

## Project Update: April 2014

Wild animals, specifically bats, are dependent on physical characteristics of the landscape to provide their homes. Survey for bat roosts is required where bats are known to be present or where their presence is suspected due to habitat suitability. The objective of this survey was to aid in conservation efforts for the species by identifying more areas where it occurs.

This report presents the findings of the bat habitat survey undertaken in March 2014. All caves were surveyed and the GPS location of each cave was taken (see table below). Target notes were made on the main habitat types. Target notes were also made where any evidence of bat species was noted. Photographs taken during the survey are shown in Appendix1.

A total of 13 caves were visited and subjected to external inspection. During the external survey most of the caves were considered to have potential to support roosting bats (presence of bats or evidence of use by bats.).

**Table1.**

<b>Cave</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>	<b>Habitats present</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Picture</b>
<b>Cave 1</b>	Elevation: 1885m S01.50526° E029.61375°	-Vegetation dominated by eucalyptus trees. - There are not many people around the cave but there are two churches(Adventist and methodic union church)	This is the first cave when coming down from the protected caves.	
<b>Cave 2</b>	Elevation: 1873m S01.50582° E029.61463°	-Vegetation dominated by eucalyptus trees and some few grevillia trees - Population made of some few distant houses.	No bats seen at time of survey.	

<b>Cave 3</b>	Elevation: 1867m S01.50720° E029.61489°	-Vegetation dominated by eucalyptus trees.		
<b>Cave 4</b>	Elevation: 1859m S01.50811° E029.61499°	-Habitats include natural grassland and eucalyptus	This is a small opening.	
<b>Cave 5</b>	Elevation: 1849m S01.50849° E029.61509°	-Dense scrub with <i>Ficus toningii</i> trees. -Located near a dense population(SUSA Village)	This cave hosts a number of bats and there are bees in the cave.	
<b>Cave 6</b>	Elevation: 1841m S01.50940° E029.61621°	Grassland and scrub habitats surrounded by agricultural gardens. - A dense population around.		
<b>Cave 7</b>	Elevation: 1840m S01.51049° E029.61692°	-Grassland and scrub habitats surrounded by agricultural gardens. - A dense human population around.	A lot of noise heard (chittering and moving over the cave felt). Fresh and old droppings seen.	

<p><b>Cave 8</b></p>	<p>Elevation: 1840m S01.51127° E029.61733°</p>	<p>-Grassland and scrub habitats surrounded by agricultural gardens. - A dense human population around.</p>	<p>This cave also contains a big number of bats colonies. A dead bat seen and a lot of noise heard in the cave.</p>	
<p><b>Cave 9</b></p>	<p>Elevation: 1821m S01.51291° E029.61888°</p>	<p>Grassland and eucalyptus trees</p>		
<p><b>Cave 10</b></p>	<p>Elevation: 1813m S01.51499° E029.62097°</p>	<p>Grassland and eucalyptus trees</p>		
<p><b>Cave 11</b></p>	<p>Elevation: 1815m S01.51561° E029.62103°</p>	<p>-Grassland and scrub habitats surrounded by agricultural gardens. - A dense human population around.</p>	<p>This cave though it hosts bats, is used as the waste bin by human population around.</p>	
<p><b>Cave 12</b></p>	<p>Elevation: 1811m S01.51586° E029.62145°</p>	<p>-Grassland and scrub habitats surrounded by agricultural gardens. -A dense human population around.</p>		

<b>Cave 13</b>	Elevation: 1807m S01.51692° E029.62171°	-Grassland and Dense scrub habitats surrounded by agricultural gardens. - A dense human population around.	There is a water source in this cave.	
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**Appendix1. Photographs**



**Photograph1.** Bat droppings in cave 8.



**Photograph2.** A dead bat in cave 7



**Photograph3.** Some caves are used as waste bin by people around, here is cave 11.



**Photograph4.** This is SUSA health center.