

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

Update to the National Implementation Report of the Czech Republic

A. General Information

Name of Party: Czech Republic

Date of Report: 15 April 2005

Period covered: July 2003 – March 2005

Competent Authority: Ministry of the Environment

Changes regarding:

- *Competent Authority:* - - -
- *Appointed Member of the Advisory Committee:* - - -
- *Membership of other committees/working groups:* - - -

B. Status of Bats within the Territory of the Party

1. Summary Details of Resident Species

No changes.

2. Status and Trends

No considerable changes.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

No changes.

4. Threats

No changes.

5. Data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

Results of bat ringing in the Czech Republic and Slovakia were published in the *Vespertilio* journal (Gaisler et al. 2003, *Vespertilio* 7: 3-61).

In 2005, the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection was appointed a body responsible for national monitoring of species and habitat types according to the Birds and Habitats Directives. The Czech Bat Conservation Trust has been contracted to co-ordinate bat monitoring in the country.

C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement

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

An amendment of the Regulation No. 395/1992 listing specially protected species is in process. Based on the requirements of the Habitats Directive, all bat species will be specially protected in the Czech Republic.

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

The Czech government adopted the national list of proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCIs), including several tens of sites for bats, in December 2004.

8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats

A bat conservation manual, providing practical advice on the protection of underground spaces, maternity roosts in buildings, forest habitats and other issues, has been published by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (Andreas & Cepakova 2004). The manual has been distributed to all regional authorities and protected areas administration. It is also available on the agency's web page (www.nature.cz).

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

The European Bat Night in 2004 was held at 19 sites throughout the country, with a record number of about 1700 visitors.

A public awareness brochure on bats and their conservation was published by the Czech Union of Nature Conservationists in 2004.

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

No changes.

11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats

No changes.

12. Recent and ongoing programmes (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.

Situation similar to the last report.

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

The list of dangerous and safe timber treatment chemicals is given in the bat conservation manual (see point 8).

D. Functioning of the Agreement

14. Cooperation with other Range States

Continuing good co-operation with Slovakian bat researchers can be mentioned.

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

Resolution 4.3 (Guidelines for the Protection and Management of Important Underground Habitats for Bats) – The list of important underground sites was identified and submitted to the Secretariat in 2002, however, an amendment is needed to make the list identical with pSCIs (see point 7). Majority of these sites are already fully protected by law, others will be covered by protection in the near future as Natura 2000 sites.

Resolution 4.4 (Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management) – A project focused on forest bats, funded by the Ministry of Environment and run by the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno, was started in 2004. The aim of the project is to investigate the use of various types of forests by bats and to identify the “key areas” in accordance with the resolution.

Moreover, a Czech translation of the German brochure “Bats in Forests” was published by the Ministry of Environment and the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection in 2004. In total, 1200 copies were delivered to the country's largest forestry company for dissemination among forest managers.