

**THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN BATS
(EUROBATS)**

The Update to the National Report on the Implementation of the Agreement in Georgia

- *Name of Party Range State:* Georgia
- *Date of Report:* May 2009
- *Period Covered:* September 2008 – April 2009
- *Competent Authority:* The Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia

The comprehensive version of the National Report will be presented at the Meeting of Parties to be held in Prague in 2010.

In this update we would like to highlight some projects carried out in Georgia in the period of September 2008 – April, 2009:

The Field Researchers' Union - Campester (*Georgia - Bukhnikashvili A., Kandaurov A., Natradze I.*) with financial support of Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) implemented the Project - ``Development and Capacity Building of Transboundary Bats Monitoring Network in the Caucasus``. The partners to the project were Centre for Biological Diversity (*Azerbaijan – Rakhmatulina I.*), Union of Armenian Nature Protectors (*Armenia – Yavruyan E.*) and Institute of Mountain Ecology of the Kabardino-Balkarian Scientific Centre of Academy of Sciences of Russia (*Russia – Gazaryan S.*). Project was finished in 2008.

The main project deliverables are:

- ✓ The Bats Monitoring Regional Network established, capacity built and functioning;
- ✓ Key basic data on the priority bats species and habitats obtained and species database developed;
- ✓ Re-evaluation of national status and evaluation of the regional status for 14 key bats species according to IUCN criteria;
- ✓ A key habitat database for each of the globally threatened bats species developed;
- ✓ Five Conservation Action Plans developed and published;
- ✓ Five-scientific articles prepared and published;
- ✓ The final comprehensive Report on the project implementation and its results prepared;
- ✓ Protection of three caves, as the key bats habitats, justified and initiated.

Institute of Zoology of Georgia and NGO Field Researchers' Union ``Campester`` have been involved in the implementation of the project - ``Ecology, behavior and population genetics of the forest living Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*) in two glacial refuges: South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus`` together with colleagues from Switzerland (Zoological Institute University of Zurich), Bulgaria (National Museum of Natural History, Sofia), Russia (Institute of Ecology of Mountain Territories, Krasnodar), Serbia (University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Biology, Novi Sad). This project is funded by Swiss National Science Foundation.

In addition, wildlife monitoring, conducted along the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceihan BP pipeline in Georgia, includes bats species monitoring component. Consequently, monitoring of bats population in certain areas of Georgia is performed.

In autumn 2008 the project ``Mitigation measures for impact on bats species in Pipeline influence zone (Pilot project in Tertitskaro district)`` has been done. Six kinds of 50 bats boxes have been purchased and placed in the frame of this project, which was first case and opportunity in the Caucasus.