



NatuRegio  
Nature Protection and Regional  
Development in South-East Europe

# Train the



Improvement of Regional  
Cooperation for the Protection  
of Bats in Strandja Nature Park

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Project budget:3038,- Euro  
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## 1. Short project abstract

The main goal of the project is an in depth investigation of the bat diversity in caves existing in Strandja Nature park. The area is known as a hot spot of bat diversity in Europe, but until now investigations on bat ecology, especially on roosting sites, and the composition of the bat communities for this area don't exist. Intention of the project is the establishment of new professional cooperation-contacts on the regional and international level between the Strandja Nature Park department and the University of Burgas, as well as with German experts.

Information on the proposing organisation and cooperation partners:

- Nature Park of Strandja department
- Bourgas university
- Nature conservation center "Noctalis" – Germany
- Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds



## 2. Background in the field of nature protection and other relevant scientific subjects

Reason/starting point for the project proposal and overall objectives.

The rich biodiversity of the region is not enough investigated sufficiently so far, as can be seen in the National Report of Eurobats. The main threats for bats in Bulgaria a summed up as follows ( [www.eurobats.org](http://www.eurobats.org)):

- Disturbance in the roosts due to human activities;
- Direct killing because of ignorance and prejudices;
- Destruction of the roosts;
- Destruction of the caves due to explosions related to quarry work and road constructions;
- Use of caves for tourism, storage, dairies, mushroom growing, etc.;
- Use of caves for drinking water supply (water catching) which is often accompanied by closing of the entrances;

Bad forest management; clear cutting of old forests and unique hollow trees;

- Disturbance of the feeding habitats;
- Drying of wetlands;
- Water pollution

The above mentioned source states, that the assessment of actual trends is very difficult, because of the lack of quantitative data from the past. For the moment data for the total population size of the different species living on the territory of Bulgaria are not available





## **Current situation, state of the art**

**21 bat species in the area, the total number in the country is estimated about 32.**

**Former expeditions, conducted in the years 1975, 1976 and 1985 showed, that there are about 67 caves existing on the park area.**

## **Description of the area and the relevance for nature protection**

**Nature Park Strandja - the largest protected area in Bulgaria 1160 km<sup>2</sup>.**

**The European protected area with the largest number of habitats 121.**

**5 strict reserves, 11 protected areas, 17 natural phenomena.**

**Total number of fish species is 41. 9 species of amphibians and 23 reptiles, the ornithofauna is faced with 265 species and the mammal species are 62 from which the species of bats are 21.**

## **Contribution of the proposed project to nature protection and regional development.**

**Date investigation of the bats population in the Strandja nature park and deliver actual data on species diversity and roosting sites.**

**The project will help to find the local dangers for the bats populations.**

**It will be first touch for students from Bulgaria and Germany.**

**Use of the collected data from the local forest managers on the territory of the Nature Park.**



The project will have strong international aspects, especially because Bulgarian and German specialists and students will cooperate on this topic for the first time in this region.

### 3. Project implementation

- actual investigations on the status of the bats population in the area of Strandja nature park .
- education of Bulgarian and German students in the work on field
- implementation of the data by the local forest managers
- Information for the local communities about the bats diversity, eventual dangers.



# Cost plan

Measures	Costs (€)			
	Personnel/Staff	Material	Travel	Total
1: Winter Expedition (18 days)	200,-€*1		846,- €	
2: Spring Expedition 1 (7 days)	400,-€*2 200,-€*1		567,-€	
3: Spring Expedition 2 (7 days)	200,-€*1		625,- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000,- €</b>		<b>2038,-€</b>	<b>3038,-€</b>

\*1: Consultant Liubomir Jeliaskov

\*2 Consultant Boian Petrov

Travel costs cover costs in Bulgaria only.



# Evaluation form for caves

<b>Object (name of the cave, nicknames):</b>				
<b>Members of the expedition:</b>				
<b>Character of the trail/relief, details:.</b>				
<b>Description :</b>				
<b>Long</b>	<b>Displacement</b>	<b>Bulgarian Speleo Number БФСП</b>	<b>Temperature</b>	
<b>Bats: what kind of enter?</b>				
<b>Human activates:</b>				
<b>Date:</b>			<b>Hour: from</b>	
<b>Last visitations:</b>			<b>to</b>	
<b>GPS coordinates:</b>			<b>Over sea level (m):</b>	
<b>Register of species</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Regis rated by: (looking, marked, dead body)</b>	<b>Close Status</b> C- common R- rare V - very rare P - presented	<b>Habitat</b>
<b>Note:</b>				