

## Report on the Implementation of the 'European Bat Agreement' in Hungary

### A. General information

Party: Hungary  
 Date of Report: September 2003  
 Period Covered by Report: January 2002 – September 2003  
 Competent Authority: Ministry of Environment and Water  
 Appointed Member of the AC: Dr. Zoltán Bihari

### B. Status of bats within the territory of the Party

#### *1. Table Bat species and their status in Hungary*

1. Resident species	2. Status	2. Trend	3. Habitats	3. Summer roost	3. Winter Roost	4. Threats
R ferrumequinum	S	decline	M F S	95% A	100% CM	AC, RB
R hipposideros	P	stable	M F	50% A	100% CME	AC, RB
R euriale	S, R	stable	M F W	100% C	100% CM	AC
M emarginatus	S, R	decline	O S	100% A	? C	AC, RB
M bechsteinii	S, R	decline?	M F	100% H	? CH	AC, LT
M nattereri	P	decline	M F W	100% H	? HC	AC, LT
M dasycneme	S	stable	O S W	60% A	? HC	AC, RB, LH
M daubentonii	P	?	O W F	90% H	? HC	AC, RB, LH
M mystacinus	P	?	M F W	100% H	? HC	LT, AC, LH
M brandtii	P	?	M F	100% H	? HC	LT, AC, LH
M alcatoe			?	100% H	? HC	LT, AC, LH
M myotis	P	stable	O S	80% A	100% CM	RB, AC
M blythii	P	stable?	O S	90% A	100% CM	RB, AC
N noctula	P	increase	O S F	60% B	? HB	LT, IK
N lasiopterus	S	stable	M F	100% H	100% H	LT
N leisleri	P, R	?	M F	100% H	100% H	LT
E serotinus	P	stable	O S	80% A	? C B	RB, AC
E nilsonii	P	?	M F	?	C	AC
V murinus	P	?	O S	?	?	RB
P pipistrellus	P	decline	O F S	80% H	90% H	LT
P pygmaeus			?	?	?	?
P nathusii	P	?	O W	100% H	100% H	LT
P kuhlii	P	increase	O S F	?	?	?

P savii	P	?	M F	?	?	?
P austriacus	P	decline	O S	80% A	90% CM	RB, AC
P auritus	P	?	M F	100% H	90% H	LT, AC
B barbastella	S, R	decline	M F	80% H	? CH	LT, AC
M schreibersii	S	increase	M F	100% CM	100% CM	AC

#### Abbreviations and acronyms:

##### PROTECTION

P	Protected
S	Strictly protected
R	National Red List

##### ROOST

A	Attic
B	Block of house
C	Cave
E	Cellar
H	Hollow
M	Mine

##### HABITAT

F	Forest
M	Mountain region
O	All over in Hungary
S	Settlement
W	Wetland

##### THREAT

AC	Activities in caves
IK	Intentional killing in housing estates
LH	Loss of habitats
LT	Loss of old trees
RB	Reroofing / renovation of building

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

#### Data collection:

- House-dwelling bat database (Hungarian Bat Research Society)
- Fauna database (Hungarian Bat Protection Foundation)
- Register of specimens of museums (Hungarian Natural Science Museum)
- Hungarian Mammal Database (Nature Foundation)

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

### ***C.6. Legal measures taken to protect bats***

In Hungary all bat species gained protection by law in 1901. It was prohibited to capture, kill, keep and disturb bats in any way. In 1974 the nature conservation value of the species were also determined as a fine for the killing, the capturing of or illegal trade in them. Now all species occurring in Hungary are either protected (18) or strictly protected (8 species), except the two newly discovered species (*M. alcatoe*, *P. pygmaeus*).

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

The list of the most important underground habitats and the most important buildings are completed with more than 5 000 data compiled. These roosts are visited at least once every year. All of them are protected.

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

To encourage bat protection we publish and distribute information booklets, and attempt to convince people of the usefulness of bats and the importance of their

protection through TV and radio programs and newspaper articles. We organize lectures to educate pupils in primary and secondary schools and universities.

We organized the „Bat Night” at several towns, where mainly children were active.

#### ***C.10. Responsible bodies, in Accordance with Article III.5 of the Agreement***

In Hungary the responsible bodies are appointed on regional level. Concerning general questions the Authority for Nature Conservation can give advice, but in concrete conservation and management issues the competent bodies are the national park directorates. Their staffs go out to collect the house-dwelling bats if necessary or to give advice to the local people.

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

##### **Caves**

Several information boards were placed at the entrance of the most important caves.

##### **Mines**

It occurs to be a very serious problem that several mine openings are threatened by falling in. Last year the most dangerous entrances were fixed.

The Authority for Nature Conservation financed a project to make a database of the most important mines. The database is ready, and a new law on the protection of mines will be based on this.

##### **Buildings**

Members of the Hungarian Bat Research Society periodically check the most important roosts in churches and castles. In Hungary colonies with more than 20 individuals are 'significant' and thus strictly protected. Several bat-friendly reconstructions were carried out.

##### **Panel buildings**

In Hungary the Noctule Bat is the most urbanized bat species. Its main roost type occurs in blocks of houses in panel gaps. In the last fifteen years they changed their habitat and nowadays this is the most common species in Hungary. These colonies are very threatened and the local people usually expel them, because of the noise, the dirt and their fear of them. They fly very often into the rooms. Therefore, it is a very important task to save these colonies.

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

- Bat boxes (Csaba Fehér, Péter Paulovics, Dénes Dobrosi, Tamás Galgóczy, István Géczi, Péter Gombkötő)
- Monitoring of caves (Miklós Szatyor, Peter Gombkötő, Péter Paulovics, Márton Juhász, Sándor Boldogh)
- Monitoring of mines (Zoltán Bihari, Péter Gombkötő, István Géczi, Sándor Boldogh)
- Forrest-dwelling bat research (Péter Estók)
- Ecological conditions of the hibernacula of *Rhinolophus ferumequinum* (Miklós Szatyor)
- Monitoring of house-dwelling bats (Zoltán Bihari, Csaba Fehér, Dénes Dobrosi, István Géczi, Zoltán Molnár, Péter Gombkötő)
- Taxonomy, systematics and zoogeography of Old World bats (Gábor Csorba)
- Bats of wetlands (Imre Dombi, Noémi Papp, Dénes Dobrosi)
- Rehabilitation of injured and captured bats (Zoltán Molnár, Viktor Molnár)
- Ecology of *Myotis nathusii* (Csaba Fehér)
- Pathoanatomy and pathophysiology of bats (Viktor Molnár)
- Veterinary treatment of sick and injured bats (Viktor Molnár)
- Endoparasitological (coprological) and ectoparasitological studies of bats (Viktor Molnár)

- Migration of *Myotis Daubentonii* and *M. dasycneme* (Imre Dombi)
- Population ecology of bats (Zoltán Bihari)
- Roost selection of *Nyctalus noctula*, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Myotis myotis* (Zoltán Bihari)

***C.13. Consideration being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats***

We have no information on negative effects of pesticides on bats. It seems not to be a serious problem in Hungary.

**D. Functioning of the Agreement**

***D.14. Cooperation with other States***

There has been a continuous contact for years with Slovakian bat researches in relation to the migratory routes of bats, in particular the Greater Horseshoe Bat. The reason for this co-operation is that a significant proportion of the population of this species lives in Hungary, which migrate to Slovakian caves and mines in winter.

There is a close co-operation with Romanian colleagues to survey the caves and the bat colonies in Transylvania.