

## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

### **AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE**

NATIONAL REPORT – May 2006 – May 2009

#### **A. General Information**

Name of the Non-party State: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Date of Report: May 2009

Period Covered: May 2006 to May 2009.

Competent Authorities: Federal Ministry of Environment  
of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBH)  
Ministry of Urbanism, Civil Engin. and Ecology of  
Republika Srpska

Organization providing support: Speleological Association of B&H (SA)

Appointed members of the Advisory Committee:

Ms. Azra Korac Mehmedic & Mr. Vego, (FBH)

Mr. Jasminko Mulaomerovic, (SA)

The report was prepared by: Jasminko Mulaomerovic, member of Speleological society SPELEO DODO (Sarajevo) and Center for Karstology Academy of Science and Arts of B&H.

#### **B. Status of Bats within the Territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

##### **1. Summary Data on Resident Species**

###### **Introduction**

On territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina there are 27 known species from 3 families (Rhinolophidae, Vespertilionidae and Molossidae). Data come from different sources, mostly from literature and the existing collection of the Lands Museum in Sarajevo and other collections (museums from Zagreb, Beograd, Vienna, and Leningrad).

Species *Pteropus* is known by only one specimen, caught in year 1886 near Mostar (in collection of Lands Museum in Sarajevo).

First data about bats in B&H appear in the beginnings of the 20th century. Before WW II few specimens were collected by S. Bolokay and shortly after the war K. Martino also collected only few specimens (both of them were custodians in the Lands Museum in Sarajevo) but nobody was engaged in any more serious research. In their bat researches some explorers from area of ex Yugoslavia also did some research on bats from B&H only on the (B. Djuli}, Dj. Miri}). Now B. Karapandza from Belgrade does research on bats from B&H but we have

no data about his research. Nobody is researching bats in science institutions in B&H (museums, faculties, institutes). Last review of bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina prepared by Maja Zagmajster (Slovenija), Jasminko Mulaomerović (B&H), Branko Karapandza and Milan Paunović (Serbia and Montenegro). Simone Milanolo and Jasminko Mulaomerović have been gathering research data during last two years (prepared for printing)

Check list of the species:

*Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *R. ferrumequinum*, *R. euryale*, *R. blasii*, *Myotis mystacinus*, *M. bechsteinii*, *M. emarginatus*, *M. nattereri*, *M. capaccinii*, *M. myotis*, *M. blythii*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *P. kuhlii*, *P. nathusii*, *Hypsugo savii*, *Vespertilio murinus*, *Eptesicus nilssonii*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *N. leisleri*, *N. lasiopterus*, *Plecotus auritus*, *P. austriacus*, *P. macrobullaris*, *P. kolombatovici*, *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Miniopterus schreibersii*, *Tadarida teniotis*.

*M. Dasycneme*, in case that our determinations are correct, it would be a new 28th species for Bosnia and Herzegovina. This species has also been confirmed few years ago in neighbour country Croatia.

At the moment we are aware of 5 big colonies of several thousands of bats.  
2 kolonije *Rhinolopus sp.* (300 + 600).

## 2. Status and Trends

There are no relevant data for any conclusions.

## 3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Data about open roost sites are only known from literature. There are reliable data only for speleological objects (56 caves and pits).

## 4. Threats

Main threat factors of bats are forest devastation and cutting.

## 5. Data Collection

Only Speleological association of B&H through its societies and Center for Karstology does the registration of sites (especially underground) as well as popularization of bat protection.

## C. Measures Taken To Implement Article III of The Agreement

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

Bosnia and Herzegovina had ratified the following international conventions and agreements related to bat conservation:

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands,
- The Convention on the Biological Diversity.

National legislation related to bat protection:

- Decree of Protection of Natural Rarities (2003),
- Decree of Protection of Environment (2003).

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

The only activities for promoting the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been carried out by speleologist.

Published materials (until 2006):

- Pamphlets: Bats - Manual for Speleologists (in Bosnian),
- Poster: Bats need friends (in Bosnian and English),
- Leaflet: Bat box (in Bosnian),
- Film (partial): The Sacred Caves (in Bosnian),
- Articles in journals,
- Occasional postal cancels.

Education:

- In the frame of speleological educational activities,
- Through public appearances in radio shows,
- Exhibitions about bats.

In goals better understanding bats into young people, we organized survey in primary and secondary school and in student groups about elementary base knowledge of bats. We organized survey with questioner prepared according recent articles. Results would be use in future project of education young people.

10. Responsible bodies nominated for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management

At level of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Environmental Steering Committee.

At level of Entities:

- Federal Ministry of Environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Ministry of Urbanism, Civil Engin. and Ecology of Republika Srpska,
- Institute of Nature Protection of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Institute of Nature Protection of Republika Srpska.

11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats

- Urging suitable ministries to take up activities for joining the Agreement (letter about the need of joining B&H to the Agreement with the basic data is sent to the relevant institutions of country and entity).

12. Recent and ongoing programs relating to the conservation and management of bats

- Making of database of bat roosts, records and references in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### **D. Functioning of the Agreement**

13. Co-operation with other Range States

- There is no institutional cooperation with any organization from agreement signatory countries.
- There are individual contacts with bat workers from Slovenia, Serbia and Croatia.