

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



Yerevan State University, Biological Faculty
Armenian National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Zoology
Ministry of Nature Protection of RA
Armenian Nature Protectors Union



**Update to the National Report on the
implementation of the EUROBATS Agreement
in the Republic of Armenia**

Yerevan, 2008

Armenia

General Information

Non-Party Range: Republic of Armenia

Date of Report: August 2008

Period covered: 2006-2008

Competent Authorities:

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In the time period that has elapsed (2006-2008), the team continued the research on the identification of the species composition of bats (*Chiroptera*), as well as the study of their ecology, composition of feed, co-habitants, competitors and parasites in both Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Earlier known sanctuaries (caves, grottos, tunnels, hollows, crevices and various man-made constructions)– more than 820 in Armenia and more than 386 in Nagorno-Karabakh - and more than 40 newly found bat sanctuaries were examined. Their biodiversity was described, including flora composition, mycology, fauna, microclimate and geology.

Species of bats (*Rhinolophus blasii*, *Myotis bechshtei*, *M. schaubi*, *M. hajastanicus*, *Plecotus macrobularis*, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), relatively new to the fauna of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, and new points of their discovery have been identified.

Based on the foregoing data, maps and cadastres on the habitats of these animals were made.

In the reporting period, three people defended their PhD theses devoted to karyology, neurogenesis, ecology, parasites and the taxonomy of Cheiroptera (*Chiroptera*) under the supervision of professor E.G. Yavruyan; two more works are being prepared for defense.

Booklets, posters and placards were prepared. 22 scientific works and 2 monographs were written. The Encyclopedia of Armenia's Nature, with a whole section dedicated to Cheiroptera, was published. A group of Armenian Nature Protectors Union activists, under the leadership of Professor Yavruyan and in cooperation with "Birds of Armenia" NGO and researchers from the Laboratory of Vertebrates of the Institute of Zoology of the RA NAS, utilized their own resources and organized the closing of another unique cave (Magela) with a metal railing. In addition, an explanatory board and an environmental advertising board were put up at the entrance to Noravank gorge where, in addition to this cave, there are also other caves, such as Mageli Malaya, Ptichiya, Kluch, Ruka Fatimi, Dikogo Golubya, and more than 40 grottos.

In the mentioned period and hitherto, the cooperation with Georgian, Russian and Azeri colleagues has continued within the framework of the Study of Rare Bat Species Project.

The joint activities with Polish (Dr. W. Bogdanowich, Dr. K.Turleisku) and Czech (Dr. D.Frinta) colleagues on *Chiroptera* DNA, brain neurogenesis and ecology in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh remain on a special level.

The Ministry of Nature Protection of the RA plans to consider the issue of joining EUROBATS in fall 2009.

Below is the table on the species composition of *Chiroptera* in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

No	Species	Status	Trends	Habitats	Average number in colonies
1	Rhinolophus euryale	RBA, rare	stable	S,MS,MF	15-350
2	Rhinolophus mehelyi	RBA, rare	decline	MS,MF,S	5-30
3	Rhinolophus hipposideros	rare	decline	MS	1-175
4	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	common	stable	V	10-7000
5	Rhinolophus blasii	New, rare	decline	MS,S	5-55
6	Myotis blythii	common	stable	V	1-10000
7	Myotis bechsteinii	New, numerous	decline (?)	V	1-7
8	Myotis nattereri	RBA, rare	decline	MS, MF	5-12
9	Myotis schaubii	New, numerous	decline (?)	MS, MF	1-3
10	Myotis emarginatus	rare	decline	V	1-5
11	Myotis mystacinus	rare	decline	V	1-12
12	Myotis hajastanicus	New, numerous	decline (?)	V	1-5
13	Plecotus auritus	common	decline (?)	V	1-142
14	Plecotus austriacus	rare	decline	MS	1-7
16	Plecotus macrobullaris	rare	decline (?)	V	1-5
15	Barbastella barbastella	rare	decline	MS	1-7
17	Barbastella leucomelas	RBA, rare	?	MS, MF	1-5
18	Nyctalus noctula	rare	?	LF, MS, MF	2-12
19	Nyctalus leisleri	numerous	?	MF	1-3
20	Pipistrellus kuhlii	common	stable	V	10-8000
21	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	common	stable	V	35-28000
22	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	New, numerous	stable	V	3-45
23	Pipistrellus nathusii	rare	decline (?)	MF, LF	3-9
24	Hypsugo savii	rare	?	V	1-2
25	Vespertilio murinus	rare	?	MS	2-5
26	Eptesicus serotinus	rare	?	V	1-3
27	Eptesicus bottae	numerous	?	MS, S	1-2
28	Miniopterus schreibersii	RBA, rare	decline	MS, MF	2-220
29	Tadarida teniotis	RBA, rare	?	MF	3-11

Status: RBA – Red Book of Armenian SSR (1987)

Habitats: MS – Mountain Steppe; MF – Mountain Forest; LF – Lowland Forest; S – Semi-desert; V - Various

Trends: decline (?) – статус может быть изменен

Report was prepared on the basis of researches carried out by the researcher group of Armenian Nature Protectors Union NGO, Department of Zoology of Yerevan State University, Biological Faculty of Slavonic State University (RAU) and Medico-Biological Faculty of Yerevan State University.

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