



## Quirópteros Extremadura - Conservation of threatened chiropters of Extremadura

LIFE04 NAT/ES/000043



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### Project description:

#### Background

Spain's Extremadura region hosts an important diversity of bat populations including Europe's largest known breeding colonies of *Rinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rinolophus mehelyi* and *Myotis emarginatus* species. Based on the abundance of these and other chiropters, 23 pSCIs have been designated in Extremadura, all of which were target sites for the project.

#### Objectives

The project's main aim focused on strengthening the conservation status of priority bat populations in Extremadura's Natura 2000 network. Core goals included improving knowledge on the region's bat species, via monitoring programmes and habitat analysis, in order to inform new plans for supporting long term recovery and management of endangered chiropters.

#### Results

The beneficiary successfully carried out Extremadura's first comprehensive census of bats. This revealed that the region's bat populations were larger than originally anticipated and also had a wider range than expected. Useful

information was gained, and integrated within a GIS, about conservation factors such as water availability, human disturbance, pesticide presence and security at refuges. Other important biological baseline information was also collected and the combination of new knowledge proved crucial for establishing appropriate conservation strategies within species' recovery plans, which were approved for *Rhinolophus mehelyi*, *Rhinolophus euryale* and *Myotis beschteinii*.

Tangible bat conservation actions were also carried out to address urgent threats. These included: using bat-sensitive fencing at the entrances of refuges to prevent habitat disturbance by humans or other species; installing nest boxes; improving the suitability of abandoned mines for bat colonisation; providing water points; and constructing alternative refuges for bat colonies located in the Yuste Monastery. The latter required a considerable amount of stakeholder participation and the approach applied offers beneficial demonstration value for similar circumstances seeking to balance the needs of species conservation with human settlements.

Sustainability of the project's outcomes has been assisted by LIFE's investment in the region's monitoring capacities for bat species. These skills and methodologies are being integrated into the beneficiary's conservation mandate, and the good practice conservation guidelines produced by the project are also helping regional stakeholders mainstream chiropteran management considerations in their activities.

Other important legacies include the establishment of a new national working group for chiropterans, which was created during the project's final seminar, and public awareness about bat conservation requirements has been raised throughout the region.

Further information on the project can be found in the project's layman report and After-LIFE Conservation Plan (see "Read more" section).

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Environmental issues addressed:

Themes

Species - Mammals

Keywords

endangered species, nature conservation, protected area

Target species

Barbastella barbastellus Myotis blythii Myotis emarginatus Myotis myotis  
Nyctalus lasiopterus Rhinolophus euryale Rhinolophus ferrumequinum  
Rhinolophus hipposideros Rhinolophus mehelyi

## Natura 2000 sites

SCIES0000070 SIERRA DE SAN PEDRO  
SCIES4310049 CUEVA DEL VALLE DE SANTA ANA  
SCIES4310055 REFUGIO DE SIERRA PASCUALA  
SCIES4310060 CORREDORES DE SIRUELA  
SCIES4310066 SIERRA DE MARIA ANDRES  
SCIES4320002 Cedillo y Río Tajo Internacional  
SCIES4320011 LAS HURDES  
SCIES4320013 GRANADILLA  
SCIES4320037 SIERRA DE GATA  
SCIES4320038 SIERRA DE GREDOS Y VALLE DEL JERTE  
SCIES4320039 SIERRA DE LAS VILLUERCAS Y VALLE DEL GUADARRANQUE  
SCIES4320051 MINA DE LA AURORA  
SCIES4320052 MINA DE LA RIVERA DE ACEBO  
SCIES4320057 REFUGIO DEL ALTO DE SAN BLAS

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### Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	Consejería de Industria, Energía y Medio Ambiente
Type of organisation	Regional authority
Description	Regional government authority with nature conservation mandate.
Partners	None

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### Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE04 NAT/ES/000043
Duration	01-JAN-2005 to 31-DEC -2008
Total budget	1,315,893.00 €
EU contribution	657,946.00 €
Project location	Extremadura(España)

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Read more:

Leaflet	Title: Tríptico "Los murciélagos urbanos" (1.7 MB) No of pages: 2
Project web site	<a href="#">Project's website (ES)</a>
Publication: After-LIFE Conservation Plan	Title: After-LIFE Conservation Plan (ES) Year: 2008 No of pages: 4
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Manual para la Conservación de los Murciélagos en Extremadura" (23 MB) Author: J. A. Díaz, J. Pérez Year: 2009 Editor: Junta de Extremadura-Consejería de Medio Ambiente No of pages: 94
Publication: Layman report	Title: Layman report (ES) Year: 2008 No of pages: 17
Publication: Layman report	Title: Layman report (EN) Year: 2008 No of pages: 15

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