

Winner case study of the CEEweb Award  
in the *Green Infrastructure and restoration, and their tangible benefits* category

## Protection of birds and bats in buildings

**BROZ**

### Brief description of the case



This is a first complex project focusing on protection of birds and bats and their sites in buildings implemented in Slovakia. It includes both implementation of innovative protection measures such as installation of special multi-boxes and communication and cooperation with stakeholders. It represents a new approach in species conservation in urban areas in CEE region. Effectiveness of applied measures reaches beyond the country since Common Swift is a

migratory species wintering in Africa and both birds and bats are species of the European importance. Through monitoring of birds and building activities in cities public is actively involved as well. Presence of birds and bats prevent mass occurrence of tiresome insects and costs on application of chemical spraying are decreasing consequently. The project provides a platform to synchronize energy policy and biodiversity conservation policy and offers socio-economic solutions acceptable for all involved. It emphasise cooperation between different sectors (Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Development) and stakeholders (state authorities, constructing companies, nature conservationists), including public.

### Detailed description

**Type of case:** Strategic cooperation

**Location:** Slovakia

**Duration:** 01/01/2012 - 12/31/2015

**Project number:** LIFE10 NAT/SK/079 Apus & Nyctalus in Slovakia

**Involved organizations (both business and green NGOs):**

Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia	NGO	Slovakia
Slovak Bat Conservation Society	NGO	Slovakia

## **Activities carried out in the framework of the cooperation including concrete tools used:**

The main actions:

- Monitoring of occurrence of swifts and bats in buildings in 270 cities. More than 16000 buildings have been checked and 4800+ nesting sites of swifts and 1500 roosting sites of bats recorded.
- Implementation of conservation measures and installation of boxes. Conservation measures applied on 800+ sites. Based on the intervention of the project's staff 1500+ swift and 700+ bat boxes installed.
- 2400+ meetings with stakeholder, 12 workshops, 270+ lectures, excursions and 1 international conference.
- Dissemination of leaflets, web site, guidelines, installation of exhibition panels, 110+ media outputs (TV, radio, press).
- Presentations at workshops, conferences and meeting in Slovakia and abroad (Berlin, Cambridge, Brussels, Budapest).

## **Results:**

Short-term: Through the project a network of experts has been created. The experts are meeting with stakeholders on a daily bases (2440+ meetings). Conservation measures were applied on 7000+ sites. If possible existing nesting sites are preserved - 8000+ over the last 2 years. In other cases special boxes for swifts and bats are installed. In total 1500+ swift boxes and 700+ bat boxes were installed on buildings, chimneys etc., 2500+ nesting sites were created. Intensive media campaign, lectures and excursions for public and dissemination activities (via printed materials, web site, social network tools) public awareness has been increased. Public's interest has increased and people are taking care of preservation of green areas and species in their cities. Stakeholders are more open for cooperation.



Long-term: It is foreseen that population of swifts and bats in buildings in Slovakia will be stabilized or even increased in the future. Costs on elimination of insects in urban areas will decrease. It is an important economic aspect of the actions since there are regular insects' infestations especially in cities along rivers over the last 5 years. Stakeholders and state authorities are educated in implementation of respective legislation and conservation measures. Biodiversity protection in cities is controlled by public and is included in relevant statements, programs, strategies and regulations. Birds such as swifts, swallows and House Martin belong to cities and are symbols of spring and summer. Watching them flying around houses and listening to their calls improve a good mood of people.

## **Benefits and motivation of partners (businesses, green NGOs):**

Ecological

- Stable populations of birds and bats of the European importance in SK
- Protection of migratory species
- 8000+ existing nesting and roosting sites preserved
- 1500+ swift boxes, 700+ bat boxes installed

- 2500+ new nesting sites

#### Social

- Educated decision makers and stakeholders
- Elimination of conflicts between investors, conservationists and public
- Appropriate implementation of legislation
- Fulfilling requirements of energy saving policy along with those on biodiversity and BD/HD implementation

#### Economic

- Saving costs on elimination of insects in cities. (To eliminate mass occurrence of insects almost 100 000 EUR was spent only in Bratislava in 2013)
- Project created 12+ jobs (consultants, managers, field assistants, etc.) during its 4-years implementation period

#### **Situation before the project**

Policy of energy saving measures leads to an intensive thermal insulation and reconstruction of buildings in SK. It results in 50-60% drop of population of Common Swift over the last 20 years. Birds and bats are trapped and dying under insulation. Their nesting and roosting sites are completely destroyed and no new sites are created. There are many conflicts between investors who wants to finish construction works as fast as possible and environmentalists who aim to protect birds during nesting season and bats during hibernation. Public wants to protect species but does not know how and when. State authorities and decision makers are not sufficiently trained to identify effective measures and do not have legal power to enforce full implementation of existing legislation.

#### **More information and attachments:**

<http://www.broz.sk>

- <https://www.dazdovniky.vtaky.sk>
- <https://www.facebook.com/navratdazdovnikov>
- [D.4-2013-06-23-Durcina\\_5.JPG](#)
- [D.3-2013-08-03-Cervený-Kláštor\\_2.JPG](#)
- [D.3-2013-08-03-Cervený-Kláštor\\_1.JPG](#)
- [D.2-2013-09-06-meeting-with-stakeholders.JPG](#)
- [Noctula-bats-in-boxes.jpg](#)
- [Nesting-wall-in-Revuca.jpg](#)
- [A.3-2013-10-25-Kosice\\_1.JPG](#)
- [C.2-Swift-boxes-Karlova-Ves\\_1.JPG](#)
- [C.1-swift-boxes\\_3.JPG](#)
- [A.4-Noctule-bats-under-attic\\_1.JPG](#)
- [Common-Swift-juvenile.jpg](#)