

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BAT IN EUROPE**  
**Report on the implementation of the agreement in Estonia**  
2003-2004

**A. General Information**

Name of Party: Estonia  
Date of report: 21 April 2005  
Period covered: Jan 2003-Dec 2004  
Competent authority: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Estonia

**B. Status of bats within the territory of Party**

**1. Summary Details of Resident Species**

The situation is similar to the last report.

**2. Status and Trends**

The situation is similar to the last report

**3. Habitats and Roost Sites**

The situation is similar to the last report

**4. Threats**

The situation is similar to the last report

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

Data was collected through different projects: 1) Important sites of Pond Bat in Estonia (Lutsar, 2003); 2) Bat population composition and important sites for bats in Otepää Nature park and Haanja Nature Park (Lutsar, 2003, 2004); 3) National Environment Monitoring Programme (NEMP) subdivision Bats (Masing, 2003, 2004); 4) Inventories in 4 counties (Masing, 2003, 2004). The results were proposed to county environmental services and the Ministry of Environment.

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

According to the Nature Conservation Act (Passed 21 April 2004), all 11 bat species which occur in Estonia, are taken under the Protection Category II. According to the Nature Conservation Act the protection of at least 50 % of known habitats of species of Protection Category II registered in the environmental register shall be ensured by establishing protected areas or special conservation areas or designating species protection sites, based on the representativity of the areas. The combination of the regulation for designating protection sites for bats is in the process.

Action plan for conservation of bats has recently been adopted.

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

The Action Plan includes list of important bat sites. Previously identified hibernation sites are situated in some artificial caves (including mines and tunnels), and in many old cellars. The caves at Piusa (southeast Estonia), including up to 4,500 bats from 5—7 species, contain the largest winter aggregation of bats known in northern Europe. Summer sites need further research. Research tasks are included in the Action Plan.

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

Nature Conservation Act stipulates the need to avoid damage to the known sites.

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

The educational workshop on bats, their habitats and protection measures was held on 7 -8 June at Luua. 19 participants from County Environmental Services, Environmental Inspectorate and Administrations of Protected Areas took part of this event. The program of the workshop includes lectures and also the practical work in the field. The participants could recognize the bat species with detectors.

The Action Plan is available on the Ministry of Environment homepage.

Dedicated to the 11 December 2004 event when Estonia joined the EUROBATS, several e-mail letters were distributed in the Internet explaining the threats to bats and the measures of bat conservation, the presentation was made on the seminar of outdoors education seminar in Kubija for 60 participants.

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

Not yet nominated

## **11. Additional actions undertaken to safeguard population of bats**

General public, environmental authorities and the companies planning wind turbines were informed about the necessity to carry out a bat-detector study before establishing wind turbines on the coast. A presentation was made and an article prepared about this matter, as well.

## **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**

During 2003—2004 bat conservation projects were in work in four counties (Läänemaa, Raplammaa, Lääne-Virumaa, Võrumaa) (Masing, 2004) and Haanja Nature Park (Lutsar, 2003) and Otepää Nature Park funded (Lutsar, 2004) by Estonian Fund for Environmental Investment. In Läänemaa the door to an important bat-cellar was restored at Vatla. In Raplammaa large-scale inventory of bat sites was carried out both in summer and in winter (Masing, 2004). Summer habitats of bats were studied in Võrumaa, and underground sites were studied in some places in Lääne-Virumaa (Masing, 2004). In the two last-mentioned counties the work has been completed only partly, as the funding was not enough to receive the planned results.

Project Important sites for Pond Bat was carried out to establish the Natura 2000 areas for this species (Lutsar, 2003) which was funded by State Budget.

Since 1994 the project “Bats” is annually carried out under the National Environment Monitoring Programme (NEMP) (Masing, 2003, 2004). It is funded by the State Budget.

Matti Masing has prepared detailed but simple guidelines to implement expert work in the conservation of populations of terrestrial vertebrates, including bats. These guidelines were published in a special Internet website ([www.hot.ee/sicista98](http://www.hot.ee/sicista98)) in February 2005, and they were dedicated to the 11 December 2004 event when Estonia joined the EUROBATS.

In 2004 two issues of “Eptesicus” (2 and 3) were released in Internet ([www.hot.ee/eptesicus](http://www.hot.ee/eptesicus)).

In August 2004 two presentations on bat sound study were made at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Bat Research Conference at Mikolajki, Poland (Masing, 2004, 2004). The Ministry of the Environment supported participation in this event.

### **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.**

Issue is listed as a potential threat in the Action Plan but the significance is largely unknown and no actions are planned.

## **C. Functioning of the Agreement**

### **14. Co-operation with other Range States**

Members of Estonian Bat Group carried out joint bat research with Bat Group Finland and with colleagues from Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and the Netherlands. Bat experts from France and Sweden have helped us in analyzing bat sounds to learn bat species.

#### *Reports to the EUROBATS Secretariat (2003—2004)*

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Masing, M. 2003. Trying to improve bat conservation in Europe. Presentation to the 8th Meeting of the Advisory Committee, 12—14 May 2003, Røros, Norway. Sicista leaflet no. 25E. Tartu, 6 pp.

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Laanetu, N. & Masing, M. 2004. Bats near Hanko. – Eptesicus, 2. ([www.hot.ee/eptesicus](http://www.hot.ee/eptesicus))

Masing, M. 2003. [LA:56] Koopaturism Eestis ... (fwd). (loodusaeg@lists.ut.ee, 13 Feb 2003 12:19:38) [nahkhiirte kaitse elluviimisest koobastes seoses suureneva turistide survega]

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- Masing, M. 2003. Looduskaitse võimalikkusest Kuressaares ja Eestis. – Meie Maa, 19.11.
- Masing, M. 2003. Nahkhiireaasta 2003. – Hiiumaa, 18.11. [nahkhiirte tähtsa elupaiga kahjustamisest Kuressaares, nahkhiirte külmumisohust Aruküla Nahkhiirekoopas, nahkhiirte talvitumise soodustamisest keldrites]
- Masing, M. 2003. NAHKHIIREPÄEV! (ning muu huvitav seoses nahkhiirte uurimise ja õpetamisega Eestis). – Sicista voldik nr. 27. Sicista Arenduskeskus, Tartu, 6 lk.
- Masing, M. 2003. [LA:177] Nahkhiirte kaitsekorraldus, ma"rts 2003. (loodusaeg@lists.ut.ee, 04 Mar 2003 00:59:02) [seaduste uuendus, ekspertide pidev töö, nahkhiirte eeluuringud elupaikades]
- Masing, M. 2003. Pimedas lendavad loomad. [pealkiri mitte autori pandud] – Virumaa Teataja, 11.6. [nahkhiireprojekt Lääne-Virumaal]
- Masing, M. [2003]. Tiigilendlane/ Pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*). [Miniposter, Keskkonnaministerium]
- Masing, M. 2003. Ärgates looduskaitsele? – Hiiumaa, 18.12. [nahkhiirte kaitse elluviimise detailid ja koostööpakkumine]
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- Masing, M. 2004. *Pipistrellus nathusii*? – a strange "August bat" calling along the coast. – Eptesicus, 2. (www.hot.ee/eptesicus)
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Masing, M. (koostaja) 2004m. Nahkhiirte elupaigad Võrumaal. MTÜ Sicista Arenduskeskus, Tartu, 96 lk. (Võrumaa keskkonnateenistus)

Masing, M. (koostaja) 2004m. Nahkhiirte elupaigad Raplamaal. MTÜ Sicista Arenduskeskus, Tartu, 110 lk. (Raplamaa keskkonnateenistus)

Masing, M. (koostaja) 2004m. Nahkhiirte kaitse seminar. Luua, 7. ja 8. juuni 2004. Kava ja ettekannete kokkuvõtted. Tartu, 41 lk.

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Masing, M. 2004m. Uus ekspert-arvamus Jõelähtme tuuleturbiinide asjas. MTÜ Sicista Arenduskeskus, 22.12.2004, 3 lk. (OÜ Petro-Elekter)

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