

Project Update: May 2009

All the activities and tasks for the 1st half of the project period were fulfilled according to the plan.

Information about new and known bat hibernacula was collected. Data was gathered mainly from fieldwork, the literature and results of the first RSG. Six new bat winter shelters were discovered and inspected.

Bat counts were carried out in both known as well as new discovered shelters. All the obtained information was analyzed for the Ukrainian Carpathians area. Two new wintering places of the Lesser Horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* were found, with about 60 individuals (approximately 5% of this known species' population in the Ukrainian Carpathians). The scientific basis for including these underground areas to the neighboring National Park is under preparation.

The booklet about bats in the Ukrainian Carpathians and its role in the ecosystems is published (see Attachment). General introduction to bats and explanation regarding their dependency on buildings, trees and caves, some forest habitats and line structures, as well as some simple advice about colony management are given. Booklets will be sent to the RSG Foundation with the final project report.

The publication of the calendar was planned at the beginning of this year. Unfortunately, problems with publication caused by economical crisis in Ukraine prevent us to complete it. It was decided that publication of the calendar (for the year of 2010) should be moved to the second half of the year.

A technical manual, providing information about bat shelters and habitat management and monitoring is under preparation and will be published during the first half of the summer.

Although training of Nature protection area staff (including foresters) was planned for the second half of the project year, we carried out one training workshop for staff of the Uzhanskyi National Park at the beginning of May.

