

LUXEMBOURG
National Report on the Implementation on the
‘European Bat Agreement’

A. General information:

Name of the Party: Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

Date of Report: 21st June 2000

Period Covered: August 1998- May 2000

Competent Authority:

Administration des Eaux et Forêts
 Service Conservation de la Nature
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N.B.: new address and telephone numbers.

B. Status of bats within the territory of the Party:

B. 1. Summary details of resident species:

Currently 19 bat species have been recorded for Luxembourg.

| | <u>Family Rhinolophidae</u> | IUCN | <u>Population</u> |
|----|--|-----------------|--|
| | Rhinolophus | Red List | |
| 1. | <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> (SCHREBER, 1774) | LR:cd | Population ca. 250-280 ind, 1 breeding colony known; Cat.: 1: Threatened by extinction |
| 2. | <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (BECHSTEIN, 1800) | VU:A2c | Only a few individuals left, no reproduction since 1974; Cat.: 1: Threatened by extinction |
| | | | |
| | <u>Family Vespertilionidae</u> | | |
| | Barbastella | | |
| 3. | <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> (SCHREBER, 1774) | VU:A2c | Only a few records since 1950, Cat.: 1: Threatened by extinction |
| | Eptesicus | | |
| 4. | <i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i> (KEYSERLING & BLASIUS, 1839) | LR:lc | Detector records, 1 breeding colony known; Cat.: 1: Threatened by extinction |

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|-----|---|--------|--|
| 5. | <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i> (SCHREBER, 1774) | LR:lc | Common; Cat.: 3: Threatened |
| | Myotis | | |
| 6. | <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> (KUHL, 1817) | VU:A2c | Lack of data due to a lack of survey Cat. 2?: Highly threatened |
| 7. | <i>Myotis brandtii</i> (EVERSMANN, 1845) | LR:lc | Not enough data available, reproduction known Cat. 2: Highly threatened |
| 8. | <i>Myotis daubentonii</i> (KUHL, 1819) | LR:lc | Common; Cat.: 4: Potentially Threatened |
| 9. | <i>Myotis emarginatus</i> (GEOFFREY, 1806) | VU:A2c | Population est. at 650 females; several reproduction colonies known; Cat.: 1: Threatened by extinction |
| 10. | <i>Myotis myotis</i> (BORKHAUSEN, 1797) | LR:nt | Population est. of 1.600 females; several reproduction colonies known; Cat. : 2: Highly threatened |
| 11. | <i>Myotis mystacinus</i> (KUHL, 1817) | LR:lc | Reproduction known Cat. 3: Threatened |
| 12. | <i>Myotis nattereri</i> (KUHL, 1817) | LR:lc | Lack of information / reproduction Cat. 2?: Highly threatened |
| | Nyctalus | | |
| 13. | <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> (KUHL, 1817) | LR:nt | Not common, 2 reproduction colonies known Cat. 2: Highly threatened |
| 14. | <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> (SCHREBER, 1774) | LR:lc | Common Cat. 3: Threatened |
| | Pipistrellus | | |
| 15. | <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i> (KEYSERLING & BLASIUS, 1839) | LR:lc | Bat detector records, deficient data Cat.: ? |
| 16. | <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> (SCHREBER, 1774) | LR:lc | Common; Cat. 4: Potentially threatened |
| | Plecotus | | |
| 17. | <i>Plecotus auritus</i> (LINNAEUS, 1758) | LR:lc | Common Cat. 3: Threatened |
| 18. | <i>Plecotus austriacus</i> (FISCHER, 1829) | LR:lc | Not common, several reproduction colonies known; Cat. 2: Highly threatened |
| | Vespertilio | | |
| 19. | <i>Vespertilio murinus</i> LINNAEUS, 1758 | LR:lc | Deficient data Cat.: ? |

B. 2. Status and Trends:

Status: Since the provisional Red Data List for bats in Luxembourg (Pir & Roesgen 1991) no revision has been made. There will be a new Red Data List published at the end of the year 2000.

B.3. Habitats and roost sites:

Due to the lack of an official survey and monitoring programme only the last roosting site of *R. ferrumequinum* in the south-east of Luxembourg is surveyed regularly.

Unfortunately there is also no monitoring of the success of bat protection programs (e.g. LIFE- program ...) carried out in Luxembourg.

B.4. Threats:

All threats to bat populations mentioned in the last report still remain.

One of the richest chiropteracoenosis in the 'Grünwald' forest region is being severely affected by the construction of a motorway. The construction has begun in 1998.

The planned construction of 17 by-pass roads will have a considerable impact on important bat populations.

Several important known roosting sites of *M. myotis* and *M. emarginatus* are being renovated within the next years. Due to a missing professional advisory body the preservation of these colonies is not fully guaranteed.

B. 5. Data Collection:

The data of a national bat survey project by the Natural History Museum are collected in the national database LUXNAT.

There will be a publication of all bat surveys carried out in Luxembourg during the past 10 years (Harbusch, C.; J. Pir & E. Engel (2000): Verbreitung der Fledermäuse Luxemburgs. - #30 Travaux scientifiques du Musée National d'Histoire Luxembourg')

C. Measures taken to implement article II of the Agreement:

C. 6. Legal Measures taken:

All bat species are fully protected by law in Luxembourg (Laws of 11.08.1982 and 8.04.1986). The Bat Agreement came into force at 5th august 1993. *Tadarida teniotis* is included to the Agreement by the law of the 6th May 2000. (Loi du 6 mai 2000 portant approbation des amendements relatifs à la conservation des chauves-souris en Europe, adoptés à la première session de la quatrième réunion des Parties, qui s'est tenue à Bristol, du 18 au 2 juillet 1995).

C.7. Sites identified and protected:

In relation with the EU-Life programme: Trans-boundary Protection of Bats in Western Central Europe LIFE 95/A22/D/EU/00045) six major sites (with tens of kilometers of underground habitats) could be protected in Luxembourg. Nevertheless no bat site is protected by a national nature reserve.

C. 8 . Consideration to important bat habitats

While establishing the official list of 'proposed Sites of Special Scientific Interest (pSSSI) of the Habitat Directive (92/43/CEE) all bat species of the appendix II were considered and the sites chosen in accordance.

C. 9. Promotion Activities

Numerous conferences and bat detector excursions have been organized during the past years. Important promotion activities were done in relation with the EU-Life programme: Trans-boundary Protection of Bats in Western Central Europe (LIFE 95/A22/D/EU/00045). A press conference was held on the occasion of the opening of the casemates (historic underground fortifications) in the city of Luxembourg. This event was a great success. A leaflet called *Trans-boundary bat protection* and a full color information magazine (36 pp. in all) edited by *Science & nature: Special bats* were published via the Life-programme. The magazine is available for free in French and German.

Luxembourg organized the 2nd and 3rd European Bat Night together with the Secretariat of the Agreement. The European Bat Nights were organized in Echternach (1998) and Koerich (1999) with a great success. The next Bat-Night will be held on 26th of August 2000 in Wellenstein in the Moselle valley.

C. 10. Responsible Bodies in Accordance with article III.5.

Still no responsible body in accordance of article III.5. of the Agreement is existing in Luxembourg. The Natural History Museum gives some advice for people having problems with bats in their houses. Actually, the Ministry of Environment sees no need to install a professional body in concordance to the implementation of article III.5 of the Agreement.

C. 11. Additional actions:

The trans-boundary bat protection association: 'Association pour la Protection Transfrontalière des Chauves-souris asbl (APTCS)' with the financial support of EU and the ministries of environment of the countries involved, was doing much work for bat protection and promotion activities during their Life project (1996-1998) in Luxembourg.

The outstanding success of this work was rewarded with the LIFE Award of the European Commission.

C. 12. Recent and ongoing protection programs (including research):

A program called : „Combles et Clochers“ (Steeple and attics) initiated by SICONA, a syndicate of communes, aims to open 14 churches for bats in the western part of the country.

Beginning with the year 2000, a new financial aid can be granted for protection measures and habitat improvement measures for threatened species. A first financial aid has been granted for the bat-friendly restoration of a roosting site in a large church attic.

Research: No new research project has been undertaken since the last report.

C. 13. Potential effects of pesticides:

There has been until now no research on the effects of pesticides on bats in Luxembourg. A list of harmless timber treatment products is available upon demand.