



EUROBATS

EUROBATS National Implementation Report MoP9

This questionnaire reflects obligations of the Parties listed in Resolution 8.11 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2019 - 2022) and other effective Resolutions.

In case of technical issues and questions, please use a support center button in the bottom before contacting the Secretariat.

A. General Information

Name of your country

>>> Ireland

Period covered by this report

>>> 2019-2022

Is your country a party to EUROBATS Agreement?

Yes

Competent authority

Title, address, phone, fax, e-mail and other contact details

>>> National Parks & Wildlife Service

Department of Housing, Heritage & Local Government

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Personal details of administrative focal point (s)

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Please give details of designated scientific focal points

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Compilers and contributors to this report

>>> Dr Ferdia Marnell

Bats species which occur in the territory

Please select only species which were recorded from your country

Species: *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (Schreber, 1774)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

Other

>>> Single individual found

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Not studied

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> not evaluated

Year of the Red List assesment

>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Rhinolophus hipposideros (Borkhausen, 1797)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

Resident: breeding

Resident: hibernation

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Negative

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> Least concern

Year of the Red List assesment

>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

Yes

If yes, explain reasons for changes or provide a link to the report

>>> Population trend is increasing but range is contracting. Assessed as Inadequate in 2019 Article 17 report.

<https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019>

Species: Myotis brandtii (Eversmann, 1845)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

Other

>>> Single confirmed specimen

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Not studied

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> not evaluated

Year of the Red List assesment
>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Myotis daubentonii (Kuhl, 1817)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

- Resident: breeding
- Resident: hibernation

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Positive

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> Least concern

Year of the Red List assesment

>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Myotis mystacinus (Kuhl, 1817)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

- Resident: breeding
- Resident: hibernation

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Stable

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> Least concern

Year of the Red List assesment
>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Myotis nattereri (Kuhl, 1817)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

- Resident: breeding
- Resident: hibernation

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Stable

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document
>>> least concern

Year of the Red List assesment
>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Nyctalus leisleri (Kuhl, 1817)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

- Resident: breeding
- Resident: hibernation

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Positive

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document
>>> least concern

Year of the Red List assesment

>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Pipistrellus nathusii (Keyserling & Blasius, 1839)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

Other

>>> No breeding sites known in Republic of Ireland but present during summer months and assumed to be breeding. May also be present during winter months.

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Indeterminate

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> least concern

Year of the Red List assesment

>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schreber, 1774)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

Resident: breeding

Resident: hibernation

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Positive

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> least concern

Year of the Red List assesment

>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Pipistrellus pygmaeus (Leach, 1825)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

Resident: breeding

Resident: hibernation

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Positive

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> least concern

Year of the Red List assesment

>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

Species: Plecotus auritus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Status of the species within the territory

Status of occurrence

Please give details if the species is not resident. E.g. year of extinction, description of occasional findings etc. Text boxes are expandable.

Resident: breeding

Resident: hibernation

Conservational status

Overall national trend

Stable

Status in the National Red List

Please indicate status of the species in the national red data list or similar document

>>> least concern

Year of the Red List assesment
>>> 2019

Natura2000 or Emerald reports

Has the national status reported under the Article 17 of the Habitat Directive(2019) or for the Emerald network (non-EU countries) changed since the previous assessment?

No

1. Legal Requirements

Resolution 4.6. Guidelines for the issue of permits for the capture and study of captured wild bats

Does the system of permits or licenses for the capture of bats exist in your country?

Yes

System of permits or licences for the keeping of bats for educational or animal welfare purposes

In place

System of permits or licences for sampling, ringing, killing of bats for scientific study

Exists

Comments

>>> Further details on licences here: <https://www.npws.ie/licencesandconsents>

Resolution 6.5. Guidelines on ethics for research and field work practices

National Code of Practice that addresses the context and legitimacy of acquisition, due diligence, long-term care, documentation, relevance and institutional aims

Doesn't exist

Please, give details of the legislation which is protecting bats

>>> All bats are protected under national legislation and EU Habitats Directive regulaitons. Further details here: <https://www.npws.ie/legislation>

2. Population survey and monitoring

Resolution 2.2. Consistent monitoring methodologies

Implementation of EUROBATS guidelines published in EUROBATS Publication n°5 to ensure consistency and information exchange between Parties and Range States

Yes

Please give details

>>> 7 out of our 9 resident bat species are subject to annual monitoring programmes. Full details from latest National Bat Monitoring report here: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM137.pdf>

Resolution 5.4. Monitoring bats across Europe

Involvement in a long-term pan-European surveillance to provide trend data

Yes

Involvement details

Please, give details of involvement

>>> Full details of lesser horseshoe winter monitoring data for Ireland has been provided to the pan-European project

Awareness-raising of the importance of underground sites

Yes

Collaboration and information exchange with other Parties and range states on surveillance and monitoring activities

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Two of our monitoring programmes are run in collaboration with Northern Ireland

Monitoring bats in accordance with EUROBATS Publication n°5

Yes

Capacity building of bat workers and surveyors to support the undertaking of bat surveillance projects

Exists

Resolution 6.13. Bats as indicators for biodiversity

Does your country support a development of national, regional and pan-European biodiversity indicators for appropriate target audiences, using bat data

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Ireland helped fund the original initiative to examine the potential for a pan-European bat monitoring programme.

Ireland's lesser horseshoe bat hibernation data has been prepared for inclusion in the next iteration of the analyses towards an indicator

Bat data is incorporated within high profile national multi-taxa indicators

Yes

Body in charge for gathering the data for these indicators

>>> National Parks & Wildlife Service

Cooperation platforms that facilitate the required data exchange

Exist

Please specify or give links

>>> Biodiversity indicators are reported by the Environmental Protection Agency :

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/state-of-environment-report-/#:~:text=Ireland's%20Environment%20%E2%80%93%20An%20Integrated%20Assessment,%2C%202008%2C%202012%20%26%202016.>

and also under the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/National%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%20English.pdf>

.pdf

A new National Biodiversity Action Plan will be published later in 2022.

Resolution 7.7. Bat conservation and sustainable forest management

National guidance has been developed based on the principles in the EUROBATS Bats and Forestry leaflet

Yes

Please attach a file or provide a link

>>> https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Forestry_leaflet%5B1%5D.pdf

Examples of best practice for forest management are submitted to the Secretariat

No

Resolution 7.10. Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation

Animal rescue and rehabilitation systems are effective in the country

Yes

Collaboration between bat rehabilitators and scientists

Doesn't exist

Bat rehabilitators submit their data to a national database

No

Resolution 7.12. Priority species for autecological studies

Priority Species

Rhinolophus blasii Peters, 1866

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Eptesicus isabellinus (Temminck, 1840)

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Myotis escalerae Cabrera, 1904

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Nyctalus azoreum (Thomas, 1901)

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Nyctalus lasiopterus (Schreber, 1780)

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Pipistrellus hanaki Hulva & Benda, 2004

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Pipistrellus maderensis (Dobson, 1878)

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Plecotus kolombatovici Dulic, 1980

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Plecotus sardus Mucedda, Kiefer, Pidinchedda & Veith, 2002

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Priority Species

Plecotus teneriffae Barrett-Hamilton, 1907

Some studies have been conducted (are ongoing) for this species in the country

No

Other activities carried out under Resolution 7.12 (optional)

>>> None of these species occur in Ireland

Resolution 8.4 Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Raising awareness on the impact of turbines on bats and the existence of some unsuitable habitats or sites for construction

Yes

If yes, how?

>>> New Bat Mitigation Guidelines published in 2022

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM134.pdf>

Are impact assessment procedures and post-construction monitoring undertaken by appropriately experienced experts?

Yes

National guidelines have been developed following Eurobats Pub. No. 6

No

Investigations and research for mitigating bat mortality have been undertaken

Yes

Please, list references, attach reports and articles

>>> Some ongoing work in this area, including training of dog for carcass searches, but nothing published yet.

Post-construction monitoring, if possible, is undertaken by suitably experienced bat experts

If yes, give details

Yes

Developers of wind energy projects and responsible authorities make raw data from impact assessment and post-construction monitoring available for independent analysis.

No

Measures such as blade feathering, higher turbine cut-in wind speeds and shutting down turbines are implemented

No

Resolution 8.10 Recommended Experience and Skills of Experts with regard to Quality of Assessments

Compliance with Annex to Resolution 8.10

Experts/groups of experts carrying out assessment of projects, plans and programmes on populations of European bats meet the minimum standard of skills, knowledge and experience as described in the Annex to Resolution 8.10

Yes, completely or partially

3. Roosts

Resolution 4.5. Guidelines for the use of remedial timber treatment

Small projects to provide basic data to allow an assessment of the potential impact of industry on bat populations

No

Raising awareness of product users is taking place

No

Legislation on products which have any adverse effects on bats

Exists

Please attach documents or provide links

>>> Products banned under EU Dangerous substances legislation are banned in Ireland

Resolution 5.7. Guidelines for the protection of overground roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance

List of national important overground roosts (including legal/physical protection status)

Exists

Please, give details or links

>>> There is a national database of lesser horseshoe bat roosts. This is treated as a sensitive database so not shared publicly but relevant location information is made available to ecologists involved in planning developments. The most important roosts are protected as SACs.

National guidelines for custodians of historical buildings on the protection of bat roosts have been developed

Yes

Please attach a file or or provide a link

>>> <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM134.pdf>

Summary report on interactions between the relevant cultural and natural heritage agencies (attach a file or provide a description)

>>> A new Species Action Plan for the *R. hipposideros* has been published for Ireland. The Agencies responsible for natural heritage and for cultural heritage are involved in the Steering Group for the SAP and will be working together to implement the listed actions.

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/lesser-horseshoe-bat-species-action-plan-2022-2026.pdf>

Resolution 7.6. Guidelines for the protection and management of important underground habitats for bats

List of important underground sites for bats and measures of their protection (including Natura 2000, Emerald or other status) was submitted to EUROBATS

Yes

When the latest update was submitted?

>>> Not sure, whenever last request was made by the Coordinator

Updated counts of bats at each listed site are submitted to the Secretariat

Yes

Management of important underground sites for bats is in accordance with EUROBATS Publication n°2

Yes

Other relevant activities for the protection of underground habitats

>>> The most important underground roosts for lesser horseshoe bat are protected as SACs.

A new Species Action Plan for the *R. hipposideros* has been published for Ireland. Actions are included in the plan to identify underground roosts in need of additional protection and to carry out necessary works arising.

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/lesser-horseshoe-bat-species-action-plan-2022-2026.pdf>

Resolution 8.5. Conservation and Management of Important Overground Sites for Bats

Most important overground roosts are identified at the national level considering the guidance on site selection developed by the Advisory Committee and using the national databases.

If yes, please give details

>>> A database of sites for *R. hipposideros* is being maintained and continually updated with data on bat numbers and roost status. The most important roosts are designated as SACs and a programme of repairs and other conservation measures is funded annually by NPWS.

NPWS has also developed a specialised agri-environment scheme for farmers with lesser horseshoe bats on their property. The scheme pays farmers to manage roosts, commuting routes and foraging habitats for the benefit of bats.

Resolution 8.12. Purpose-built Man-made Roosts

Examples provided by the review document included as Annex 1 to Resolution 8.12 are considered whenever new roosting structures are planned or existing structures are renovated for bats

Please give details, if it is the case

>>> Yes, purpose built man-made roosts have been constructed at several locations as mitigation for road development schemes. In addition purpose built hibernacula have been created and old buildings completely renovated at strategic locations for the lesser horseshoe bats.

Are existing purpose-built Bat Roosts monitored and further studies on their effectiveness promoted?

If yes, please give details

>>> Yes, bat counts are conducted annually and where remedial works are required these are undertaken.

4. Habitats

Click "expand" to see the questions!

Resolution 7.8. Conservation and management of critical feeding areas, core areas around colonies and commuting routes

Are national guidelines which are based on the general guidance given in EUROBATS Publication No. 9 are developed and published? Please provide details or add a file.

>>> No

Resolution 7.9. Impact of roads and other traffic infrastructures on bats

Bats are taken into account during the planning, construction and operation of roads and other infrastructure projects

Yes

Please give details or attach a file with description

>>> All bats are strictly protected in Ireland. Ecological surveys in advance of road developments are required to assess the potential impact on bats and to provide advice on how to avoid or minimise those impacts.

Guidance on this protection is provided here: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/strict-protection-of-certain-animal-and-plant-species.pdf>

Additional guidance for public authorities has also been developed and is available here:

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/strict-protection-of-certain-animal-and-plant-species.pdf>

Pre-construction strategic and environmental impacts assessment procedures are mandatory

Are mandatory

Post-construction monitoring

Required occasionally

Raw data from environmental impact assessment and post-construction monitoring is available for independent scientific analysis

No

Research into the impact of new and, where appropriate, existing roads and other infrastructure on bats and into the effectiveness of mitigation measures

Yes

Resolution 8.6. Bats and Light Pollution

Is national guidance taking due account of the EUROBATS Publication Series No. 8 on Bats and Light Pollution developed and promoted? If yes, please give details or attach a file.

>>> Yes, the latest Bat Mitigation Guidelines reference the Eurobats Guidelines:

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM134.pdf>

5. Promoting Public Awareness of Bats and their Conservation and Providing Advice

Click "expand" to see the questions!

International Bat Night. Give details for each year: number of events and number of people participated

>>> Events are organised by NPWS at National Parks and Nature Reserves and also by Bat Conservation Ireland at various venues around the country. Full details of the number of events and people attending are not available.

Details of other important activities which are worth to mention (educational centres, etc.)

>>> Bats walks and talks are organised during summer months by Educational guides employed at National Parks and Nature Reserves around the country.

Bat Conservation Ireland hold training courses for waterways bat monitoring across the country and also host bat walks and talks around the country.

The recent publication of a Species Action Plan received national news coverage.

Bats also feature regularly in wildlife documentaries in Ireland.

Resolution 4.11. Recognising the important role of NGOs in bat conservation

Details of NGOs participating in /contributing to bat protection and most valuable activities that have the potential to substantially improve transboundary cooperation and mutual assistance

>>> Bat Conservation Ireland is the national NGO dedicated to bat conservation. They run the national bat monitoring programme on contract to NPWS and with the help of large numbers of trained volunteers. They also publish guidance documents and run bat events around the country.

<https://www.batconservationireland.org/events>

The Vincent Wildlife Trust manage and maintain a number of dedicated roosts for lesser horseshoe bats in Ireland.

<https://www.vincentwildlife.ie/>

Resolution 8.13. Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe

Awareness of the multiple ecological services provided by bats, especially for the agricultural sector and regarding the concerns about the published evidence of dramatic loss of insect biomass in open land is raised with land managers and other stakeholders.

Please, give details

>>> NPWS are co-funding a project investigating the ecosystem services provided by bats through insect predation. The project is being led by Prof Emma Teeling in UCD with input from BCireland who are coordinating the citizen science elements of the project:

<https://batsandbugs.ie/>

Other studies examining the prey of bats through the use of DNA in bat droppings is also being conducted under the supervision of Dr Denise O'Meara in the South-east Technical University.

6. Insect declines

Resolution 8.13. Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe

Activities to encourage and support scientific research on the impact of the insect decline on bat populations

Please give details of such activities.

>>> A new project to catalogue the insects prey of Irish bats is underway:

<https://batsandbugs.ie/>

Describe measures to avoid the use of pesticides, particularly those problematic for bats and their food resources, in and around important areas for bat conservation

Please give details in case such measures have taken place

>>> Ireland's new Bat Mitigation Guidelines provide details on the use of pesticides:

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM134.pdf>

7. International co-operation

Implementation of Resolutions 7.10, 7.12, 8.3, 8.7

Please give information on the international cooperation with the aim of implementing the recommendations of Resolutions 7.10, 7.12, 8.3, 8.7.

>>> Two of our national monitoring projects are run in cooperation with colleagues in Northern Ireland and the results of our national Bat Monitoring Programme are published online for widespread ease of access. The latest update is available here: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM137.pdf>

Irish R. hipposideros data is provide towards the pan-European indicator.

8. Diseases

Click "expand" to see the questions!

Resolution 5.2. Bat rabies in Europe

National bat rabies surveillance network

No

Vaccination of risk groups against rabies is compulsory

No

Resolution 6.6. Guidelines for the prevention, detection and control of lethal fungal infections in bats

Surveillance for the presence of fungal infections

No

9. EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

Donations to Eurobats Project Initiative

Has your country provided funding to EPI? Please give details below.

>>> Not recently

10. Climate change

Resolution 8.7. Bats and Climate Change

Resolution 8.7 Bats and Climate Change

Please provide details on changes in species migration, hibernation, reproductive and range shift patterns and consequent species interactions, if those changes have been studied in your country. Add files if required

>>> Modelling work on the potential impact of climate change on bats in Ireland has been published:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666900521000113?via%3Dihub>

11. Further important activities to share with other Parties and Range States

Give details or provide links

>>> Links to recent bat-related publications which may be of general interest:

The update Bat Mitigation Guidelines for Ireland (2022):

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM134.pdf>

Lesser horseshoe bat Species Action Plan (2022-2026):

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/lesser-horseshoe-bat-species-action-plan-2022-2026.pdf>

The report from the National Bat Monitoring Programme 2018-2021:

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM137.pdf>

C. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of EUROBATS has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

Date of submission

Fill as follows: dd.mm.yyyy

>>> 15/08/2022