

## **AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN BATS (EUROBATS)**

### **National report on implementation of the Agreement in the Czech Republic, 2007-2010**

#### **A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Name of Party:* Czech Republic

*Date of Report:* September 2010

*Period covered:* 2007 – 2010

***Competent Authority:***

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Libuše Vlasáková (Budapest 2007), Radek Lučan (Larnaca 2009)

***Membership in Intersessional Working Groups:***

Wind turbines and bat population

White-nose syndrome

Conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes

Code of Ethics

Bat migration

Impact on Bat Population of Use of Anti-parasitic Drugs for Livestock

Bats as Indicators

Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

## **B. STATUS OF BATS WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE PARTY**

### ***1. Summary Details of Resident Species***

Till September 2010, 26 bat species have been recorded in the Czech Republic: 20 species are considered to be resident, 2 species (*Myotis oxygnathus/blythii* and *M.dasycneme*) regularly occur in restricted area in winter, and 4 species are considered to be accidental or extinct (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, *Hypsugo savii*, *Pipistrellus kuhlii*).

During 2007-2010 was confirmed occurrence of new species – *Pipistrellus kuhlii* (one accidental record in 2007) and increase of records of *Myotis alcathoe*. Distribution in Table 1 is expressed in % of positive squares of all 678 squares (11 x 12km) which covered Czech Republic and are used in faunistics; data comes from Anděra & Hanák (2005, 2006, 2007) and [www.biolib.cz](http://www.biolib.cz).

**Tab1.** List of species recorded in Czech Republic and their distribution in %.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Winter (W), Summer (S), maternity colonies (MC)</b>
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	13 x recorded	Last record 1979
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	37%	W, S, MC
<i>Myotis alcathoe</i>	1%	S, MC
<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	23%	W, S, MC
<i>Myotis blythii/oxygnathus</i>	3%	W, occasionally S
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	25%	W, S, MC
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	2%	Occasionally W and S
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	66%	W, S, MC
<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>	23%	W, S, MC
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	78%	W, S, MC
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	56%	W, S, MC
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	43%	W, S, MC
<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	3x recorded	S
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	15%	Occasionally W, S, MC
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	55%	W, S, MC
<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i>	37%	
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	58%	W, S, MC
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	24%	W, S, MC
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	14%	Occasionally W, S, MC
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	16%	Occasionally W, S, MC
<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	1x recorded	S
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	4x recorded	W, S
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	29%	W, S, MC
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	72%	W, S, MC
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	65%	W, S, MC
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	48%	W, S, MC

### ***2. Status and Trends***

The table below shows current status and trends of all bat species recorded in the Czech Republic. Populations of thermophile species have tendency to grow and inhabit new localities. The official Red List of all vertebrate species of the Czech Republic including bats was published in 2003 (Plesník et al. 2003).

**Tab2.** Status and trends of species recorded in Czech Republic.

Species	Red List CZ	IUCN 3.1	Status	Trends
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	CR or Ex	LC	Extinct? last record 1979	Ex?
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	EN	LC	relatively rare	+
<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	DD	NT	relatively common	?
<i>Myotis oxygnathus</i>	CR	LC	very rare	?
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	0	LC	relatively common	?
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	CR	NT	very rare	?
<i>Myotis alcathoe</i>	Not eval.	DD	rare?	?
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	0	LC	common	+
<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>	VU	LC	relatively common	+
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	VU	LC	common	+
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	0	LC	common	?
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	0	LC	common	?
<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	Not eval.	NT	very rare	?
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	DD	LC	relatively rare	?
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	0	LC	common	?
<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i>	0	LC	common	+
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	0	LC	common	?
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	0	LC	common	+
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	DD	LC	common	+
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	DD	LC	relatively common	+
<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	Not eval.	LC	very rare	?
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	DD	LC	very rare	?
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	0	LC	common	?
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	0	LC	common	0
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	DD	LC	relatively common	-
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	0	NT	relatively common	+

### 3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Landscape of Czech Republic is heterogenous and includes temperate deciduous and coniferous forests, meadows, agricultural and urbanized lands, with sufficiency of water bodies or rivers. Two big karst areas in Moravia and Bohemia are used as regular hibernacula as well as smaller cave systems and abandoned mines occurring across country. Block of flats are used in some areas permanently, in the other areas they are used as hibernacula or during period of maternity colonies. In crevice species, tree crevices and hollows, supplemented with artificial roosts (crevices in buildings, bat boxes) are used in summer. Majority of originally cave species used quarter of various buildings (e.g. *Myotis myotis*, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*). Maternity colonies in caves are only exceptional. Recently, attention is paid to newly discovered roosts in highway bridges and hollow bodies of dams.

### 4. Threats

- Renovation, reconstruction or rearrangement of roofs and loft spaces in old buildings (churches, castles etc.) Due to economic development of the country, an increasing number of maternity roosts (especially those of *Myotis myotis*) are threatened by this factor. Although the species inhabiting this kind of shelters are provided with strict legislative protection, relevant nature conservation authorities are not always informed about the planned renovation.
- Unsuitable methods of safeguarding of abandoned mines which host winter roosts of bats. Important progress was achieved in the last triennium, and nowadays majority of these activities are realized after the consultation with nature conservation authorities.
- Padding a prefabricated house blocks to warming rearrangements. In the last two years, this activity occurred in a large scale, and the influence on several species (mainly *Nyctalus noctula*, *P. pipistrellus*/*P. pygmaeus*; less *Vespertilio murinus* and *Eptesicus serotinus*) is

critical. Those species used more and more different holes (between panels; above the windows; air-ducts) for both maternity colonies and wintering. The problem is closing of air-ducts and of all holes mentioned above.

- d) Felling of the old hollow trees
- e) *Geomyces destructans* infection was recently discovered in bat population inhabiting caves in Czech Republic. It can represent serious danger for especially *Myotis myotis* population

#### **5. Data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination**

Observation of situation of habitats and species was implemented in Act No. 114/1992 on nature conservation and landscape protection and relevant authorities of nature protection are obligated to monitor their quality and trends. Monitoring scheme is coordinated by the Czech Bat Conservation Trust (CBCT, in czech ČESON) with particular effort by the first professional employer of this NGO, dr. Tomáš Bartonička. Both professional zoologists and volunteers are involved in the surveys. The bat monitoring programme presents one of the largest and most complex monitoring projects in the country. The programme is partly financially supported by the Agency for Nature and Landscape Protection (ANCLP CR; in czech AOPK ČR). Recent regular monitoring programs include:

- a) Monitoring of bat population in underground covers more than 600 sites, the method and timing (mid January -mid-February) follows the concept established and performed since 1969. The data are available from central database.
- b) Monitoring of current status of more than 200 maternity roosts.
- c) Monitoring of maternity colonies of pSCI species, with special emphasis on monitoring of nursery colonies of *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Myotis myotis* and *Myotis emarginatus* (NATURA 2000 species). Recent census covers 120 localities.
- d) Monitoring of bat population in feeding grounds with aid of bat-detecting at regular transects in 10 localities of national parks and protected areas.
- e) Bat population at swarming sites as recorded by mist-netting (actually undertaken at 9 localities at May, July and September term on each).
- f) Provisional atlas of distribution of bats were finished and published (2005, 2006, 2007)
- g) Monitoring of bats in the cities, focused on roosts occurring in panel houses
- h) Monitoring of bats with *Geomyces destructans* infection during winter census since 2008
- i) Bat banding is actually restricted to few special projects. The database of all former records (about 100,000 items) is currently available on-line to members of CBCT
- j) *Vespertilio*, an international journal of chiropterology, is published yearly by the CBCT and the Slovak Group for Bat Protection (SON) opened to international public

An extensive scientific research concerning bats is traditionally performed in the professional institutions at Charles University Prague, Masaryk University Brno, South-Bohemian University in Ceske Budejovice as well as at the institutes of Academy of Science, and in National Museum Prague.

The projects covers (among other) e.g.

- systematics, biogeography and biology of bats including fruit bats in the Central Europe, Mediterranean and the Middle East in cooperation with local authorities
- fossil records of bats
- community structures and biology of bats in different forest types of the Czech Republic
- ecology, behaviour and reproductive strategies of selected species (*Myotis daubentonii*, *M. alcathoe/mystacinus/brandtii*, *M.myotis*, *Pipistrellus nathusii*, *P.pipistrellus*, *P.pygmaeus*)

- phylogeography of *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* species complex
- population of bats in the highway bridges
- host-parasite interactions of different bat species and *Cimicidae*
- complex survey of bats and their habitats concerning occurrence of *Geomyces destructans* (caused WNS in USA)

In addition to professional publication output in scientific journals and presentation in international symposia, results of these research projects are presented at national Zoological Conferences held annually in Brno and at annual meetings of the CBCT.

### **C. MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE III OF THE AGREEMENT**

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

The legislative protection of all bat species of bats in the Czech Republic is ensured by up-dating of the Act No. 114/1992 on nature conservation and landscape protection from 2004. All species are protected and are included in critically endangered or endangered by novel regulation 175/2006 of regulation 395/1992. Exceptions (permits) to the Act are granted by competent authorities (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and regional authorities). Offence against the law is penalized by the Czech Environmental Inspection.

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

Current protection of bat sites in the Czech Republic is relatively good, many important hibernacula are designated as or included in Particularly Protected Areas (under the Act No. 114/1992 on nature conservation and landscape protection).

More extensive and more efficient protection of bat sites is provided within the NATURA 2000 network. There are 153 SCIs established only and/or partly (together with other species) for bats. Those SCIs include both important wintering sites and maternity colonies of bats' species included in Habitats Directive.

In total, eight bat species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive occur in the Czech Republic. However, no sites are proposed for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (extinct?) and *Myotis oxygnathus/blythii* whose occurrence in the country is very rare, rather of accidental character. The most important hibernation sites have been identified for *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Myotis myotis*, *M. emarginatus*, *M. dasycneme* and *Barbastella barbastellus*. Similarly, the most numerous nursery colonies have been listed in *R. hipposideros*, *Myotis myotis* and *M. emarginatus*. Therefore, most pSCIs are shelters (winter or summer roosting sites). Due to the lack of data on maternity roosts of *Barbastella barbastellus* and on roosts of *Myotis bechsteinii*, several larger areas of well-preserved woodland, known to host these species (based on netting results), have been selected as pSCIs.

#### ***8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats***

See above.

#### ***9. Activities to promote the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats***

- a) Within the last years, the European Bat Night (EBN) has become an important public awareness event in the country. It starts in 1999; the number of events increased during years: 2006 (21 localities), 2007 (29 localities), 2008 (24 localities), 2009 (34 localities), 2010 (37 localities). The total number of participants reached more than 3400 (40 % are children). The events are organized by the CBCT in co-operation with other NGOs. The coordinator for EBN is Daniel Horáček, member of CBCT.
- b) Across whole country, workshops specialized to problems of heat-padding of panel houses and renovation of buildings are held, coordinator is Petra Schnitzerová, member of CBCT
- c) Series of postcards, folding picture-books and a hide-game with bat photos are continually

published by active members of the Czech Bat Conservation Trust in Liberec. These materials are used during European Bat Nights and other public education programs

- d) NGO Czech Union of Nature Conservationists (CUNC, in Czech ČSOP) with its program National Network of Rescue Centers coordinates the activity of 26 centers providing care to injured or otherwise handicapped wild animals and continual education of public in ecocenters. Each center is responsible for a given region in which it provides complex care to handicapped animals (transfer, first aid, veterinary treatment, rehabilitation, preparation for release and actual release back to nature). Each year the stations take in about 10 thousand animals, more than half of them birds. Since the database was established in 2007, more than 4000 bats have spent time at the rescue centers, three quarters of which were subsequently released into nature. In 2006, Nyctalus was established in Prague, a CSOP local chapter which works exclusively with bats, in close cooperation with other rescue centers and the Czech Bat Conservation Trust (CBCT).
- e) Cooperation with scientific radio Leonardo on series devoted to bats and bat research (Year of the Bat 2011)

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

Czech Bat Conservation Trust (CBCT, in czech ČESON), [www.ceson.org](http://www.ceson.org); [netopyr@ceson.org](mailto:netopyr@ceson.org)

Statutory representatives:

Ivan Horáček, Petr Benda, Radek Lučan, Tomáš Bartonička, Petra Schnitzerová

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***11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats***

Continual work in problems summarized in 4a,b,c (care of current roosts in buildings, advisory bodies in case of renovation of buildings, management of underground roosts, heat padding and workshops for construction companies).

***12. Recent and ongoing programs (including research and policy initiatives) relating to the conservation and management of bats. In the case of research, summaries of completed projects should be provided, giving references where possible and acknowledging the sources of funding.***

- a) The web pages of CBCT ([www.ceson.org](http://www.ceson.org)) were up-dated, new detailed pages about reconstruction and renovation of buildings
- b) New web pages dealing with *Geomyces destructans* infection were established ([www.wns2010.webnode.cz](http://www.wns2010.webnode.cz))
- c) Consulting center which deal with bat problematic expanded its activity
- d) Continual program of management of large breeding colonies of *Myotis myotis* and bat hibernacula
- e) A suggestion of methodology for Ministry of the Environment which concerns to wind turbines in Czech Republic
- f) Manual of protection of bats and swifts during renovation was published in 2008 both electronically and as a booklet ([http://ceson.org/document/brozura\\_final.pdf](http://ceson.org/document/brozura_final.pdf))
- g) Manual of reconstruction and renovation of buildings and bat conservation was published in

2009 both electronically and as a booklet  
([http://www.ceson.org/document/brozura\\_Netopyri\\_v5.pdf](http://www.ceson.org/document/brozura_Netopyri_v5.pdf))

- h) Manual of care and treatment of accepted, handicapped and injured bats was in 2009 published both electronically and as a booklet  
([http://www.nyctalus.cz/Content/nyctlit/manual\\_pece\\_web.pdf](http://www.nyctalus.cz/Content/nyctlit/manual_pece_web.pdf))
- i) The faunistic review of bats in Prague was published in 2009 both electronically and as a booklet ([http://ceson.org/document/netopyri\\_prahy.pdf](http://ceson.org/document/netopyri_prahy.pdf))
- j) IBRC in August 2010 and MoP EUROBATS meeting in September 2010
- k) Young artists competition in paintings of bats finished and results presented at MoP EUROBATS meeting
- l) Finalization of a book “Tribute to Bats” – list of Czech papers, diploma and dissertation thesis concerning bats since 1851 is included.
- m) Finalization of a film “Of Bats and Darkness”; available at MoP EUROBATS meeting in Prague in 2010.
- n) Additionally, long-term monitoring program continue, see B5

### ***13. Consideration being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats and their food sources, and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats***

No changes concerning the existing legislation (see the national report submitted in 2003). When permits (exceptions to the Act No. 114/1992 on nature conservation and landscape protection, see point 6) are granted by the Ministry of Environment for renovation of roofs and loft spaces in buildings inhabited by *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and *Myotis myotis* nursery colonies, they include prohibition of the use of timber treatment chemicals which are toxic to bats (these chemicals are listed in the permit).

## **D. FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENT**

### ***14. Cooperation with other Range States***

There is a good tradition of cooperation between the Czech Republic and Slovakia in research projects (especially hibernacula counts etc.).

In 2009, common grant with Slovak Bat Trust and Koordinationstelle Fledermausschutz in Thuringen was signed. The project is divided into three parts – protection of recent and establishing new roosts for *Rhinolophus hipposideros* in Germany (Thüringen), protection of bat species with roosts in public buildings in Czech Republic and Slovakia, close cooperation among all three states concerning bat protection.

In Mediterranean region, close cooperation was established with Parties and Non-Parties Range states (e.g. Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey) due to research of bats conducted by Czech scientists in this area.

### ***15. Measures taken to implement Resolutions adopted by Meetings of Parties***

#### ***Resolution 2.2 - Consistent Monitoring Methodologies and Resolution 5.4 – Monitoring bats across Europe***

In Czech Republic exist traditional long-term monitoring of underground hibernacula since 1969. In last ten years, monitorings of maternity colonies, swarming roosts, detectoring in habitats started. Recently, monitoring of bats in panel houses was established. For details see B5

#### ***Resolution 2.4 – Transboundary Programme: Habitat Proposals***

Databases of monitored roosts and habitats are available on [www.ceson.org](http://www.ceson.org). Detailed results of particular surveys are published in *Vespertilio*, chiropterologic journal opened for public and available on [www.ceson.org](http://www.ceson.org).

*Resolution 2.5 – Geographical Scope of the Agreement*

No recent studies on bat migration were conducted.

*Resolutions 2.7 and 3.3 – Format of National Reports*

The reports are prepared accordingly to the new format

*Resolutions 2.8, 3.8, 4.9 and 5.10 – On the implementation of the conservation and management plan*

See especially points of this report 4, 5.

*Resolution 3.5 - International Year of the Bat*

To educate public, cooperation with scientific radio Leonardo on series devoted to bats and bat research was established. New propagation materials are planned to press. For details see C9

*Resolution 3.7 – Amendment of the Agreement*

The Amendment was accepted by the Government in December 2001.

*Resolutions 4.3 – Guidelines for the Protection and Management of Important Underground Habitats*

Due to long-term census in bats hibernacula, all important underground habitats are protected. The Eurobats brochure was translated in Czech language and will be available in next CBCT meeting.

*Resolution 4.4 – Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management*

Observation of influence of fragmentation of forest to bat community was undertaken during 2007 and 2008. The study was focused on *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Plecotus auritus*, *Myotis mystacinus/brandtii*, *Myotis emarginatus/alcaethoe*, *Myotis bechsteinii* and *Myotis myotis*.

*Resolution 4.5 – Guidelines for the Use of Remedial Timber Treatment*

No change, see C13.

*Resolutions 4.6 and 5.5 – Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of captured wild Bats*

The legislative protection of all bat species of bats in the Czech Republic is ensured by up-dating of the Act No. 114/1992 on nature conservation and landscape protection (regulations 349/2009 and 18/2010). All species are protected and are included in critically endangered or endangered by novel regulation 175/2006 of regulation 395/1992. Act No 246/1992 on protection of animals against maltreatment (novelized by 77/2006 and 312/2008) refers to individual bat protection. Keeping of handicapped bats and their participation on public education programs are treated by regulation 316/2009 and 5/2009.

Exceptions (permits) to the Act are granted by competent authorities (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, and regional authorities). Offence against the law is penalized by the Czech Environmental Inspection.

*Resolutions 4.7 and 5.6 – Wind Turbines and Bat Populations*

In 2007, document of Recommendation to limitation of activity of wind farms according to bat activity was published on CBCT web pages. Continuous survey is conducted.

*Resolution 5.2 – Bats and Rabies in Europe*

In Czech Republic exists program of vaccination of foxes and compulsory vaccination of all domestic animals. CR is considered to be land without classic rabies. In bats, EBLV and rabies were confirmed 4 times (1994, 2x 1999, 2005). No special survey of rabies and EBLV is conducted.



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

The guidelines „Manual of reconstruction and renovation of buildings and bat conservation” was published in 2009 and electronically it is available on CBCT pages ([www.ceson.org](http://www.ceson.org)) and in [www.ceson.org/document/brozura\\_Netopyri\\_v5.pdf](http://www.ceson.org/document/brozura_Netopyri_v5.pdf)

Moreover, workshops with construction firms are held across the country.

**IMPORTANT LITERATURE SOURCES:**

Hanák V., Anděra M. 2005: Atlas of the mammals of the Czech Republic. A Provisional version. V. Bats (*Chiroptera*) – Part 1. Horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophidae*), vespertilionid bats (*Vestertilionidae* – *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Plecotus auritus*, *Plecotus austriacus*). Národní muzeum,, Praha. 120 pp.

Hanák V., Anděra M. 2006: Atlas of the mammals of the Czech Republic. A Provisional version. V. Bats (*Chiroptera*) – Part 2. Vespertilionid bats (*Vestertilionidae* – genus *Myotis*). Národní muzeum,, Praha. 185 pp.

Anděra M., Hanák V. 2007: Atlas of the mammals of the Czech Republic. A Provisional version. V. Bats (*Chiroptera*) – Part 3. Vespertilionid bats (*Vestertilionidae* – *Vespertilio*, *Eptesicus*, *Nyctalus*, *Pipistrellus*, *Hypsugo*). Národní muzeum,, Praha. 172 pp.

Horáček I., Uhrin M. (eds). 2010: A tribute to bats. Lesnická práce, sro., 400 pp

Horáček I., Benda P (eds). 2010. 15<sup>th</sup> IBRC – The Conference manual. Lesnická práce, sro. 369 pp

Plesník J, Hanzal V., Brejšková L. (eds). 2003: Červený seznam savců České republiky /Red List of Mammals of the Czech Republic/. Příroda, Praha

Ministry of Environment: [www.mzp.cz](http://www.mzp.cz)

Czech Bat Conservation Trust: [www.ceson.org](http://www.ceson.org)

Agency for Nature and Landscape Protection: [www.ochranaprirody.cz](http://www.ochranaprirody.cz)

Czech Union of Nature Conservationists: [www.csop.cz](http://www.csop.cz)

Local chapter of CUNC “Nyctalus” dealing with bats: [www.nyctalus.cz](http://www.nyctalus.cz)