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:	March 2002
Period Covered:	April 2001 – May 2002
Competent Authorities:	Zoological Museum of Moscow Lomonosov State University; Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences

2. Status of individual species and trends

Tadarida teniotis is now excluded from the Red Data Book of Russian Federation due to limited number of records.

Myotis mystacinus s. s. and *M. aurascens* (Table 1) still demand assessment of their conservation status after recent revision of *M. mystacinus* and its division into several distinct species. Most likely it 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		VU A2c	o
M. dasycneme	widespread		VU A2c	o/↑
M. daubentonii	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		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.

Barbastella barbastellus and *Myotis bechsteinii* are worth of being included into the Red Data Book of Russian Federation. At present they are listed in some of the regional registers.

3. Threats

South-West of Russia, and mostly the Western Caucasus, is the area with constantly increasing tourist activity. At the same time it is the key place of residence for more than a half of all Russia's bat species. It also coincides with important routs of migration of many species of bats. As was reported earlier, intensive development of both commercial and unorganised tourism at various underground sites in the Northern and Western Caucasus seriously threaten many bat colonies, and activity, urged to prevent negative consequence of the above factors (and headed by Suren Gazaryan, a bat worker from Krasnodar), is carried on.

Governmental plans for the development of tourist industry in the region of Krasnaya Poliana, in the vicinity of State Caucasus Biosphere Reserve, still exist. This may cause additional "pressing" on bat colonies dwelling in the caves outside the Reserve, where they do not have any

conservation status. Moreover, it is not unlikely that the government will reduce the status of this Reserve — the territory of UNESCO worldwide heritage — to National Park, to unite it with Sochi National Park. It seems indicative that in the Russian office of IUCN they do not believe that project to affect somehow the local environment, but quite the contrary will help to develop the industry of ecological tourism.

Vorontsovskaya Cave — a natural monument of boundary value since 1974; situated on the territory of Sochi National Park (Krasnodar Region). Till recently, when some organisation equipped it for caving, it served as winter hibernacula for long-fingered bats (*Miniopterus schreibersi*). Mounting of powerful illumination and concreting of underground spring changed an interior lighting and microclimate of colony's roost, which made bats to at least temporally abandon the cave. Appealing first to the State Committee for Ecology and then to the local Committee for Natural Resources yielded little result. Finally the Sochi Inspection Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources ordered to stop further activity in Vorontsovskaya Cave. The Office of Public Prosecutor was instructed to control execution of that decision.

As an instance of success in this area – research work started by Suren Gazaryan in 1997 in Western Caucasus. It allowed suggesting about 20 caves with surroundings (which have been serving as roosts for big colonies of bats) for giving them a rank of natural monuments with preservation status of a nature reserve. The Legislative Assembly is expected to declare this valid, and the head of the Region — to sign the appropriate regulation. The Regional Committee for Natural Resources prepares the list of natural monuments on the basis of survey undertaken by Gazaryan.

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

Several institutions undertake data collection independently. These are the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg: P. P. Strelkov and E. A. Tsytsulina), The Ecological Centre "Dront" (Nizhniy Novgorod: A. I. Bakka), Udmurt State University and Institute of Applied Ecology (Izhevsk: V. I. Kapitonov, A. K. Grigoryev, A. V. Vassilyev), Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow: P. N. Morozov, E. I. Kozhurina, S. V. Gazaryan), Zoological Museum of Moscow State University (Moscow: A. V. Borissenko, S. V. Kruskop), The Faculty of Biology of Moscow State University (Moscow: V. A. Matveev), Zvenigorod Biological Station of Moscow State University (Moscow Region: K. K. Panyutin), Biological Research Institute, St. Petersburg State University (St. Petersburg: D. V. Chistyakov), Department of Zoology, Penza State Pedagogical University (Penza: V. Yu. Ilyin, D. G. Smirnov and others). Students of the Faculty of Biology of Moscow State University are also being involved in summer ecological research.

5. Publicity Initiatives

A special exposition, dedicated to the International year of the Bat was made in the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University.

Posters dedicated to the International Year of the Bat and European Bat Night, received from the Advisory Committee of Eurobats, were distributed among number of Institutions and organisations, as well as private workers of bats.

The Russian bat research group website is back online and is available at the address http://zmmu.msu.ru/bats.

6. Research

Chistiakov, D.V. Survey of distribution and ecology of *Pipistrellus nathusii* in NW Russia performed in 1997 through 2001. Notes on migration are given as well. See "Plecotus et al.", #4 [in Russian with English summary].

In addition to the above investigations by S. V. Gazaryan there were made several new records of bat species rare for Russian Caucasus: *Myotis bechsteinii, M. nattereri* and *Pipistrellus nathusii.* New data by D. G. Smirnov from Akhshtyr Cave (W Caucasus) refer to *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum, Myotis blythii, M. bechsteinii, Plecotus auritus, Nyctalus noctula, Pipistrellus pipistrellus, Hypsugo savii, Eptesicus s. serotinus and Miniopterus schreibersii.* See "Plecotus et al.", #4.

7. Legislation

A new legislative act — "The Environment Protection Law" — regulating nature conservation in Russian Federation, was promulgated on 10 January 2002. It contains a number of serious improvements in comparison with the one it replaced.

8. Ratification

The text of the Agreement has been passed to the Ministry of Natural Resources for ratification.

9. International co-operation

Bat workers from Russia (V. Matveev, Moscow State University) and Armenia (professors and students of Yerevan State University, as well as schoolboys and schoolgirls from Yerevan) organised combined expedition, dedicated to the European Bat Night 2001. It started in Hankavan region of W Armenia.

10. New items of publicity issued

The 4-th issue of Russian bat journal "Plecotus et al." published in February 2002.
Red Data Book of Russian Federation. 2000. Moscow, Astrel, 872 p.
Proceedings of the National Conference "Ecology and Protection of Caves", 2002. Published by The Russian Union of Speleologists. Contains rules of conduct in the caves inhabited by bats.
The rest of bibliography can be found in the 4-th issue of Russian bat journal "Plecotus et. al."