

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	15/033
Project Title	Monitoring bat biodiversity: indicators of sustainable development in Eastern Europe
Country(ies)	Romania, Bulgaria
UK Organisation	Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London
Collaborator(s)	The Bat Conservation Trust, The Romanian Bat Protection Association, The Green Balkans, The Nature Park Roussenski Lom, The Institute of Zoology Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, The Bulgarian Bat Research and Protection Group.
Project Leader	Dr. Kate E. Jones
Report date	31 st October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR2
Project website	http://www.ibats.org.uk

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

Target: *March 2007 – 2nd workshop run by Romanian personnel offering training to survey volunteers. Development of training material and monitoring protocols.*

We moved the Romanian workshop from March to May 2007 because it made more logistical sense to run the Romanian and Bulgarian workshops consecutively. The Romanian workshop was held in Cefa, Romania for 4 days jointly run with the Romanian personnel with 14 participants. The first day provided feedback to the existing volunteers from the activities and results from last year with additional advanced training. The other 3 days were spent training 7 new volunteers. All training material and monitoring protocols were written and uploaded to the project website and translation into both Romanian and Hungarian is ongoing. 2 additional sets of monitoring equipment were bought for the Romanian project, in addition to replacement parts and other consumables.

Target: *May 2007 – 3rd workshop to train key Bulgarian personnel in survey techniques and volunteer management methods. Bulgarian monitoring protocols designed and equipment procured.*

The Bulgarian 3 day workshop was held in Tabachka, Ruse, Bulgaria with 21 participants, providing training in survey techniques and volunteer management. Training materials and protocols were all translated into Bulgarian before the workshop and we had simultaneous translation at the workshop. The Bulgarian team designed their own monitoring protocols with advice from the UK personnel. 7 sets of monitoring equipment plus support materials were bought and donated to the Bulgarian project. The Bulgarian team organised a press launch in Ruse a day before the workshop to publicize the event which got wide national coverage.

Target: *September 2007 – 2nd year Romanian survey data collected by network of Romanian volunteers and 1st year pilot data collected by Bulgarian key personnel. Data uploaded to online database and design and development of the online database and website finalised. Production of database design and analysis manuals.*

So far the volunteers in both projects have collected data from 145 transects across Romania and Bulgaria from 2006-2007 (see Fig 1). This year, 51 transects were done in Romania (compared to 20 from last year), driving 1571 km. A total of 12 of routes have been surveyed more than once and the results from these can be used to monitor population trends over time. The other 40 routes will provide distribution and habitat use information. 74 volunteers have registered with the project and 58 have

actually taken part in a survey (see Table 1). The Bulgarian team have done 74 transects of 46 different routes in their first year (driving 2544 km), producing data for 27 monitoring transects. 50 volunteers have registered with the project with 35 actually taking part in a survey (Table 1). All project data has been uploaded onto the **iBats** online data portal and the design and development of the online database and website is also complete. The website now allows uploading and reporting of data and downloading of the recorded sonograms. All protocols have been completed and are online.

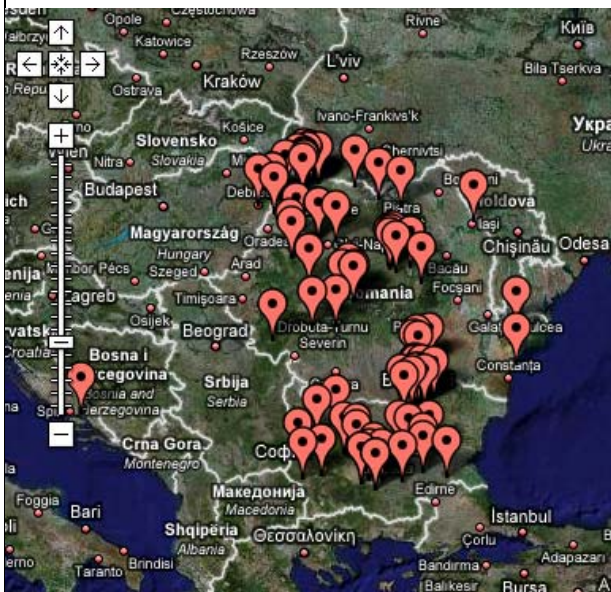


Fig. 1. Map of the car transect routes surveyed from 2006 – 2007 in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Croatia downloaded from the **iBats** online data portal – 27/10/2007.

Project	Events	Routes	Monitoring Routes	All Volunteers	Survey Volunteers	Km Driven
iBatsRomania	71	52	12	74	58	2139.15
iBatsBulgaria	74	46	27	50	35	2544.11
iBatsHungary	8	6	2	17	12	148.27
iBatsCroatia	1	1	0	5	3	31.65

Table 1. Project summaries downloaded from the **iBats** online data portal – 27/10/2007.

Other progress:

The Romanian team also wanted to expand into neighbouring Hungary, and they have collected data for 8 transects from 6 different routes, producing data for 2 monitoring transects. The Romanian team have recruited 17 Hungarian volunteers, 12 of which have participated in a car survey (Table 1). The Romanian team also did a pilot transect in Croatia in September (Fig.1).

Another pilot projects has been carried out in Mexico this year with a view to writing a project proposal to set up monitoring around Mexico City. Additional funding was raised from ZSL’s EDGE program to fund a workshop and equipment in Thailand next year (£3,000) and we received a Darwin Scoping award to trial the technique in Mongolia (£3,000). Kate Jones received £1,000 from The Royal Society to present the project at 14th International Bat Research Conference in Merida, Mexico in August 2007 and the research was also presented at The Bat Conservation Trust’s Annual Conference in York in September. The project also received additional funding from The Rufford Foundation (£1,300) to investigate the project’s statistical power to detect population trends, and from ZSL’s development fund (£1000) to experiment with improvements to the equipment and software. ZSL issued a press release about the project in June which received local and national UK coverage.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

None	
Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? N/A	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**