AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BAT IN EUROPE

Report on the implementation of the agreement in Estonia

2006-2007

A. General Information

Name of Party: Estonia

Date of report: March 31 2007

Period covered: April 2005-March 2007

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

11 species of bats have been identified in Estonia until 2006.

New species *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* of Estonia was recorded by Matti Masing in July 2006 in West-Estonia on the bases of sonar (Masing, 2007).

2. Status and Trends

Status and ternds of formerly know species are the same as in previous years. The status of the new species is not known, obviously, this species is rare in Estonia and probably does not hibernate here (Masing, 2007).

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Most importants habitats are old forest, parks with old trees and lakes or ponds. Importants wintering sites are artificial caves in Piusa, artificial militar undergound spaces and cellars all over the country.

4. Threats

The intensive building activity is becoming most important threat for bat roosts near cities.

Juridical problems in the legislation of underground artificial tunnels.

5. Data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

EELIS is the system of official data collection about proteced species in Estonia. Also the bat data collection is provided by several NGO-s as Estonian Fund for Nature and Sicista Developmental Center.

New agency under the Ministry of Environment, State Nature Conservation Centre (SNCC) organises its work in 8 regions covering the coutry, where the data collection, interpretation and dissemination will be provided. Also the NGO-s are doing this based on several projects.

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

New regulations for most important wintering sites of underground tunnels of Peter the Great Sea Fortress around Tallinn (Laagri, Vääna-Viti, Vääna-Posti) have been adopted in 2006.

New species protection sites for *Myotis dasycneme* maternity colonies in Hanila and Räpina are under the preparation.

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

There are prepared new proposed regulations for important *Myotis dasycneme* maternity colony in Hanila and important roosting and feeding site for *Myotis nattereri, Myotis dasycneme, Myotis daubentonii, Plecotus auritus, Eptesicus nilssonii, Nycralus noctula in* Räpina old park as the protected site.

8. Consideration given to habitats, which are important to bats

The house was successfully renovated according to instructions of bat experts in Palupõhja where important Myotis dasycneme maternity colony have a roosting site.

The same was made in Endla Nature Reserve visitor center in winter 2006-2007.

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

Information on bat conservation has been distributed both on the Internet and in paper press. Bat experts have constantly informed the public about major threats to bats (e.g. the destruction of old forests and parks, visitation of underground sites in winter, erection of wind turbines etc.), often using e-mail correspondence. Guidelines were published to protect bats against various threats and advice was given on several occasions (leaflet: Nahkhiirte kaitse, 2007 Riiklik Looduskaitsekeskus K.Lotman, P.Saak.A.Saare/Bat protection, State Nature Conservation Centre 2007.

Bat conservation issues were presented on meetings and on TV and radio (Lauri Lutsar and Matti Masing).

Tallinn Zoo prepared the galery of protected species with exhibition for bats with help of Matti Masing and Kaja Lotman. The opening of this was in September 2006. Thousands of visitors have visisted the site.

The email list for interested on bats nahkhiirehuvilised nhh@elfond.ee is still working.

A homepage on 17 species of threatened small mammals, including bats, was launched on the Internet in January 2005 (www.hot.ee/pisiimetajad).

In February 2006 Sicista Development Centre launched its fifth homepage, which is dedicated to educational issues on various topics of nature conservation, especially conservation research into small terrestrial vertebrates (www.hot.ee/sicista98).

Estonian Fund for Nature organised bat evening for Tartu Treffner Gymnasium.

Matsalu Nature Centre organised international bat night on August 30-31 for 62 visitors.

Publications:

Keppart, V. 2006 Nahkhiirtest ja nende kaitsest Jõgevamaal. Jõgevamaa Keskkonnaleht, 28.12 (Protection of bats in Jõgevamaa – aticle in the newspaper)

Keppart, V. 2006 Elistvere pargi-nahkhiirtest. Loodusekalender, 1. august 2006 (Pipistrellus nathusii)

Lotman K. A. Saare, Saak P. 2007 Nahkhiirte kaitse (Protecion of bats) leaflet

colony in Elistevere – http://www.ilm.ee/-uploader/loodus/?leht=art0608elistvereparginahkhiirtest

Masing, M. 2007 Nahkhiirte varakevadine lend (Early-spring fight of bats) e-mail letter

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

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Estonia, Department of Nature Protection.and SNCC

11. Additional actions undertaken to safeguard population of bats

The aplication for investigation of Harju county important bat sites has been made by SNCC

The application for Humala wintering site actionplan was made by SNCC

The aplication for Saaremaa county old parks inventory (including bat) has been made by SNCC

In Otepää Landscape Reserve the bat boxes were erected in forest sites

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

Since 1994 the project "Bats" is annually carried out under the National Environment Monitoring Programme (NEMP) (Masing, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006). It is funded by the government.

Inventory of bats in Ida-Viru county and Vooremaa landscape reserve was orderd by SNCC , carried out by Matti Masing and funded by KIK (Environmental Investment Centre).

Influence of windpower park in Pakri was invesitgated by Lauri Lutsar and funded by the dveloper.

The monitoring of bat hiberantion in small cellars of West-Estonia was continued by Kaja Lotman (funded by the goverment)

Publications:

Masing, M. 2006. Nahkhiirte vaatlused rannikul seoses tuuleturbiinidega. [Observations of bats on the coast in connection with wind turbines] Rmt: Taastuvate energiaallikate uurimine ja kasutamine. (Toim. V. Tiit) Seitsmenda konverentsi kogumik. Tartu, Estonia: 95-111.

Masing, M. 2006. Pipistrellus-nahkhiirte hääldiagnostika Põhja-Euroopas ja pügmee - nahkhiire (Pipistrellus pygmaeus Leach) leiud Eestis. - Eesti Looduseuurijate Seltsi aastaraamat, 84: 185-206.

Masing, M. 2007. Kahepaiksete, roomajate ja pisiimetajate inventuur Agusalu MKA- ja Puhatu LKA-l 2006. aasta suvel (looduskaitselise uurimistöö kokkuvõte). – Sicista Arenduskeskus, Tartu: 129 lk. (LKK Ida-Viru regioon)

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.

There are no activities and no information of such treats.

C. Functioning of the Agreement

14. Co-operation with other Range States

Matti Masing have worked in Lithuania in summer 2006

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

Resolution 2.2 Database of monitoring Results

Reorganisation of the official database EELIS in order to include monitoring data is in the progress

Resolution 4.6. Guidelines forthe Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats

The Resolution tekst was translated to Estonian and is on the web page of SNCC at the part of protecion species *http://www.lk.ee/index.php?main=37*

SNCC is giving the licenses for bat ringing activities keeping in mind the resolution.