

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE  
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD  
ANIMALS**

**A. PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of the African population of the Large-eared free-tailed bat *Otomops martiensseni* on Appendix II.

**B. PROPONENT:** The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>1</sup>.

**C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT:**

**1. Taxon**

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>1.1. Class:</b>                    | Mammalia  |
| <b>1.2. Order:</b>                    | Chiroptera  |
| <b>1.3. Family:</b>                   | Molossidae  |
| <b>1.4. Type/species/sub-species:</b> | <i>Otomops martiensseni</i> (Matschie, 1897)  |
| <b>1.5. Common names:</b>             | English: Large-eared free-tailed bat, giant mastiff bat<br>French: Grand molosse à grandes oreilles<br>Spanish: |

**2. Biological data**

**2.1. Distribution**

The species is present in Africa (Gunther, 2003). In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Thomas (1915), cited by Frechkop (1938), has indicated the presence of this species in Poko in the Eastern Province, in Virunga National Park and in bordering countries. Verschuren (1957) has also identified it in the National Park of Garamba in the Eastern Province.

Future and detailed bibliographical research on work carried out and published on the species should allow us to complete the information regarding its geographical range.

**2.2. Population**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Verschuren (1957) has systematically studied the bats in the National Park of Garamba where the *Otomops martiensseni* is found. The species lives in large, homogenous colonies in forest galleries and savannahs. It shelters in the cracks and cavities of trees. It is classified as a solitary phytophile species (Verschuren, 1957).

There are doubts whether this species is part of any heterogeneous groups.

**2.3. Habitat**

It is a forest and savannah species. The cracks and cavities of the trees are its microbiotope.

**2.4. Migration**

Since the bibliography consulted is relatively limited, it would be good to continue researching for information required in order to complete this work. At present, the species would appear to be sedentary. It has been observed that the Molossidae's zone of activity can essentially be different

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<sup>1</sup> Proposals for the inclusion of *O. martiensseni* on Appendix II were individually submitted by the governments of Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Having been contacted by the Secretariat, these governments have agreed to consider the proposal as having been submitted jointly. The original submissions are sent to the other Parties as separate documents.

from the daytime shelter macrobiotope of very sedentary species (Verschuren, 1957). Therefore, one can say that migrations take place during specific periods.

### 3. Threats data

#### 3.1. Direct threats

Here the main problems lie in the population's anarchic occupation of the territory for their vital needs. Tourism, hunting (poaching), mining, forestry and farming will all present threats to the species if the required measures are not taken.

#### 3.2. Habitat destruction

The above mentioned human activities are factors in the destruction of the species' habitat and their impact on the population must be avoided through careful handling of the environment.

#### 3.3. Indirect threats

All secondary interaction related to sporadic, unfortunate events may have negative effects on this species' populations.

#### 3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

During the migrations, the specimens run the risk of being killed by predators, man or even by natural disasters.

#### 3.5. National and international use

The species are eaten in certain parts of the country. Internationally, they may be used for scientific, education or tourist research purposes, etc.

### 4. Protection status and needs

#### 4.1. National protection status

The law relating to nature conservation ensures that the fauna and flora in protected areas is protected, outside these areas the bats have no special protection and are therefore endangered.

#### 4.2. International protection status

The relatively limited bibliography consulted does not allow us to say if the species is protected by legal provisions for its conservation.

#### 4.3. Additional protection needs

Equipment will be required in order to count the population, find out about its distribution, identify its threats, draw up a map of the range of the species and design a plan to administer and implement it. Technical and scientific work on bats and other species of fauna shall be required within the framework of these activities. Agents must also be trained for this to be implemented.

### 5. Range states

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO and its neighbouring countries.

### 6. Comments on the range states

The information must be completed.

**7. Other observations**

One must implement a certain number of mechanisms in order to facilitate the finalising of the initiatives and their implementation (study trips, the availability of documentation and improved exchanges).

**8. References**

- GUNTHER, P., 2003. Mammifères du monde. Inventaire des noms scientifiques français et anglais. Edition cadé. Pari, 378 pp.
- FRECHKOP, S., 1938. Mammifères. Exploration du Parc National albert. Institut des Parcs Nationaux du Congo Belge. Bruxelles, 103 pp.
- VERSCHUREN, J., 1957. Chéiroptères. Exploration du Parc National de la Garamba. Institut des Parcs Nationaux du con go Belge, 173 pp.

