community of a tunnel with around 4000 *Miniopterus* and other species have been surveyed in the last 4 years and it is remarkable stable. The very warm winter is perhaps the cause of a lower wintering number of *M.schreibersii*, with no more than 2000 specimens, as any snow and around 2 °C more media temperature were recorded.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

The national atlas is collecting data mainly for the cave dwelling species. On the Republic territory there are just some small woods and the traditional agriculture is declining, so the majority of the bat habitats are in peril due to the strong pressure by urban and industrial use.

Few roosts are actually known, only hibernacula. The large Tunnel “Montalbo” near Borgo Maggiore was barred thanks to the Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese. Inside the tunnel, also, in the last two year during the summer a group of around 50 *R.ferrumequinum* bred successfully and a small group of *R.hipposideros* was also found in an attic and will be controlled this year.

Other roosts in natural underground are protected by a “Natural Heritage Law”.

4. Threats

The main threats to bats in San Marino Republic are represented by loss of habitats and loss of roosting sites. There is a strong pressure to use all the old tunnel in the Republic and to restore ancient buildings and churches. Moreover industries and urban areas are still asking for spaces, destroying the last agricultural lands. The national plan for wildlife and to establish protected areas is slowly on the way.

5. Data Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

The Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese is the only official institution that is collecting information on bat presence and distribution. A small project is on the way for the National Atlas.

C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement

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

Bats are on the way to be protected with the new law on animal protection. Also the Republic wants to ratify other international legislations on trade and protection of wildlife. Contacts were done to prepare for the adhesion to the “*Bat Agreement*”.

7. Identified and protected sites which are important to bat conservation

Some sites are listed in the national plan of protected areas but problems are related to buildings and forest roosts as in other parts of European range. Just Tunnel Montalbo is protected mainly for the presence of bats.

8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats

Any consideration is actually devoted to underground sites, specially Tunnel Montalbo

9. Activities carried out to promote the awareness of the importance of bat conservation

The national “Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese” prepared a CD with informations, images and videos to be distributed to schools and carried out bat nights as well as conferences and didactical activities.