

Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Røros, Norway, 12 – 14 May 2003

National Report – Republic of Slovenia

A. General Information

Non –Party Range state: *Republic of Slovenia*

Date of Report: **May 2003**

Period covered: **May 2002 – May 2003**

Competent Authority:

Ministrstvo za okolje, prostor in energijo (*Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy*),

Agencija Republike Slovenije za okolje (*Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia*)

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B. Status of Bats Within the Territory of the Party

4. Threats

The two main threats to bats in Slovenia are the loss of roosting sites due to improper restoration of cultural monuments and churches, and due to cave tourism.

5. Data Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

For the species within the Habitat directive the existent data was gathered and interpreted in an independent study. The areas will be assessed and confirmed in the course of this year.

C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement

The Republic of Slovenia is not Party to the Agreement yet. Therefore no implementation strategy is in force to meet the objectives of the Agreement. Nevertheless some activities in the field of bat research and protection within other strategies or international obligations (CBD, EU pre-accession obligations) take place. Some of the work is financed within the national schemes for support of NGOs and for sponsoring awareness raising activities.

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

All Chiroptera species occurring in Slovenia are protected by law. It is forbidden to disturb, capture or kill bats. Capture of bats for purposes of research or education is allowed as an exception upon a permit by the minister. Permits for research are issued on yearly basis.

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

Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation has proposed a list of sites, important to the conservation of the bats to add to the National list Natural Values. The act to enforce the whole set of Natural values hasn't been adopted yet. See also 12.

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

See 12.

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

The Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation organized the European Bat Night, issued an information leaflet about bats – Neighbours in need, organized lectures and a bat-social event.

12. Recent and ongoing programs (including research and policy initiatives) relating to the conservation and management of bats. In the case of research, summaries of completed projects should be provided, giving references where possible and acknowledging the sources of funding.

A study has been made recently that partly covers this task - the proposal for sites important for bat conservation has been prepared prepared to fulfill obligations of the Habitat directive. All existent data about all Chiroptera species have been acquired and organized in a database. Areas with lack of data have been identified and will be surveyed in the future. Changes in the proposal will be made in case new data provides arguments for that. A monitoring strategy was elaborated. Although the Habitat directive covers only a part of the species, effect often spreads to other species as they share the roosting sites.

C. Measures Taken to adopt the Agreement

The translation of the Agreement has been approved by a special committee. The text of the Agreement has been forwarded for comments to the respective ministries (Ministry of Culture, Ministry for Health, Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Food). After they approve it, it will be forwarded to the Parliament. The ratification can be expected in the fall 2003. The procedure is longer than expected because various key institutions are overflowed with the of National pre-accession obligations