

THE START OF THE BAT MONITORING SCHEME IN SLOVENIA

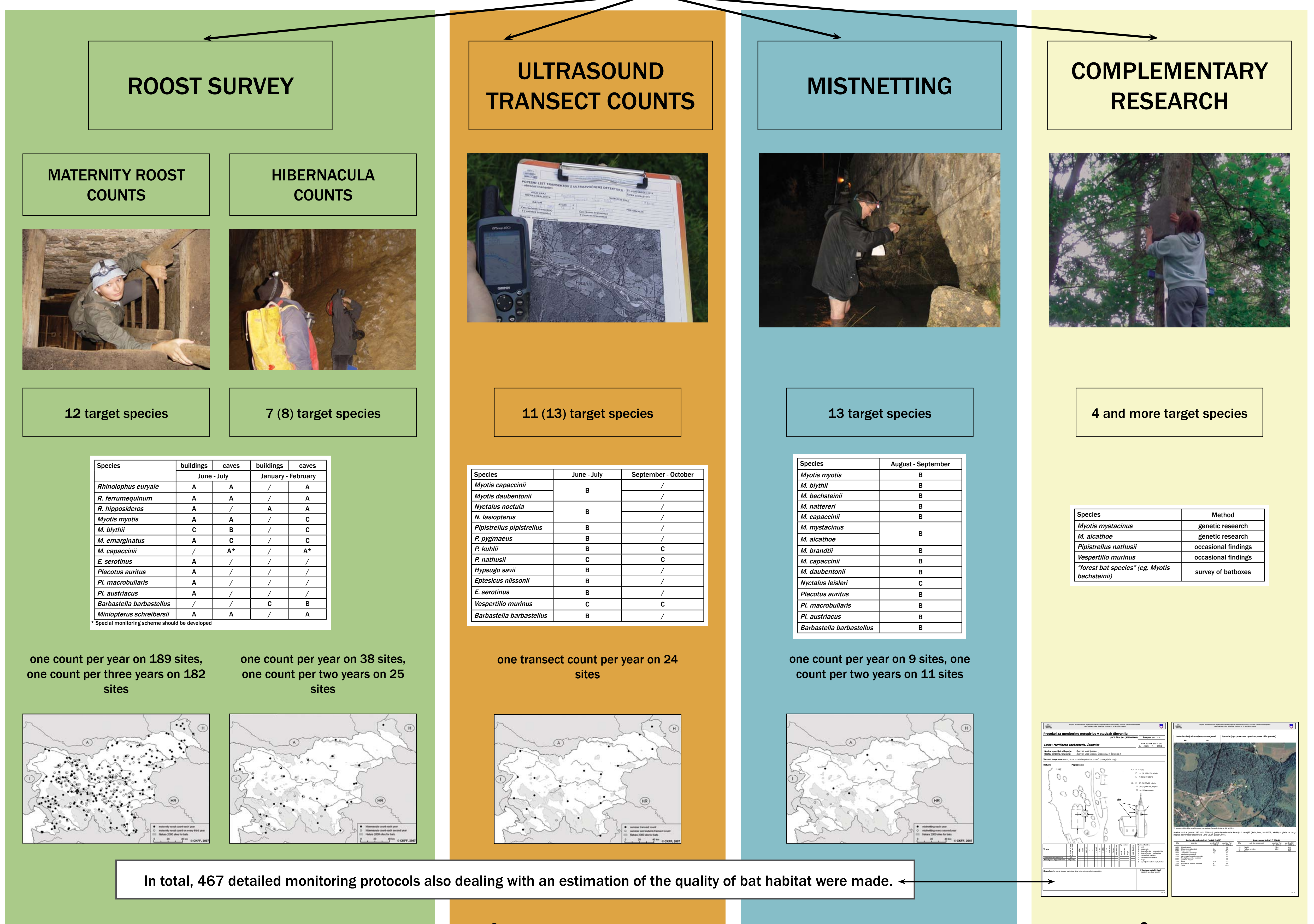
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The Bonn Convention and the EU Habitats Directive require that each member state undertake surveys of the conservation status of natural habitats and species. To address this issue the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia ordered a study with the aim of establishing a monitoring scheme for all bats species in Slovenia. Between 2006 and 2007 comprehensive fieldwork was carried out to assess in the field the best methods for monitoring specific bat species.

The results were complemented with the results of the project Conservation of Amphibians and Bats in the Alps-Adriatic Region INTERREG IIIA Slovenia-Austria 2000-2006. Over 70 people surveyed 1150 potential roosts. In 220 hibernacula 12, and in 930 summer roosts 13, bat species were recorded. Approximately 50 mistnettings (21 bat species recorded) and 54 transect counts (15 bat species recorded) were carried out. Altogether, 27 out of the 28 bat species currently recorded for Slovenia were found.

BASED ON FIELD DATA WE HAVE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING BAT MONITORING SCHEME FOR SLOVENIA
(A – method for estimation absolute numbers of animals, B – method for estimation relative numbers, C – method which might occasionally detect species).



PROPOSED SLOVENIAN BAT MONITORING SCHEME WAS ACCEPTED AND MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA ORDERED CONTINUATION OF BAT MONITORING ACTIVITIES FOR YEARS 2008 AND 2009.

PROBLEMS: A lack of suitable data prevented an estimation of population size at the start of the monitoring for the majority of proposed sites and consequently for the whole scheme for particular species. An additional problem is that some areas of Slovenia still lack the data needed to propose an adequate grid of monitoring sites covering particular species distribution. Therefore, intensive continuous monitoring of proposed sites and additional bat surveys are necessary.

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