



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Biodiversity Research and Conservation Group FAUNA

NATIONAL REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROBATS AGREEMENT IN
THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Chisinau, 2005

A. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Name of the Party: **Republic of Moldova**
- Date of Report: **April 2005**
- Period Covered: **1995-2005**
- Competent Authority: **MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES:
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B. STATUS OF BATS WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA:

1. Summary Details of the Species

There are 21 species of bats recorded in Moldova. Because of the deficiency of data it is difficult to know the real state of the species. Most of them are considered rare and are protected by national legislation. Six species are included in the second edition of the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova. The most frequent occurring in underground shelters are *Myotis daubentonii*, *M.mystacinus*, *Plecotus austriacus* and *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. The biggest colonies in underground shelters usually form *M.blythii*, *M.daubentonii* and *Rh.hipposideros*. Forest bats and bats living in human localities are not yet enough studied. However it is known that the most frequent bats occurring in forests are *Nyctalus noctula*, *M.mystacinus*, *M.daubentonii*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and maybe *P.pygmaeus* and in settlements - *M.mystacinus*, *Eptesicus serotinus* and *Plecotus austriacus*.

2. Status and Trends

N	Species	Categories of rarity according to the "Law on Animal Kingdom" Annex 4	IUCN Red List Categories according to data of the Group FAUNA
1.	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	III- Vulnerable	CR
2.	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	IV- Rare	LR/nt
3.	<i>Myotis myotis</i>	IV- Rare	CR
4.	<i>Myotis blythii</i>	IV- Rare	EN
5.	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	IV- Rare	CR
6.	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	IV- Rare	CR
7.	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	not evaluated	VU
8.	<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	IV- Rare	CR
9.	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	IV- Rare	LR/lc
10.	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	IV- Rare	DD
11.	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	not listed	LR/cd
12.	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	IV- Rare	CR
13.	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	IV- Rare	LR/cd
14.	<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	II- Endangered	DD
15.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	not evaluated	DD
16.	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	not listed	DD
17.	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	not listed	DD
18.	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	not evaluated	DD
19.	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	VIII- Out of danger	DD
20.	<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	II- Endangered	DD
21.	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	IV- Rare	DD

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

From the beginning of the 20th century there are a large number of artificial underground shelters in the Republic of Moldova. Most of them are working or abandoned mines of limestone exploitation. The only known natural shelters are some natural limestone and sand caves. Forest bats occupy hollow trees. House dwelling bats live usually in the attics and different crevices and cavities in the walls.

Moldova is poorly covered by forests and the biggest of them are concentrated in the central part of the country. There are some wetlands in the southern and south-eastern parts of Moldova.

4. Threats

Among the main threats to bat populations in Moldova we can mention the following:

- Loss of natural habitats, especially the loss of forests and wetlands
- Using of pesticides in agriculture
- Disturbance and killing by humans

The rural population knows little or nothing about the important role of bats in nature, and presently does not have any interest in conserving them. They are attributed with evil qualities because they are creatures of the night and due to this unfavourable perception, people kill them when they are roosting or hibernating.

5. Data Collection

Data on bats are collected by the specialists from Group FAUNA since 1995 and are stored in a database.

C. MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE III OF THE AGREEMENT

6. Legal Measures

The following legislative acts currently protect bats:

18 bat species – are protected by the Law on Animal Kingdom and 6 of them are included in the second edition of the Red Book of Moldova. The other three species are recently discovered in Moldova and are not yet considered by any legal acts. According to the Annex Nr. 4 of the Law on Animal Kingdom, there is a list of bats species included in and the penalty taxes are ranging from 10 to 50 minimal salaries for the law violation.

In 28th of September 2000 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted the Law nr 1244-XIV on Accession to the CMS, AEW and EUROBATs Agreement.

Moldova is also a part of the Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats where the majority of bat species are included as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. Sites Identified and Protected which are Important to the Conservation of Bats

Currently several sites with underground shelters are identified as **of the most important conservation concern**. Among them, the most important are the mines near the villages of Sakharna, Bicioc and Cricova and the natural cave Pestera Surprizelor. They are inhabited by 10, 8, 9 and 3 species of bats respectively. Two of them – the mine near the village of Cricova and the Pestera Surprizelor cave are already taken under protection.

Pestera Surprizelor, the most recent site taken under protection, is a well known among speleologists natural limestone cave that is situated near the Criuleni town, in the forest on the right bank of the Nistru River, directed on the south - north. Slits and empties network form numerous halls and tunnels that can be conventional divided in at least 3 floors. The interior temperature ranges from 12 to 14°C, and the humidity – 75-80%. The overall length of the cave is 350 m. Three species of bats inhabit this site: *Myotis daubentonii*, *Myotis nattereri* and *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. This is the third known place of recent findings of the Natterer's bat in Moldova.

8. Consideration given to Habitats which are Important to Bats

Insufficient consideration is given to habitats important to bats in Moldova. There are no special protected areas, except the Bat Reserve “Tiganca” and three national reserves, like “Plaiul Fagului”, “Codrii” and “Padurea Domneasca”, which are habitats important to bats and are protected by law.

There is also a project on biodiversity conservation financed by GEF, which includes the Talmaza forests (South Eastern part of Moldova) – an important riparian habitat to bats.

This year an environmental NGOs BIOTICA and FAUNA will undertake some actions to improve the biodiversity of the Talmaza forests, including identification of roosts needs for bats and installation of around one hundred bat boxes to attract and monitor forest bats.

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

One of the biggest dangers for the bats is the lack of proper knowledge about the bat importance among the rural population. For the period of 1995 – 1998 years Grupul FAUNA organized more than 50 workshops on the biodiversity importance including bats importance as well, in the rural schools in the Northern and Central part of Moldova.

In 1998 in Moldova was organized a Bat Night celebration, which brought together a lot of people, especially young generation, to take part in different activities and ended with a big concert on the central square of Chisinau city.

In august 2001 three bat workers attended a summer school in Closani (Romania) and learned the basic approaches and methodologies in research and conservation of bats.

From 7th to 18th of July 2002 the Group FAUNA and AVI-Moldova in the framework of Milieukontakt's project on International Volunteering in Moldova organised a work camp for international volunteers to build and place bat boxes in a flood forest of Talmaza.

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

In 2002 through ministry decision No. 10 from 21 January there was established a working group responsible for the implementation of CMS Convention, European Bats Agreement and of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement.

Currently in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources there is functioning a working group for the implementation of European Bats.

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

In April this year had been concluded an Agreement concerning the Promotion of awareness on bat protection in Eastern and South-eastern Europe between Group “Fauna” and Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, with kind financial assistance provided by Eurobats Secretariat.

Main goal of this agreement is to translate, publish, and disseminate the leaflets with information on bats in our country, elaborated initially by Belgian/German project. At the moment the work in this field is at the stage of preparation of text for printing.

The Water Quality Management and Biodiversity Conservation of the Lower Dniester River Project (financed by GEF) include bat protection issues, such as bat friendly forest management.

13. Consideration being given to potential effects of pesticides on bats, and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which is highly toxic to bats

Until present, there is no work in this field in Moldova.

D. Functioning of the Agreement

14. International Cooperation

From the 6th to 9th of July 2000 in Moldova was organised a bat detector workshop in the framework of the “*Bat conservation expert training and data collection in Southeast Europe. A German contribution towards the implementation of EUROBATS transboundary programmes*” with participation of international experts Herman Limpens and Peter Lina and with logistical support of the Group FAUNA and partial financial support of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

E. Literature

Publication on bat research and conservation in Moldova:

Averin Y., Lozan M. (1965) Rukokrylye Moldavii. Voprosy ekologii I practichescogo znachenija ptits I mlecopitaiuschih Moldavii. Vyp.2. Chisinau, “Stiintsa”, pp. 25-32. (rus)

Vasiliev A., Andreev S. (1998) Vidovoi sostav, chislennost i raspredelenije rucocrylyh (Chiroptera), obitaiuschih v podzemel'ah bliz sela Saharna (Moldova). Plecotus et al., Nr. 1., pp. 48-54. (rus)

The Red Book of the Republic of Moldova. (2001) Second edition. Stiinta. Chisinau. pp.150-155.