UPDATE TO THE NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. General Information

Non-Party Range State:	Russian Federation
Date of Report:	May 2003
Period Covered:	May 2002 – April 2003
Competent Authorities:	Moscow Lomonosov State University; Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences

2. Status of individual species and trends

Barbastella barbastellus and ***Myotis bechsteinii***, as suggested by Dr. Kozhurina at the last meeting of the Red Data Book Committee in accordance with the report by Dr. Gazarian (the VIII–th National Bat Research Conference, Zhyguliovskiy State Reserve, Samara Region, 2–4 November 2002), were included into the species list of Red Data Book of Russian Federation. When approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources, these species will be treated as legally protected. That was achieved within the frames of DEFRA/FFI Flagship Species Fund Small Grants Programme, Project No: 02/20/05 FLAG by Dr. Gazarian, **Status and conservation of *Barbastella barbastellus* and *Myotis bechsteinii* in Russian Federation**. Before these two species were listed in some regional registers, but did not enjoy federal protection.

Myotis mystacinus* s. s.** and ***M. aurascens (Table 1) still demand assessment of their conservation status after recent revision of *M. mystacinus* group and its division into several distinct species. As reported previously in April 2002, it most likely corresponds with "LR: 1c" in IUCN classification.

Table 1. Current status and trends of bat populations in Russia:
↓ — decrease of population; ↑ — increase of population; o — population is stable.

Species	Distributional status	Red-Data Book status*	IUCN status	Trend
Rhinolophus euryale	restricted		VU A2c	?
R. mehelyi	restricted	II	VU A2c	?
R. hipposideros	restricted	III	VU A2c	o/↑
R. ferrumequinum	restricted	III	LR: nt	↓
Myotis blythii	restricted	II	LR: 1c	o

M. bechsteinii	restricted	TBA	VU A2c	o
M. dasycneme	widespread		VU A2c	o/↑
M. daubentoni	widespread		LR: 1c	o/↑
M. nattereri	widespread		LR: 1c	o
M. emarginatus	restricted	II	VU A2c	↓
M. brandtii	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
M. mystacinus	widespread		N/A	o
M. aurascens	widespread		N/A	o
Eptesicus serotinus	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
E. nilssonii	widespread		LR: 1c	o
Hypsugo savii	restricted		LR: 1c	?
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	widespread		LR: 1c	o/↑
P. nathusii	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
P. kuhlii	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
Nyctalus leisleri	widespread		LR: nt	?
N. noctula	widespread		LR: 1c	?
N. lasiopterus	widespread	III	LR: nt	o
Vespertilio murinus	widespread		LR: 1c	o
Barbastella barbastellus	restricted	TBA	VU A2c	o/↑
B. leucomelas	restricted		LR: 1c	?
Plecotus auritus	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
P. austriacus	restricted		LR: 1c	?
Miniopterus schreibersii	restricted	I	LR: nt	↓
Tadarida teniotis	restricted		LR: 1c	?

* Red Data Book of Russian Federation 2000. Moscow, Astrel, 872 p. [in Russian]:

I – endangered species (the threat of extinction is very high);
II – species reducing its population;
III – rare species (stable or slowly increasing population);
IV – not numerous, poorly studied species (sporadically distributed, uncertain status);
V – restored species (due to undertaken conservation measures), not liable to use for economic purposes.

3. Threats

The situation is similar to the previous reporting period, with only exception of the two species: *M. bechsteinii* and *B. barbastellus*, as now it becomes possible to exercise in full Russian environmental regulations as regards.

Table 2. Distribution and population estimates of bats in European part of Russia

Species	Distribution within European part of Russia	Population estimate	Population estimate (after Gazaryan)
Rhinolophus euryale	W. Caucasus	Occasionally vagrant	—
R. mehelyi	E. Caucasus	50000*	<2000**
R. hipposideros	Caucasus	80000-100000*	20000–30000
R. ferrumequinum	Caucasus	150000-200000*	15000-20000
Myotis blythi	Caucasus	500000-900000*	20000-30000
M. bechsteini	Caucasus	?	?
M. dasycneme	Southward of 48° N	> 100000	—
M. daubentoni	Southward of 49° N, N.Caucasus	> 300000	—
M. nattereri	Except Lower Volga and Ural Basins	30000-50000	—
M. emarginatus	Caucasus	50000-120000*	<5000
M. brandti	Northward of 48-52° N, N. Caucasus	> 300000	—
M. mystacinus	Southern and eastern areas for certain	35000-50000	?
M. aurascens	southward of 51° N	35000-50000	?
Eptesicus serotinus	Southward of 51-53° N	> 150000	>300000
E. nilssoni	Northward of 53-51° N, Caucasus	> 150000	—
Hypsugo savii	Caucasus	?	? (Occasional records)
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Southward of 55-57° N	> 1500000	—
P. nathusii	Southward of 57-60° N	> 1500000	—
P. kuhli	Caucasus, Lower and Middle Volga Basin	> 1000000	—
Nyctalus leisleri	Southward of 58° N	> 100000	—
N. noctula	Southward of 60° N	200000-300000	—
N. lasiopterus	Southward of 57° N	17000-27000*	—
Vespertilio murinus	Southward of 61° N	> 200000	—
Barbastella barbastellus	Kaliningrad region, Caucasus	20000-60000	—
B. leucomelas	Daghestan	?	? (Occasional records)
Plecotus auritus	Northward of 50° N, Caucasus	> 200000	—
P. austriacus	Central-N. Caucasus for certain	?	—
Miniopterus schreibersi	N. Caucasus	50000-60000	20000-30000
Tadarida teniotis	Central-N. Caucasus	300-600*	? (Occasional records)

* after Paniutin, K.K. 1985. Chiroptera. – In: Red Data Book of USSR. M. Rosselkhozizdat: pp. 18-28. Other estimates have been extrapolated from summer and winter data of faunistic works [in Russian];
** after Amirkhanov, Z.M. 1980. Distribution of Chiroptera in Daghestan. – In: Issues of Theriology. Chiroptera. M. Nauka: pp. 63-69 [in Russian].

4. Data collection

Without change.

5. Publicity Initiatives

10 November 2002 three specialists of the Russian Bat Research Group: Valentina Rossina, Sergey Kruskop and Vitaliy Matveev made a broadcast talk on the radio "Svoboda", dedicated to the latest European Bat Night and general issues of bat conservation in Russia.

6. Research

See "Plecotus et al.", issue 5, 2003.
Gazarian, S.V. Observations of *Nyctalus noctula* of Precaucasus in their hibernacula in hollow trees.
Strelkov, P.P. Materials on hibernating migrant bats on the territory of fUSSR and adjacent countries. Report 2. *Nyctalus noctula*.
Ivanitskiy, A.N. To the bat fauna of Abkhazia.
Zavialov, E.V., Yakushev, N.N., Khomutova, T.U. Winter hibernacula of *Vespertilio murinus* in Saratov.

7. Legislation

Without change. There is no special law protecting bats in Russia. Therefore the main legislation relating to this problem is Wild Fauna Conservation Law (unofficial translation). Red Data Books determine the list of species, covered by this law. One Federal Red Data Book is enlarged by the regional ones. Since many things in Russia have not been settled yet after considerable changes of 1991, there still are some regions lacking their own Red Data Books. At the same time all Federal regions (excluding Moscow being one of them) possess their own registers of species liable to protection. All regional Red Data Books are based on appropriate registers.

Species recorded in the Red Data Book, as well as their habitats, cannot be used for any economic purposes (including hunting etc.), as they are protected by the Wild Fauna Conservation Law. Every species has its conservation status: I to V (for interpretation see paragraph 2).

Every article in the Red Data Book contains description of major factors, threatening the species, and recommends protective measures. Federal or Regional authorities ought to take this into account should they establish a new Nature Reserve or approve any industrial project which can affect somehow any of registered species.

4) There is 41 species of bats known from the territory of Russian Federation. Seven of them are registered in the Red Data Book of Russia, with two others being on the final stage of inclusion (see paragraph 2). Many others are listed in the regional registers, and thus are legally protected. As an instance, the Red Data Book of the Republic of Adygea contains six species: Miniopterus
schreibersi (II), Barbastella barbastellus (III), Myotis blythi (IV, legally protected in Caucasian Biosphere Reserve), Nyctalus lasiopterus (IV), R. hipposideros (III),

R. ferrumequinum (III). The Red Data Book of Middle Ural covers four species: Plecotus auritus (II), Eptesicus nilssoni (III), Myotis dasycneme (II), M. daubentoni (II).

8. Ratification

Without change.

9. International co-operation

Without change.

10. New items of publicity issued

The 5-th issue of Russian bat journal "Plecotus et al.", published in April 2003. Pars specialis, containing reports, presented at the VIII–th National Bat Research Conference (Zhyguliovskiy State Reserve, Samara Region, 2–4 November 2002), will follow in May-June.

“Materials to cadastre of Chiroptera of European Russia and adjacent regions" (Il’in et al., 2002; Penza, 64 pp.). The book contains cadastral maps and complete list of references on distribution of bats in European Russia and adjacent parts of Kazakhstan.