

BAT PROTECTION IN SIBIU COUNTY, ROMANIA

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Sibiu-Romanian Bat Protection Association is a volunteer-based organization which has worked for the past five years on bat research and public awareness campaigns on bat protection, mostly in Sibiu County. Research has been focused on finding new species, identifying species composition, distribution and relative abundance of bats in the area of interest. We are conducting studies on suitable anthropogenic roosts for bats, human behaviour and patterns with a negative impact on bats. Methods used comprises mist netting, observation, using heterodyne bat detector and also time expansion ultrasonic detectors to capture bat echolocation calls along car transects.

Due to the limited knowledge of the general public and negative myths regarding bats and their role in nature, our organization focused on raising public awareness with a series of campaigns, public events and school presentations. Public knowledge about bats was measured in the last three years with a questionnaire survey showing that 80% of respondents from a total of 400 have minimum information or a negative perception about bats. Applying the same questionnaire after a bat presentation, 90 % of respondents showed improvement regarding perception and general knowledge about bats.