

## **Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats**

### **National Implementation Report of Belarus**

**2014 / MoP 7**

#### **A. General Information**

**Non-Party Range:** The Republic of Belarus

**Date of Report:** June 2014

**Period covered:** June 2008-June 2014

**Competent authority:**

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus:

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## **B. Status of Bats Within the Territory of the Non-party Range States**

### **1. Summary details of resident species**

19 species of bats have been registered and confirmed for the territory of Belarus (Table 1), including one new species (*Pipistrellus kuhlii*) which has been noted for the first time (Dziamianchyk, 2013). The last registration of *Nyctalus lasiopterus* took place in 1930.

### **2. Status and trends**

**Table 1.** Distribution and abundance of bats' species in Belarus

<b>Species</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Estimated trend</b>
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Restricted	Last registration in 1970	-
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	Widespread	Rare	Stable
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Widespread	Common	Stable
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Restricted	Rare	Stable
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Widespread	Rare	Stable/?
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	Restricted	Rare	Stable/?
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Widespread	Common	Stable
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	Restricted	Rare	Stable/?
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Restricted	Rare	Stable/?
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Widespread	Common	Stable
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Widespread	Rare	Stable/?
<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	Restricted	Last registration in 1930	-
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Widespread	Common	Stable
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Restricted/?	?	?
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Widespread	Common	Stable
<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	Restricted	?	?
<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i>	Widespread	Common	Increasing/?
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Widespread	Common	Stable
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	Widespread	Frequent	Increasing/?

\* Distribution: widespread - records of a species cover all the territory of Belarus or its biggest part; restricted - a species was registered at the less part of Belarus or in few localities.

### 3. Habitats and Roost Sites

**Table 2.** Use the different roost sites by bats in Belarus

<b>Species</b>	<b>Underground site</b>	<b>Building site</b>	<b>Tree site</b>
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	-	S	-
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	W	S, M	S, M
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	W, S	S, M	S, M
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	W	S, M	S, M
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	-	W, S, M	S, M
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	-	-	S
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	W	W, S, M	S, M
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	W	W, S	-
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	W	W, S, M	-
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	W	W, S, M	S, M
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	-	-	S, M
<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	-	-	-
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	-	S, M	S, M
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	-	S?, M?	S?, M?
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	-	S, M	S, M
<i>Pipistrellus kuhli</i>	-	W	-
<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i>	-	W, S, M	-
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	W	W, S, M	-
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	-	W, S, M	S, M

\* Underground site - cellars, wells, fortifications etc.; building (over) site - attics, hollow walls etc.; tree site - hollow trees, cavities under bark etc.

\*\* W - winter records, S - summer records, M - maternity colonies or single breeding females.

#### **4. Threats**

The main threats for bats in Belarus are: loss of roosts and forage habitats due to the economic development of the territory (forestry, buildings' construction and reconstruction); disturbance and exclusion from roosts; negative attitude to bats from human.

#### **5. Data Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination**

Data is collected by:

- State Scientific and Production Amalgamation «Scientific and Practical Center for Bioresources» of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
- Non-government organization “APB-Birdlife Belarus” (Bat working group “Barbastella”);
- Belarusian State University, Faculty of Biology;
- Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, Faculty of Biology and Ecology;
- State Scientific and Production Amalgamation “Scientific Practical Center for Bioresources of National Academy of Sciences”;
- “Čyrvony Bor” Reserve.

This network covers almost the entire territory of Belarus.

### **C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement**

#### **6. Legal measures taken to protect bats, including enforcement action**

The Republic of Belarus is a Non-party of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats but is a Party of the Convention on Protection of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

All bat species are protected by these international agreements as well as by national legislative acts.

All bat species are protected by the Law on Fauna and 6 species are included in the Red Data Book of Republic of Belarus and protected by the Law on Environmental Protection. In 2014 two bat species were also proposed for including in the Red Data Book –*Myotis mystacinus* and *Plecotus austriacus*.

The deliberate capture, keeping or killing of bats are illegal activities and punished by fines, with the exception of capture for scientific purposes.

#### **7. Sites identified and protected which are important to the conservation of bats**

There is “Barbastella” specialized reserve on the territory of Brest fortress. 7 species of bats hibernate in this reserve annually, and most of them (about 2000 specimens) is *Barbastella barbastellus*.

#### **8. Consideration given to habitats which are important for bats**

«Rules for protection of wild animals, ranged to species, included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, and for their habitat locations» include rules for

protection the bats. There is prohibited to use chemical fertilizers in the roosts of maternity colonies and hibernation sites in period from 1 October to 1 May. Disturbance of bats, including visits of people and violation the temperature regime is also forbidden.

### **9. Activities to promote the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats**

During the past period the following activities were carried out:

- Organization of bat-events (public lectures, interviews and articles in mass-media) devoted to Year of the Bat (2012) and International Bat Nights;
- International Workshops “Bats in Belarus: research and protection” and detector workshop “Bats in Belarus – intensification of the researching”, supported by Habitat Foundation, EUROBATS, Ministry of Natural Resources and National Academy of Sciences, were carried out in 2012;
- International Bat Nights are annually held in the different cities of Belarus;
- web-page on Belarusian bats (in Russian) on the APB-Birdlife website which includes FAQ, e-mail and phone opened question line (<http://www.ptushki.org/about/clubsandgroups/bat2012/index.html>) was created;
- bat-groups on Facebook([https://www.facebook.com/Kazhany.by?ref\\_type=bookmark](https://www.facebook.com/Kazhany.by?ref_type=bookmark)) and V Kontakte ([https://vk.com/kazhany\\_by](https://vk.com/kazhany_by)) social networks is created and supported;
- Translation and adaptation of the EUROBATS “Bats and Forestry” leaflet and “Vleermuizen, BomenenBos” brochure were finished– to be published. The web-version of leaflet is already available on the Ministry of Natural Resources of Belarus web-site: [http://www.minpriroda.gov.by/dfiles/000683\\_320324\\_bukletmishi.pdf](http://www.minpriroda.gov.by/dfiles/000683_320324_bukletmishi.pdf)
- Organisation of Belarusian-Moldovan Bat Festival (23.08.2014), supported by REC.

### **10. Responsible bodies, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Agreement, nominated for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management.**

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### **11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats**

The phone and e-mail consultations of organization and local people are held regularly.

### **12. Recent and ongoing programmes (including research and policy initiatives) relating to the conservation and management of bats. In the case of research, summaries of completed projects should be provided, giving references where possible and acknowledging the sources of funding.**

Unfortunately, there is no any state funded programme or initiative concerning conservation and management of bats.

### **13. Consideration being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats, and their food sources and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats**

No consideration has been given.

## **D. Functioning of the Agreement**

### **14. Cooperation with other Range States**

- Organization of International Workshop “Bats in Belarus: research and protection” and detector workshop “Bats in Belarus – intensification of the researching”, supported by Habitat Foundation, was the result of Belarusian-Ukrainian-Netherlands cooperation;
- Translation and adaptation of the EUROBATS “Bats and Forestry” leaflet and “Vleermuizen, BomenenBos” brochure supported by EUROBATS and Habitat Foundation were realized under cooperation with Netherlands;
- Ongoing project “Wide awareness raising campaigns and International Bat Night fests - high impact initiatives for protection of endangered bat populations”, supported by REC, is held in cooperation with Moldova.