

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN  
BATS**

**National Implementation Report**

**ALBANIA**

**JULY 2006**

## **A. General information**

Name of Party: Albania

Date of Report: July 2006

Period Covered: Describes the situation from last report (August 2003 – July 2006)

Competent Authority: Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration – Nature Protection Policies Directorate  
Mr. Zamir Dedej - Director

Changes regarding:  
Competent Authority: N/A

Appointed Member of the Advisory Committee – Dr. Ferdinand Bego, Museum of Natural Sciences, Rruga e Kavajes, No.132, Tirana

Membership of other committees/working groups

## **B. Status of bats in Albania**

### **1. Summary of bat species occurring in Albania**

Bats species are still a group of poorly studied mammals in Albania. Twenty-four bat species are known within the territory of Albania

### **2. Status and Trends**

The updated RED DATA BOOK of animals and plants of Albania (2005) was elaborated last year.

In this book twelve species of bats are included, as follows: *Rhinolophus blasii*, *R. euryale*, *R. hipposideros*, *Myotis bechstenii*, *M. daubentoni*, *M. nattereri*, *Nyctalus leisleri*, *N. noctula*, *Plecotus auritus*, *P. austriacus*, *Vespertilio murinus*, and *Tadarida teniotis*.

The status and population trends of the bat species known in Albania are given by the table below:

**Table 1.** Distribution, current status and apparent population trend of the bats known in Albania (source of data: Bego. F., Museum of Natural Sciences, 2006).

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Trend</b>
<i>Rhinolophus blasii</i>	Widespread	Apparently declining
<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	Restricted	Declining
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Widespread	Stable
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Widespread	Apparently declining
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Restricted	Declining
<i>Miniopterus schreibersi</i>	Widespread	Apparently declining
<i>Myotis blythi</i>	Widespread	Stable
<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Myotis capaccinii</i>	Widespread	Apparently declining
<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>	Restricted	Declining
<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Widespread	Stable
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Pipistrellus kuhli</i>	Restricted	Stable
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Restricted	Stable
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Widespread	Stable
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	Widespread	Stable
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	Restricted	Unknown
<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>	Restricted	Unknown

### 3. Habitats and Roost sites

Albania, as a Mediterranean country rich in limestone and caves is offering a variety of habitats that can be used as hibernacula and nursery roosts. Almost half of the reported species are known as cave-dwelling bats. Tunnels build in the past decades for the military purposes and most of the mines that are out of operation represent new potential roosts available for bats. Some of them are already occupied by colonies of bats.

#### **4. Threats**

Major threats to bats in Albania are: human disturbance, roost destruction and habitat loss.

##### Human disturbance

In the last 10-12 years there is an evidence of an increased number of people involved in outdoor activities, including visiting and illegal exploration of caves. In many caves we have found signs of the human disturbance inside caves, such as fires, killed and burned animals. Disturbance is particular high during hibernation and reproduction season. Due to low environmental public awareness in general, particularly on bats and their role in nature, the attitude and behavior of local people towards bats is very negative. To change this, it is important to undertake awareness raising campaigns and activities in schools and local communities.

##### Roost destruction

Some of the caves, military tunnels and mine tunnels, are blocked and used for other purposes by the local people. Some other caves are used as storage for solid wastes produced in urban and rural areas. During summer time, most of the caves that are easily accessed are used by shepherds as enclosures, causing disturbance and damage of the roosts for bats. A particular case is that of Treni's cave situated at the entrance of the Small Prespa Lake, that is filled in by sediments discharged by the deviated Devolli river for the last 20-25 years. Due to that the cave have become smaller and dried up and losed its former importance of hosting important nursery colonies of several bat species, especially for *Miniopterus schreibersi*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Myotis daubentoni* and *Eptesicus serotinus* .

##### Habitat loss

This is especially the case of bats using old-growing forest as feeding and/or roosting places. Forests over-exploited in the past for timber and fire woods and those damaged by illegal logging in the last years have shown to have strong impacts on bat species linked with forests.

#### **5. Data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination**

The Museum of Natural Sciences, near Tirana University (address: Rruga e Kavajes, no. 132, Tirana, Albania), in the framework of different projects deals with the bat species population data collection, analysis and interpretation. However, it can be said that due to the incontincy of financial resources the picture is not comprehensive.

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

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

The law "On the Protection of the Wild Fauna and Hunting", no.7875, dated 23.11.1994, amended in 2004 by Law No.9214,2004 is the main legal instrument.

A regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture and the General Directory of Forestry and Pastures as a by-legal act of this law, contains a list of protected species including all bats species known to be present in Albania, except *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*.

The environmental legislation has known a rapid development in the last decade in Albania. Main framework legislation related to the species protection is:

- Law on Environmental Protection (No. 8934,05.09.2002)
- Law on Wildlife Protection Hunting and (No. 7875, 23.11.1994), amended by law no. 9214, 2004.
- Law on Protected Areas (no. 8906, 06.06.2002)
- Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (No. 8990, 23.01.2003)

From by-legal acts to be mentioned is the Decision of the Council of Ministers “On the list of Albanian species to be put under protection”, 2003, where species listed in the annexes of the Bern Convention are given a protection status.

A milestone will be recorded with the approval by the Parliament of the Law “On Biodiversity” (in the list to be discussed till the end of year 2006) that will strengthen the species protection in the future.

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

Some main caves identified as important for the conservation of bats are included inside the protected areas and given the status of nature monument. As for non cave-dwelling bats, roosts are very poorly known. Surveys for underground roosts should be conducted in a near future in order to have a more complete list of sites important for bats.

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

In the period covered by the report no research or other activities to be recorded.

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

Very little done in the reporting period.

Copies of the leaflets produced in 2003 are available to the Museum of Natural Sciences, for his didactic work with pupils and students. These copies will continue to be distributed for the people that will visit the Museum and for the interested people in the schools and universities.

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

Museum of Natural Sciences, Tirana University, Rruga e Kavajes, no. 132, Tirana, Albania.

**11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard population of bats**

None

**12. Recent on-going programs (including research) related to the conservation and management of bats**

Under the second phase of Emerald Network project currently carried out in Albania financed by the EEA and Council of Europe, three Areas of Special Conservation Interest (Dajti National Park, Vjose-Narte wetland system – Protected landscape and Albanian part of Shkodra Lake Managed Nature Reserve) have been identified so far and included. On the list of fauna species, bat species are encountered for each site. Eleven more ASCI-s will be studied till the end

**13. Considerations being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats, and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats**

No action has been carried out about this item.

**D. Functioning of the Agreement**

**14. Cooperation with other Range States**

No activities to be recorded for this issue. It will have to be a priority for the future.

**15. Measures taken to implement Resolutions adopted by the Meetings of Parties.**

Efforts are underway to get some financial resources in order to increase research activities for a comprehensive monitoring and up to date data on bat species population in Albania. This will enable to draw conclusions on the species requiring immediate conservation measures to be taken and action plans to be elaborated for their protection.