



**REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS**

3-th Session of Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe

EUROBATS MOP 3, CMS/UNEP

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NATIONAL REPORT

For implementation of EUROBATS on the Republic of Macedonia

Skopje: May 2000

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For implementation of EUROBATS on the Republic of Macedonia

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INTRODUCTION

Importance of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and EUROBATS for the Republic of Macedonia

Bats are one of the most important groups of the Vertebrata animals on Biological Diversity in Republic of Macedonia.

People in this region have lived for 3000 years in harmony with Nature, especially with nature resources. They have been using fauna species and other nature resources very carefully and they were very friendly for nature and biological diversity. Sustainable use (hunting, fishing, agriculture, forestry, etc.) and development of biological diversity have a very old tradition with the Macedonian people.

Nature conservation, sustainable use and development are of very high priority for the Macedonian Government.

The ratification of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe by the Republic of Macedonia was on 23 June 1999. Bonn-Convention and London-Agreement was ratified by the Macedonian Parliament and the Law for ratification was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, no. 38/99.

The Macedonian Government in December 1998 has established the new Ministry of Environment. This Ministry has implemented CMS, EUROBATS, AEW, CBD, CWT, ECWLNH and other international documents and national legislation on environment protection and nature conservation.

The Ministry of Environment with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Development and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management defined the framework of future international cooperation and integration of Biodiversity objectives within national sectional policies. Macedonian national interest within the framework of the Bonn-Convention and EUROBATS is nature conservation and sustainable use of bio-resources. This is first motif to underpin our support for CMS and EUROBATS.

One of the preconditions for successful implementation of the CMS and EUROBATS is active participation by all Parties. National reports are an important aid to achieving this because they enable an optimal exchange of information, and provide a platform for future co-operation.

Macedonian Government will pursue the conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity with new development policy. This policy is set out in the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity (NSAPBD, draft 1999). Basic of this policy is National Action Programme and Action Plan on Environment (NEAP, 1996), New Spatial Plan (NSP, draft 1999), National Strategy for Economical Development (NSED, 1997), National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD, draft 2000), etc.

Populations of bats are the pre-requisite for the rich variety of migratory species in the territory of Macedonia. The presence of numerous bat species is especially evident. It has been estimated that there are 24 Chiroptera species in the Republic of Macedonia.

MINISTER

Toni Popovski

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE

National implementation report of the Republic of Macedonia (1999)

A. General information

- Party: Republic of Macedonia
- Date of report: May 2000
- Period covered by Report: 1992-1999
- Competent Authority: Ministry of Environment

B. Status of Bats within the Territory of the Party

1. Summary Details of the Species

Twenty-four species of bats are currently known to occur within the territory of Macedonia. On the basis of the available data from the adjacent regions (Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia) and habitat diversity in Macedonia, the presence of four additional species could be expected. The majority of specimens and information are from spring; summer and early autumn, while winter visits to caves were exceptional. Consequently, only five species (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Myotis myotis*, *Nyctalus noctula* and *Miniopterus schreibersi*) were found in hibernation. For nine species we have evidence of their reproduction in the region: *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis blythi*, *Myotis emarginatus*, *Myotis capaccinii*, *Eptesicus serotinus*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *Miniopterus schreibersi*.

2. Status and Trends

On the Table I is shown the distributional and estimated found status of the bat species known in Macedonia. Concerning the trends, we have not such data, for the last several years.

	SPECIES	DISTRIBUTION STATUS	ESTIMATED FAUNAL STATUS	HIBERNATION SITES	SUMMER ROOST
1.	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	widespread	common	mines	buildings, caves
2.	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	widespread	common	mines	caves
3.	<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	widespread	common	??	caves
4.	<i>Rhinolophus blasii</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
5.	<i>Rhinolophus mehelyi</i>	restricted	rare	??	caves, mines
6.	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	widespread	rare	??	??
7.	<i>Myotis myotis</i>	widespread	numerous	caves	caves
8.	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
9.	<i>Myotis blythi</i>	widespread	common	??	caves, mines
10.	<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>	restricted	common	??	caves
11.	<i>Myotis capaccinii</i>	widespread	common	??	caves, mines
12.	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
13.	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	widespread	rare	??	hollow trees
14.	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
15.	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	restricted	rare	??	caves
16.	<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
17.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	widespread	common	??	buildings, caves
18.	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
19.	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
20.	<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
21.	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
22.	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	restricted	rare	??	??
23.	<i>Miniopterus schreibersi</i>	widespread	common	caves	caves
24.	<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>	restricted	rare	??	??

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

The majority of data has been collected from the traditionally examined areas, which are also considered as the key sites of bat diversity. Currently bats are known in 40 localities in Macedonia. The territory of Macedonia has been unequally studied. Most of the data originate from the Vardar River valley, while the greatest gaps are in the Northeast. Collectors also sampled mainly at lower altitudes, while the mountains were neglected. For the majority of them, nursery or pregnant females and juvenile specimens were found in caves or other underground spaces. This is in accordance with the origin of most of the Museum Specimens, which were collected by hand in such underground galleries. Bats not roosting in caves were mainly overlooked, or were collected only occasionally.

Consequently, further investigations on the bats in Macedonia are necessary in ascertaining improved information as a primary basis of their future conservation.

4. Threats

Human activities in Macedonia over the last 50 years have been apparently large in the lowland areas, as constant draining of wetlands, steady reduction of forests, urbanization of large areas, uniformity in the arrangement and landscaping of farmland, continuing and increasing use of chemicals to eliminate unwanted insects etc. The higher altitude habitats are less exposed of human activities.

5. Data Collection

The source of data is the Macedonian Museum of Natural History, Boulevard Ilinden 86, 91000 Skopje bb.

C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement

6. Legal measures taken to prevent the deliberate capture, keeping or killing bats, including details of enforcement actions used to support such measures.

Notwithstanding the fact that law does not protect bats, traditionally they never have been a subject of capture, keeping or killing.

Hitherto, 130 localities are protected in Macedonia, with different protection rank, with total surface of 260.000 ha. Of them, especially important are 14 Strict Natural Reserves (62.000 ha), three National Parks (110.000 ha) and 10 Scientific Reserves.

Legislative Basis for Biodiversity Conservation

National basic laws

National legislative for Biodiversity conservation in Republic of Macedonia include 4 laws:

- Act on Protection of Natural Rarities (“The Official Gazette of SRM” 41/73, 42/76 and 10/90, and “The Official Gazette of RM” N0 62/93);
- Act on Protection of Natural Parks (“The Official Gazette of SRM” 33/80 and “The Official Gazette of RM” N0 62/93);
- Act on Protection Ohrid Lake, Prespa Lake and Dojran Lake (“The Official Gazette of SRM” 45/77 and “The Official Gazette of RM” N0 62/93);
- Act on Environmental and Nature Protection and Promotion (“The Official Gazette of RM” N0 69/96).

The laws for close fields

- Act on proclamation of ornithological locality Ezerani, on Prespa lake, for Strict Nature Reserve ("The Official Gazette of RM" N0 37/96);
- Act on proclamation of ornithological locality Tikvesh, on Crna River Gorge, for Strict Nature Reserve ("The Official Gazette of RM" N0 35/97);
- Act on Forests ("The Official Gazette of RM" N0 47/97);
- Act on Waters ("The Official Gazette of RM" N0 4/98);
- Act on Fishing ("The Official Gazette of RM" N0 62/93);
- Act on Hunting ("The Official Gazette of RM" N0 20/96);
- Act on Management and Use of Pastures and Abandoned Fields and Meadows ("The Official Gazette of SRM" N0 20/74).

The law forratificated international documents

- Act on ratification Convention on Biological Diversity, "The Official Gazette of RM" 54/97.
- Act on ratification Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals, "The Official Gazette of RM" 38/99.
- Act on ratification Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, "The Official Gazette of RM" 38/99.
- Act on ratification Agreement on the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory water birds, "The Official Gazette of RM" 32/99.
- Act on ratification Convention of European wildlife and Natural Habitats, "The Official Gazette of RM" 49/97.
- Act on ratification Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, "The Official Gazette of RM" ?/99.

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

None

8. Consideration given to habitats which important to bats

None

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

None

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

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11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats

None

12. Recent ongoing programmes (including research) relating to the conservation and management of bats

None

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

None

D. Functioning of the Agreement

Co-operating with other Range States

None at the moment

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