

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE
National Implementation Report of Belarus

A. General Information.

Non – Party Range: The Republic of Belarus
 Period covered: 2004 – 2007
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 Competent Authorities: Victor Dziamianchyk
 National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
 The Polesia Agrarian Ecological Institute,
 Bats working group PO “Ahoval Ptushak
 Bazkaushchyny” (“Birds Protection in
 Belarus”)
 Maria Dziamianchyk
 Brest State University, Bats working group
 PO “Ahoval Ptushak Bazkaushchyny” (“Birds
 Protection in Belarus”)

B. Status of Bats within the territory of Belarus.**1. Summary details of Resident Species**

There were found 19 bats species in Belarus during the period 1930s till 2007. *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, *Myotis myotis* are rare, not resident: Two species (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Nyctalus lasiopterus*) have not been registered since 1930s. Presence of 16 species has been confirmed.

2. Status and Trends

There was found a breeding colony of the *Plecotus austriacus* in Brest District. The habitat has extended on 40 kilometers to the north of Brest in 2007.

There were found breeding colonies of *Vespertilio murinus*, *Eptesicus nilssonii*, *Nyctalus leisleri*, *Myotis nattereri*, *Pipistrellus nathusii* in 2002 in Brest Region. The facts of breeding of these species are very rare in Belarus.

There was found a breeding colony of *Myotis dasycneme* on Vygonoschanskoje Lake in Brest Region. It is the 3rd fact of this species reproduction in Belarus and single for last 30 years.

In 2004-2005 It was generated hibernation colony of *Vespertilio murinus* for the first time in Belarus. Such colonies have been found out and in Minsk in 2006.

In 2005 first breeding colony of *Nyctalus noctula* in Belarus in building is revealed. Before breeding colonies of *Nyctalus noctula* were found out exclusively in hollow in trees. Regular wintering colonies of *Nyctalus noctula* are registered 2004 there are in the country southwest.

There was an established fact of the first attempt (unsuccessful) of wintering of *Pipistrellus nathusii* in territory of Belarus during winter 2004-2005.

There were found colonies of *Myotis brandtii* for the first time in the country in 2006.

Table 1. Distribution, Seasonal Roost and Population Status of Bats in Belarus (1993 – 2005).

Species	Distribution, area	Summer Roost	Winter Roost	Status
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Not known since the 1930s			Very rare, not resident, in the past
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	The eastern border of population area	+	+	Rare
<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i>	The southern border of breeding area	+	+	Rare

<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	The northern border of its population area	+	+	Common
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	Break in its population area on the largest part of Belarus	+		Very rare
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	Spread	+	+	Rare
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	In all territory	+	+	Common
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Beyond the western border	+		Rare, not resident
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Spread	+		Rare
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Spread	+	+	Rare
<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	Not registered documentary after the 1930s			Very rare, not resident, in the past
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	The northern border of its population area	+		Rare
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	In all territory	+	+	Common
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	In all territory	+		Common
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	In all territory	+		Common
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	In 2001 – a colony on the Polish-Belarusian border (Rachwald, Szkudlarek, 2001); 2002 – one individual detected in Brest	+		?
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	In all territory	+	+	Common
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	The north-east border of its population area	+	+	Rare
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	In all territory	+		Rare

Table 2. Trends of Population and Protection Status of Bats in Belarus.

Species	Estimated trend	RDBB – 1993	RDBB – 2004
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	0		
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	-	III	II (EN)
<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i>	+	III	III (VU)
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	++		
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	-		III (VU)
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	0	III	II (EN)
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	++		
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	0	III	
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	-		
<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	0	III	
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	+	III	IV (NT)
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	0	III	III (VU)
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	-		
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	++		
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	+		
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	?		
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	-		
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	++		
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	-		

Estimated trend – Estimated trends during the last 30 years:

0 changes of population were not found;

+ increase of population;

++ considerable increase of population;

- decrease of population.

RDBB – 1993 – Red Data Book of Belarus, 1993 (III – protection category, rare)

RDBB – 2004 – Red Data Book of Belarus, 2004

II (EN) includes taxons, now disappearances, not under direct threat on territories of the country, but having adverse international or European security status, low number, the tendency to steady reduction of number and-or an area and deterioration of the status predicted in the near future.

III (VU) includes taxons, disappearances under direct threat, but subject have risk of extinction in the long term valid morphophysiological and-or the behavioural features doing them vulnerable at anyone even minor alterations of an environment.

IV (NT) unites taxons, not taking place to three previous categories, but close to them, having unfortunate trends in surrounding territories or protection dependent on carried out measures.

3. Habitats and roost sites

Biotores of bats are concentrated in 2 types: hollows of trees and constructions of the humans. Last 20 years law - synanthropisation has exchanged. Bats more and more actively move in constructions of the humans. The analysis of biotores of bats this group is reflected in the book "Wild animals in constructions of the humans"

4. Threats

The loss of roosts during summer

1. Losses of roosting sites as a result of extensive renovation and construction work in buildings.
2. Destruction of tumbledown buildings
3. Felling of trees that provide roosts, in particular in settlements and parks.
4. Vandalism and deliberate displacement
5. Predators, first of all Crows *Corvidae*
6. Other threats

The loss of roosts during winter

7. Demolition and different use of old bunkers and bridges
8. Modernization of buildings without consideration of the bat populations
9. Closure of cellars and pits for safety reasons
10. Destruction of tumbledown buildings
11. Disturbances by bunker tourism and vandalism
12. Besides the devastation of villages, change of systems of animal industries adversely affect on variety of bats

5. Data Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

The educational seminar at the international conference "The Environment of Polesye" in May 2006 was held.

The regional seminar "Preservation in Belarus winter colonies of bats" was held.

The results of bat investigations carried out by Belarus scientists are reflected at publications covering the following topics: general and regional reviews of bat fauna, distribution of bats in Belarus, biology and ecology of bats, bat conservation. List of papers published for the period covered with the report as well not included into the Annex 1.

C. Measures taken to implement Article III of the Agreement

6. Legal measures taken to protect bats, including enforcement action

The legislative base of protection of bats is advanced. According to the Appendix to the Decree of the President of Belarus № 580 from 8.12.2005. «About some measures on increase of efficiency of conducting the hunting facilities and activity of fish facilities, perfection of the government by them».

1. Law on hunting and hunting management (1997).
 - hunting and catching of bats is forbidden;
 - fine for killing bats.
2. Provision on zoological collection (1997).
 - provides set of rules on collection, preparation, use, storage and exchange of objects of wild life, including bats.
3. Provision on creation of nature reserves in the Republic of Belarus (1995).
 - provides legislation on creation of nature reserves for wild animals, including bats.

4. Provision on the Book of rare species of animals and plants – Red Data Book of Republic of Belarus (1979).

Red Data Book of Republic of Belarus

Detailed inventory of populations of bats is lead to 2003-2004 in Belarus. The estimation of statuses under last versions IUCN is lead. The list and specific sketches by species for inclusion in the Red book of 3-rd edition is prepared. And preservations of the environment of Belarus from June, 9, 2004 № 14 are authorized by the decision of the Ministry of Natural Resources of 6 species: *Myotis dasycneme*, *Myotis nattereri*, *Myotis brandtii*, *Eptesicus nilssonii*, *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Nyctalus leisleri*.

The Red Data book of Belarus: species of wild animals Rare and under threat of disappearance was published in 2004.

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

8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats

A specialized zakaznik «Barbastella» was created in Brest Region in 2000. The main purpose of zakaznik is the protection of the largest in Belarus hibernation congestions of bats. Here more than 2000 individuals *Barbastella barbastellus*, 50-100 individuals *Eptesicus serotinus*, *E. nilssonii*, *Plecotus auritus*, *P. austriacus*, *Myotis daubentonii*, *M. nattereri* are hibernate annually every winter.

The biospheric reserve UNESCO « Pribuzhskoe Polesie » was created in 2004, where one of the priorities – breeding colonies and migratory congestions bats. The most significant among them are the colonies of *Nyctalus noctula*, *Pipistrellus nathusii*, *P. pipistrellus*, *Myotis brandtii*, *Myotis mystacinus*, *Plecotus austriacus*.

Two 2 winter (hibernation) colonies of bats are protected in the National Park «Belovezshskaja Puscha» on 200 individuals in everyone.

The single colony in country of *Myotis dasycneme* are protected in zakaznik "Vygonoshchanskoje".

15 articles were published in central and local newspapers.

In 2000 – 2008 a scientific-popular film "In the Kingdom of Bats" was run on the National and regional channels for 10 times.

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

"Ahova Ptushak Bacikaushchyny" APB ("Birds Protection in Belarus") is the leading public (non-state) organization of nature protection in Belarus. APB is supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, partner of BirdLife International (United Kingdom). It created protected areas for disappearing species. It is also known for its educational work among humans.

There was taken a decision to create the *Working Group of Bats Research*. It was adopted the project of the statute of the *Working Group of Bats Research* In March 2002 at the meeting of the Central Council of APB in Minsk The following national long-term program for bats research and protection are recommended for working out:

- "*Pipistrelle* in Belarus — a guest or a host?" The program to make the status of bats in 6 regions of Belarus precise.
- "Bats and biodiversity." Bats monitoring program in Belarus.
- "Bats at home — fear or admiration?" Propaganda program to stop killing of bats and biotechny of bats preservation in domestic and other man's buildings.
- "Bats and forestry." Program of development and introduction of measures to protect bats in forests, parks and gardens.
- "The Best." Educational and entertainment program to attract attention to bats and spread knowledge about them among students.
- "Bats and nature protection." The system of official measures to make Belarus a member of EUROBATS, to update official norms of bats protection and licensed inspection of bats colonies and creation of new specialized protected areas, important for bats.

The advertising booklet « Bats - our friends and ... kind neighbors in the house » with 15 illustrations was published. The information necessarily preservations of bats in settlements is resulted. Brief recommendations on practical ways of preservation of breeding colonies and

wintering congestions of bats in constructions of the person are stated. This advertising information publication of a mass edition is the first in Belarus on protection of bats. It is intended for a wide range of readers.

Annually (6-8 times one year) materials on protection of bats are broadcast in the central newspapers, republican channels of telecasting and broadcasting and 20-30 performances in one year in local mass-media.

«The Night of bats» is lead for three times with wide attraction of different categories of people (Brest).

It is annually carried out till 5-10 regional trainings by a technique of studying of bats in the nature with students of Brest and Minsk.

10. Responsible bodies, nominated for the provision of advise on bat conservation and management

Dr. Victor Dziamianchyk

National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

The Polesia Agrarian Ecological Institute, Bats working group PO "Ahova Ptushak Bacikaushchyny" ("Birds Protection in Belarus")

Tel/fax: +375 80162 41 54 26

str. Moskovskaja 204

E-mail: opp@tut.by

Maria Dziamianchyk

Brest State University, Bats working group PO "Ahova Ptushak Bazkaushchyny" ("Birds Protection in Belarus")

Tel/fax: +375 80162 42 07 05

str. Cosmonaut avenue 21

11. Addition action undertaken to safeguard population of bats

The advisory nature protection help is rendered for 45 organizations and private owners of the real estate in not clear and disputed situations connected with bats in buildings and settlements in all country. Consultations are rendered by the Brest group.

12. Recent and ongoing activities/programs relating to the conservation and management of bats

In 2006-2007 in the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus under the state program the project « Scientific-practical bases of preservation and monitoring of bats » is carried out. Tasks of this project:

- To carry out scientific-methodical maintenance of monitoring and necessary actions on improvement of conditions of migrations of species of the bats included in the Appendices of the Convention on preservation of migrating species of wild animals (Bonn conventions), according to the duties accepted by Belarus under this convention;

- To develop and offer for mass application in spheres of the Ministry of a forestry, the Ministry housing-communal facilities, the Ministries of Education ways of practical increase in number of bats.

13. Consideration being given to the potential effect of pesticides on bats, and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals, which are highly toxic to bats

No data

D. Functioning of the Agreement

14. Co-operation with other Range States

Belarusian bat workers have co-operations with specialists from the Estonia, UK, Germany, Moldova, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Lithuania, Latvia.

15. Measures taken to implement Resolutions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties

Resolutions are taken into consideration.

Annex 1. Main printed papers for period covered

Books

1. Dziamianchyk V.T. Biosphere reserves Pribuzhskoe Polesie. – Brest, 2006. – 202 p. (the material on bats is widely submitted), (in Russian).
2. Savickii B.P. et al. The Mammals of Belarus. – Minsk, 2005 (Part Bats – 7 p.), (in Russian).

Articles

3. Dziamianchyk, V.T. Biotechnical construction - perspective objects in preservation and monitoring of vertebrate animals in woods of Polesye / Dziamianchyk V. T, Dziamianchyk V.V.//Rational use and reproduction of wood resources in sustainable development system: Materials Intern. science.-pract. conf. - Gomel, 2007. - P. 245-247, (in Russian).
4. Dziamianchyk, V.T. Species of bats, included in the new edition of the Red Data Book of Belarus / V.T.Dziamianchyk, M.G.Dziamianchyk//Anthropogenous dynamics of landscapes and a problem of preservation and steady use of a biological variety: Tes. II Rep. science.-pract. conf., Minsk, 1-2 - Mn., 2004. - P. 120, (in Russian).
5. Dziamianchyk, V.T. *Barbastella barbastellus* / V.T.Dziamianchyk, M.G.Dziamianchyk, A.P.Kashtaljan//the Red Data Book of Belarus: species of wild animals Rare and being under the threat of disappearance. Mn. red. G.P.Pashukov, etc. - Mn.: En., 2004. - P. 23-25, (in Russian).
6. Dziamianchyk, V.T. Zapadnopolessky horological bridge and prospects of inter-regional integration in preservation of a biological variety / V.T.Dziamianchyk, V.P.Rabchuk//the Ekologo-economic mechanism of biodiversity reserve of especially protected natural territories of Belarus: Materials Intern. science.-pract. conf. On April, 26-28th, 2006 - Brest, 2006. - P. 198-204, (in Russian).
7. Dziamianchyk, V.T. *Nyctalus leisleri* / V.T.Dziamianchyk, M.G.Dziamianchyk, A.P.Kashtaljan//the Red Data Book of Belarus: species of wild animals Rare and being under the threat of disappearance. Mn. red. G.P.Pashukov, etc. - Mn.: En., 2004. - P. 26-27, (in Russian).
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9. Dziamianchyk, V.T. *Myotis dasycneme* / V.T.Dziamianchyk, M.G.Dziamianchyk, A.P.Kashtaljan//the Red Data Book of Belarus: species of wild animals Rare and being under the threat of disappearance. Mn. red. G.P.Pashukov, etc. - Mn.: En., 2004. - P. 18-19, (in Russian).
10. Dziamianchyk, V.T. Distribution and number of *Eptesicus nilssonii* in Belarus and adjacent regions / V.T.Dziamianchyk, M.G.Dziamianchyk//the Bulletin of the Brest university - 2004 - № 3 - P. 66-71, (in Russian).
11. Dziamianchyk, V.T. Regional ekologic-faunistic situation in connection with number of depression of micromammals in Belarus Polesye / V.T.Dziamianchyk, A.I.Olgomets, A.M.Semenjak, M.G.Dziamianchyk, V.P.Rabchuk//Dynamics of a biological variety of fauna, a problem and prospect of steady use and protection of fauna of Belarus: Tes. rep. IX Int. Zool. science. conf. - Mn., 2004. - P. 146-147, (in Russian).
12. Dziamianchyk, V.T. Rare wintering species of mammals in technical constructions of national park «Belovezhsky puscha» / Dziamianchyk V. T, Dziamianchyk M. G, Dziamianchyk V.V.//Modern environmental problems of a sustainable development of Poleskij region and adjacent territories: a science, formation, culture: materials III Materials Intern. science.-pract. conf.: in 3 p. /: V.V. Valetov (mn. red.) [etc.]. - Mozhir: ES «MGPU of I.P.Shamjakina», 2007. - P. 1. - P. 95 - 98, (in Russian).
13. Dziamianchyk, V.T. *Eptesicus nilssonii* / V.T.Dziamianchyk, M.G.Dziamianchyk, A.P.Kashtaljan//the Red Data Book of Belarus: species of wild animals Rare and being under

the threat of disappearance. Mn. red. G.P.Pashukov, etc. - Mn.: En., 2004. - P. 28-29, (in Russian).

14. Dziamianchyk, M.G. Different features of hibernation bats of Brest / M.G.Dziamianchyk, V.T.Dziamianchyk// Nature of Polesje: features and perspectives of development / Col.: M. of Century - At 2 toms. - Brest: the NAVEL «Publishing house Alternative», 2006. - T.1. - P. 224 - 229.

15. Dziamianchyk, M.G. *Myotis brandtii* / V.T.Dziamianchyk, M.G.Dziamianchyk, A.P.Kashtaljan//the Red Data Book of Belarus: species of wild animals Rare and being under the threat of disappearance. Mn. red. G.P.Pashukov, etc. - Mn.: En., 2004. - P. 22-23, (in Russian).

16. Dziamianchyk, M.G. Features of landscape-biotopical dynamics of bats of the western part of the Belarus Polesye / M.G.Dziamianchyk// Nature of Polesje: features and perspectives of development: Tes. III Int. science. conf - Brest: Academy, 2006. - P. 102, (in Russian).

17. Dziamianchyk, M.G. Features of distribution and landscape-biotopical dynamics of *Pipistrellus nathussi* in Belarus / M.G.Dziamianchyk// Nature of Polesje: features and perspectives of development / Col.: M. of Century - At 2 toms. - Brest: the NAVEL «Publishing house Alternative», 2006. - T.1. - P. 216 - 223, (in Russian).

18. Dziamianchyk, M.G. Features of distribution of bats in water-marsh grounds of the Brest area / M.G.Dziamianchyk, V.T.Dziamianchyk//Environmental problems of Polesye and adjacent territories: a floor-mat. VI Intern. science.-pract. conf., Gomel, October, 2004. - Gomel, 2004. - P. 93, (in Russian).

19. Dziamianchyk, M.G. The first registration in Belarus breeding colony *Nyctalus noctula* in a construction of the humans / M.G.Dziamianchyk//Environmental problems of Polesye and adjacent territories: the Floor-mat. VII Intern. science.-pract. conf., October, 19-21th, 2005 - Gomel: GGU of F.Skoriny, 2005. - P. 64-66, (in Russian).

20. Dziamianchyk, M.G. *Chiroptera* in agrolandscapes and water-marsh grounds of the southwest of Belarus / M.G.Dziamianchyk//Saharovsky readings 2006: XXI-st century environmental problems. / under red S.P.Kundasa, etc. Mat. VI Intern. science.-pract. conf. On May, 19-20th, 2006 Minsk Belarus. - volume 1. - Gomel: Publishing house RNIUP «radiology Institute», 2006. - P. 310-312, (in Russian).

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23. Dziamianchyk, M.G. Bats in wood and humans biotopes of the Belovezhskaja pushca and nearby territories / M.G.Dziamianchyk//the Ekologo-economic mechanism of reserve a biodiversity of especially protected natural territories of Belarus: Mat.I Intern. science.-pract. conf. On April, 26-28th 2006r. - Brest, 2006. - P. 286-289, (in Russian).

25. Dziamianchyk, M.G. bats in system of monitoring of environment of Belarus / M.G.Dziamianchyk, V.T.Dziamianchyk// Nature of Polesje: features and perspectives of development / Col.: M. of Century - At 2 toms. - Brest: the NAVEL «Publishing house Alternative», 2006. - T.1. - P. 190-197, (in Russian).

26. Dziamianchyk, M.G. Joint dwelling of breeding colonies of different species of bats of Polesye / M.G.Dziamianchyk//Environmental problems of Polesye and adjacent territories: VII Intern. science.-pract. conf., October, 19-21th, 2005 - Gomel: GGU of F.Skoriny, 2005. - P. 66-67, (in Russian).

27. Dziamianchyk, M.G. Modern condition of bats in Belovezhskaja puscha / M.G.Dziamianchyk, V.T.Dziamianchyk// the Belovezhskaja puscha: researches. - Brest: Academy, 2006. - P. 143-152, (in Russian).