

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE

Technical notes on the implementation of the Agreement in S. Marino Republic

A. General Information

Non-Party Range: S. MARINO REPUBLIC

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Period Covered: 2003 – 2006

SUBMITTED BY Dino Scaravelli and Centro Naturalistico Sammarinesi

B. Status of Bats within the Territory of the Republic

1. Summary Details of Resident Species

13 bat taxa occur on the territory of San Marino Republic (Table 1) but the researches are still occasional. A atlas project is ongoing by the national Museum of Natural History (centro Naturalistico Sammarinese)

Table 1. San Marino Republic species

	<i>Taxa</i>	Italian name
1.	<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	Ferro di cavallo euriale
2.	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Ferro di cavallo maggiore
3.	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Ferro di cavallo minore
4.	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Vespertilio di Bechstein
5.	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Vespertilio di Natterer
6.	<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Vespertilio maggiore
7.	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	Pipistrello albolimbato
8.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrello nano
9.	<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	Pipistrello di Savi
10.	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Serotino
11.	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Orecchione
12.	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	Orecchione meridionale
13.	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Miniottero

2. Status and Trends

There is not enough information on trends for the Republic. Only the wintering community of a tunnel with around 4000 *Miniopterus* and other species is surveyed in the last 4 years and it is remarkable stable.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

The national atlas is collecting now data mainly for the cave dwelling species. On the Republic territory there are just some small woods and the traditional agriculture is declining, so the majority of the bat habitats are in peril due to the strong pressure by urban and industrial use.

Few roost are actually know, only hibernacula. The largest, Tunnel “Montalbo” near Borgomaggiore, was gated thanks to Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese. Olther roost are in natural cave, protected by a “natural heritage law”.

4. *Threats*

The main threats to bats in San Marino Republic come from loss of habitat and loss of roosting sites. There is a strong pressure to use all the old tunnels in the republic, to restore ancient buildings and churches and any space will be found for wild species. Also industries and urban areas are still asking for spaces, destroying the last agricultural lands. The national plan for wildlife and to establish protected areas is slowly on the way.

5. *Data Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination*

The Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese is the only official institution that is collecting information on bat presence and distribution. Thanks to this institution some explorations of the territory were done and a first account was produced.

C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement

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

Bats are on the way to be protected hoping to have soon the new law on animal protection. Also the republic is on the way to ratify other international legislations on trade and protection of wildlife. Also first contacts to prepare the way for the adhesion to the “Bat Agreement” were successfully done.

7. *Sites identified and protected which are important to bat conservation*

Some sites are listed in the national plan of protected areas but problem are related to buildings and forest roost as in other parts of European range. Just Tunnel Montalbo is protected mainly for the presence of bats.

8. *Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats*

Any consideration is actually devoted to these areas

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

The national “Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese” prepared a CD with information, images, video to distribute to schools and bat nights as well as conferences and didactical activity were carried out.

Literature on bats in S.Marino

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