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**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

***NATIONAL REPORT***  
***ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROBATS AGREEMENT IN***  
***THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA***  
(Updated)

**Chisinau, 2014**

#### A. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Name of the Party: **Republic of Moldova**
- Date of Report: **June 2014**
- Period Covered: **2010 - 2014**
- Competent Authority: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT:  
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#### B. STATUS OF BATS WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA:

##### 1. Summary Details of the Species

There are 21 species of bats recorded in Moldova. Because of the deficiency of data it is difficult to know the real state of the species. Most of them are considered rare and are protected by national legislation. Six species are included in the second edition of the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova. However, in 2014 Ministry of Environment purposed to include all 21 species in the third edition of the Red Book, which should be published in September 2014. The most frequent occurring in underground shelters are *Myotis daubentonii*, *M.mystacinus*, *Plecotus austriacus* and *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. The biggest colonies in underground shelters usually form *M.blythii*, *M.daubentonii* and *Rh.hipposideros*. Forest bats and bats living in human localities are not enough studied, yet. However it is known that the most frequent bats occurring in forests are *Nyctalus noctula*, *M.mystacinus*, *M.daubentonii*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *P.pygmaeus* and in settlements - *M.mystacinus*, *Eptesicus serotinus* and *Plecotus austriacus*.

##### 2. Status and Trends

N	Species	Categories of rarity according to the "Law on Animal Kingdom" Annex 4	IUCN Red List Categories according to data of the Group FAUNA
1.	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	III- Vulnerable	CR
2.	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	IV- Rare	LR/nt
3.	<i>Myotis myotis</i>	IV- Rare	CR
4.	<i>Myotis blythii</i>	IV- Rare	EN
5.	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	IV- Rare	CR
6.	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	IV- Rare	CR
7.	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	not evaluated	VU
8.	<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	IV- Rare	CR
9.	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	IV- Rare	LR/lc
10.	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	IV- Rare	DD
11.	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	not listed	LR/cd
12.	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	IV- Rare	CR
13.	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	IV- Rare	LR/cd
14.	<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	II- Endangered	DD
15.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	not evaluated	DD
16.	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	not listed	DD
17.	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	not listed	DD
18.	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	not evaluated	DD
19.	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	VIII- Out of danger	DD
20.	<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	II- Endangered	DD
21.	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	IV- Rare	DD

### **3. Habitats and Roost Sites**

From the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there are a large number of artificial underground shelters in the Republic of Moldova. Most of them are working or abandoned mines of limestone exploitation. The only known natural shelters are some natural limestone and sand caves. Forest bats occupy hollow trees. House dwelling bats live usually in the attics and different crevices and cavities in the walls.

Forests poorly cover Moldova (approx. 11%) and the biggest forests are concentrated in the central part of the country. There are some wetlands in the southern and south-eastern parts of Moldova.

### **4. Threats**

Among the main threats to bat populations in Moldova, we can mention the following:

- Loss of natural habitats, especially the loss of forests and wetlands
- Using of pesticides in agriculture
- Disturbance and killing by humans
- People lack in knowledge about the importance of bats

The rural population knows little or nothing about the important role of bats in nature, and presently does not have any interest in conserving or protecting them. One of the most important threats occur in summer, because people are using abandoned mines for resting during the hot period of the day. Thus, they are disturbing bats.

### **5. Data Collection**

Data on bats were collected by the specialists from Group FAUNA since 1995 and are stored in a database. However, starting with December 2013, a group of specialists started a series of expeditions to collect and to examine the status of bats in Moldova. During those expeditions were found ringed bats, with rings dated from December 1995.

## ***C. MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE III OF THE AGREEMENT***

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

The following legislative acts currently protect bats:

18 bat species – are protected by the Law on Animal Kingdom and 6 of these species are included in the second edition of the Red Book of Moldova. According to the Annex Nr. 4 of the Law on Animal Kingdom, there is a list of bats species included in and the penalty taxes are ranging from 10 to 50 minimal salaries for the law violation.

Also the bats are protected by the Law on State Protected Natural Areas Found.

Law nr. 1244-XIV from 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2000 on Accession to the CMS, AEWA and EUROBATS Agreement adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

Moldova is also a part of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats where the majority of bat species are included as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### **Realisation of Agreements objectives (laws, strategies, action plans and programmes that have been elaborated)**

National Strategy on Conservation of Biodiversity and National Action Plan were elaborated and will be approved by the end of 2014. Republic of Moldova is responsible for the conservation of species living on its territory

### **7. Sites Identified and Protected which are Important to the Conservation of Bats**

Currently several sites with underground shelters are identified as of the most important conservation concern. Among them, the most important are the mines near the villages of Saharna, Bicioac and Cricova and the natural cave Pestera Surprizelor. They are inhabited by 10, 8, 9 and 3 species of bats respectively. Two of them – the mine “Tiganca” near the village of Cricova and the Pestera Surprizelor cave were took under

protection. However, the „Tiganca” mine is not stipulated in any law as a protected site; it is protected at local level.

Pestera Surprizelor, is a well-known among speleologists natural limestone cave that is situated near the Criuleni town, in the forest on the right bank of the Nistru River, directed on the south - north. Slits and empties network form numerous halls and tunnels that can be conventional divided in at least 3 floors. The interior temperature ranges from 12 to 14°C, and the humidity – 75-80%. The overall length of the cave is 350 m. Three species of bats inhabit this site: *Myotis daubentonii*, *Myotis nattereri* and *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. This is the third known place of recent findings of the Natterer's bat in Moldova.

Since the last National Report no new sites were identified.

## **8. Consideration given to Habitats which are Important to Bats**

Insufficient consideration is given to habitats important to bats in Moldova. There are no special areas protected, except the Bat Reserve “Tiganca” and three national reserves, like “Plaiul Fagului”, “Codrii” and “Padurea Domneasca”, which are habitats important to bats and are protected by law.

There are also some initiatives to protect an important riparian habitat to bats – Talmază flood forests (South Eastern part of Moldova). A series of projects have been carried out with the aim to create a National Park in this biodiversity rich territory, or to include it in the Annexes of the Law. However, the National Park is not created, yet.

In June 2014, environmental NGO BIOTICA carried out a project to improve the biodiversity of the Talmază flood forests, in Lower Dniester region was built an artificial dam which basically created a new wetland.

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

One of the biggest dangers for the bats is the lack of proper knowledge about bats among the rural population. Ministry of Environment is promoting the awareness through different activities.

In 2011, Ministry of Environment organized a national drawing and poem contest „Bats in my garden and house”.

In December 2013, our bat specialists saved a colony of more than 300 bats of *Nyctalus noctula*. The colony was found by the workers of a construction company, which were changing the windows in a building. The Minister of Environment handed Diplomas to all the people who contributed to the saving process. Thus, the Minister appreciated the efforts taken by non-bat specialists to save the bats. This event was mentioned at TV and Radio news.

In period of 15-29<sup>th</sup> of May, Ministry of Environment, NGO „WiSDOM”, National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, organized an exposition of photography and paints „Bats... Between myth and reality”.

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

In 2002 through Ministry decision No. 10 from 21 January there was established a working group responsible for the implementation of CMS Convention, European Bats Agreement and of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.

Currently in the Ministry of Environment, there is functioning a working group for the implementation of European Bats.

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

A national working group, with representatives from Academy of Science, ONG, Ministry of Environment and media are organizing expeditions in order to evaluate the bat populations in the most important underground sites.

### **13. Consideration being given to potential effects of pesticides on bats, and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which is highly toxic to bats**

Until present, there is no work in this field in Moldova.

#### ***D. Functions of the Agreement***

##### **14. International Cooperation**

Project of collaboration between WiSDOM association from Moldova and APB-BirdLife Belarus for implementation of important provisions of EUROBATS Agreement.

The organizations, which are involved in this project, are tackling a quite difficult field, that of awareness raising and education, which is complementing the efforts of the Ministry to protect the populations of bat species. WiSDOM association is a well-known organization in Moldova, is active in the field of sustainable development. It collaborates with the Ministry and has achievements worthy of admiration. WiSDOM has qualified specialists in the field of bats and good experience in public campaigning; therefore, we are sure it is able to achieve the proposed goals at the highest level.

The Ministry of Environment is supporting the proposed initiatives and it is involved in organizing the International Bat Night and other awareness raising events – TV and Radio campaigns.

#### ***E. Literature***

##### **Publication on bat research and conservation in Moldova:**

**Averin Y., Lozan M.** (1965) **Rukokrylye Moldavii.** Voprosy ekologii i practicheskogo znachenija ptits i mlecopitaiuschih Moldavii. Vyp.2. Chisinau, "Stiintsa", pp. 25-32. (rus)

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**Munteanu A., Lozanu M.,** (2004) Lumea animala a Moldovei Mamifere 4 (Animal kingdom of Moldova, Mammals 4), Chisinau, "Stiintsa", 132 pp (rom).

**Andreev S., Bondarenco A.** (2006) Liliicii fiinte remarcabile (Bats being remarkable), Chisinau, "Elena V.I.", 36 pp (rom).