THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN BATS (EUROBATS)
The National Report on the Implementation of the Agreement in Georgia

A. General Information

Name of Party Range State: Georgia

Date of Report: July 2014

Period Covered: June 2010 – June 2014

Competent Authority: The Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia

B. Status of Bats within the Territory of the Party

1. Summary details of resident species, by territory

All bat species occur in Georgia are protected under the framework of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and it's Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS).

Thirty two species of Bats (order *Chiroptera*) occur in Georgia. The following four bat species are included in the Red List of Georgia (2006): *Rhinolophus mehelyi, R. euryale, Myotis bechsteinii* and *Barbastella barbastellus*.

2. Status and Trends

Relatively stable and permanent studies of bat species distributed in Georgia started since 2000. Following results of recently conducted researches, status and trends of the bats species in Georgia are as presented in the table 1 below:

Tab.1 Status and trends of bat species in Georgia

#	Scientific Name	Abundance	Georgian Red Data List
1.	*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	common	
2.	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	common	
3.	*Rhinolophus euryale*	rare	VU
4.	*Rhinolophus mehelyi*	very rare	VU
5.	*Rhinolophus blasii*	rare	
6.	*Myotis blythii*	common	
7.	*Myotis bechsteinii*	very rare	VU
8.	*Myotis nattereri*	rare	
9.	*Myotis emarginatus*	rare	
10.	*Myotis brandtii*	rare	
11.	*Myotis mystacinus*	common	
12.	*Myotis aurascens*	rare	
13.	*Myotis alcathoe*	common	

14.	*Myotis daubentonii*	rare	
15.	*Plecotus auritus*	rare	
16.	*Plecotus macrobularis*	rare	
17.	*Barbastella barbastellus*	rare	VU
18.	Barbastella darjelingensis**		
19.	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	abundant	
20.	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	common	
21.	*Pipistrellus nathusii*	common	
22.	*Pipistrellus kuhlii*	common	
23.	*Hypsugo savii*	rare	
24.	*Nyctalus lasiopterus*	rare	
25.	*Nyctalus noctula*	common	
26.	*Nyctalus leisleri*	rare	
27.	*Eptesicus serotinus*	common	
28.	*Eptesicus botae***		
29.	*Eptesicus nilssonii*	very rare	
30.	*Vespertilio murinus*	rare	
31.	*Miniopterus schreibersii*	rare	
32.	*Tadarida teniotis**	very rare	

*- According to literary data, bat detector and visual observation. But not yet confirmed by catching.

**- Possibly spread in Georgia since it was found close to Georgian border.

It should be mentioned that during this last reporting period species - *Myotis bechsteinii* and *Hypsugo savii* – have been re-caught after a long-gap and species - *Myotis aurascens* and *Myotis alcathoe* – have been found through the close cooperation with a colleague – Dr. Suren Gazaryan.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Within the reporting period, active fieldworks were performed in Georgia, key bats habitats were identified and two new maternity colonies and one wintering colony were found.

4. Threats

For the time being, the main threat for bats is large-scale infrastructural and development projects, such as highways and roads construction, hydropower plants etc. There are some facts when such projects led to destruction of habitats and roosts sites. Also, restoration of historical buildings and caves as well as increasing speleological tourism can be considered as threats for bat sites. As for pesticides, new cheap and generally unknown chemicals are more and more used in agricultural sector that is also a new threat.

5. *Data Collection*

For the time being, we continue observation of old bats roosts and finding of new ones. The following projects are being implemented during the reporting period:

- ❒ Project – ''Spatiotemporal genetic population structure of a social host and its two ecto-parasites throughout the host's range in Europe and the Caucasus'' of University of Greifswald (Germany) and Institute of Zoology of Ilia State University (Georgia).

- ❒ Joint research with National Center for Disease Control (NCDC): Zoonotic pathogens have been studied through a joint research of Institute of Zoology, NGO – Campester and NCDC in 2012.

- ❒ Joint research with National Center for Disease Control (NCDC): Following the initial joint research a new joint proposal project - "Emerging zoonotic pathogens in Georgian bats" was funded in 2014 and this project is aimed at more detailed study of zoonotic pathogens.

- ❒ The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia developed a State Biodiversity Monitoring Programme. One of components of the Programme is a bats monitoring component. The Ministry provided an initial funding for the implementation of bats monitoring component.

C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement

6. *Legal measures taken to prevent the deliberate capture, keeping or killing bats, including details of enforcement actions used to support such measures*

Generally, bats species are protected at national level through the law on ``Animals World`` and the law on ``Red List and Red Book`` of Georgia. These laws create a base for protection of bats species and also, regulates their capture for scientific purposes. These laws state that the special permission should be issued for the deliberate capture of bats species for scientific purposes.

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

The Imereti-Caves protected area was established. This protected area encompasses several caves that are important for bats species.

8. *Considerations given to habitats which are important to bats*

No considerations are given to habitats important to bats.

9. Activities carried out to promote the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats

Most projects listed in the paragraph B.5 (data collection) above had public-awareness raising components which were successfully implemented and included different kinds of activities such as lectures, sites-visits, meetings.

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

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection serves as the responsible body for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management, in accordance with article III.5 of the Agreement.

11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats

- ❒ 21 different types of Scwegler bat boxes have been installed at Kolkhis National Park as an additional conservation activity to protect bats populations.
- ❒ Bats as one key target group were included in the project – ''The current status of biodiversity of the vertebrate animals in mountain regions (Great Caucasus) of Eastern Georgia''.

12. Recent ongoing programs (including research) relating to the conservation and management of bats

There are three ongoing activities related to the conservation and management of bats:

1. Project – ''Spatiotemporal genetic population structure of a social host and its two ecto-parasites throughout the host's range in Europe and the Caucasus'' of University of Greifswald (Germany) and Institute of Zoology of Ilia State University (Georgia).
2. A joint research of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Institute of Zoology and NGO – CAMPESTER under the project – "Emerging zoonotic pathogens in Georgian bats".
3. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia developed a State Biodiversity Monitoring Programme. One of components of the Programme is a bats monitoring component. The Ministry provided an initial funding for the implementation of bats monitoring component and the monitoring research was started.

13. Considerations begin given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats, and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals, which are highly toxic to bats

No considerations in this regard.

D. Functioning of the Agreement

14. Co-operation with other Range States

Ongoing joint project – ''Spatiotemporal genetic population structure of a social host and its two ecto-parasites throughout the host's range in Europe and the Caucasus'' of University of Greifswald (Germany) and Institute of Zoology of Ilia State University (Georgia) can be considered as an example of close cooperation between two range states.