

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATION OF EUROPEAN
BATS**

Report on the implementation of the agreement in Estonia

2007-2008

A. General Information

Name of Party: Estonia

Date of report: March 31 2008

Period covered: April 2007-March 2008

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

12 species of bats have been identified in Estonia from 2006.

2. Status and Trends

Status and trends of formerly known species are the same as in previous years. The status of new species is not known, obviously, this species is rare in Estonia and probably does not hibernate here (Masing, 2006).

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Most important habitats are old forests, parks with old trees and lakes or ponds. Important wintering sites are artificial caves at Piusa, artificial military underground spaces and cellars all over the country. Piusa underground space was renovated for better conditions for hibernation and to avoid threats from visitors in 2007 by State Nature Conservation Centre (SNCC).

4. Threats

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

5. Data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

EELIS is the system of official data collection about protected species in Estonia. Also the bat data collection is provided by several NGO-s as Estonian Fund for Nature and Siciста Development Centre.

SNCC organises its work in 8 regions covering the country, where data collection, interpretation and dissemination will be provided. SNCC has 8 species protection specialists who are equipped with bat detectors and sound analyses programs. Also NGO-s are doing this based on several projects.

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

New species protection sites for *Myotis dasycneme* maternity colonies in Hanila and R pina are under 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*, *Nyctalus noctula* in R pina old park as the protected site.

The most important sites have been described in the bats conservation action plan for Estonia.

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

The underground hibernation site at Piusa was successfully renovated in 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. The public e-mail address nahkhiir@lk.ee and the telephone number +3725247899 was opened to give advice in case of problems with bats.

The Boreal bat identification book was ordered from Matti Masing by State Nature Conservation Centre and it is almost ready but not yet published.

Bat conservation issues were presented on meetings and on TV and radio (Lauri Lutsar, Matti Masing, Triinu Tõrv, Kaja Lotman).

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 Dec 2004 (www.hot.ee/pisiimetajad) and is still available. In August 2007 International Bat Night was organised in Matsalu Nature Centre (58 participants) and in Tallinn with high numbers of participants.

Publications:

Masing, M. 2007. Eesti nahkhiirte ülevaade. Täiendatud variant. Sicista Arenduskeskus/ Nahkhiirte Uurimise Töörühm, Tartu: 46 lk. (Masing-2007-1231-nh-ulev.pdf) (käsikiri)

Masing, M. & Lutsar, L. 2007. Hibernation temperatures in seven species of sedentary bats (Chiroptera) in northeastern Europe. -- Acta Zoologica Lituanica, 17 (1): 47-55. (Masing-Lutsar-2007-hibernation.pdf)

Masing, M. & Lutsar, L. 2007. New age records of bats from Estonia. - Myotis, 43, Bonn: 63-65. (Masing-Lutsar-2007-new-age.pdf)

Mitchell-Jones, A.M., Bihari, Z., Masing, M. & Rodrigues, L. 2007. Protecting and managing underground sites for bats. EUROBATS Publication Series No. 2 (English version). UNEP/EUROBATS Secretariat, Bonn, Germany: 38 pp.

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

SNCC commissioned bats inventory in Alam-Pedja, Endla and Emajõe Suursoo Nature Reserves and in Kurtna and Ontika Landscape Reserves from Matti Masing. The inventories in Agusalu NR and Puhatu NR were finalized (funded by KIK-Environmental Investment Centre).

Investigations at the windturbine areas at Virtsu by Matti Masing 2007 ordered by Skinest Energia.

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, 2007). It is funded by the government.

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

Ongoing research at Laagri bat hibernation area in the Tallinn University connected with multiple thesis (funded by Tallinn University and KIK):

Triinu Tõrv master thesis - Hibernation ecology of bats in Laagri bat hibernation area (supervised by dr Dino Scaravelli, Italy).

Maris Sepp bachelor thesis: Comparison of importance of Laagri bat hibernation area in respect to other underground hibernation sites in Estonia.

Ott Kadak bachelor thesis: Microclimat of the Laagri bat hibernation area.

The monitoring of bat hibernation in small cellars of West-Estonia was continued by Kaja Lotman (funded by the government).

Dutch Mammal Society inventories of bats in Matsalu National Park – the report will be presented later – summercamp was organised on the basis of voluntary work. The costs for accomodation and organised reporting seminar for Estonian nature conservation staff was paid by the SNCC.

Preliminary works for preparation of a new project „Mammals of Tallinn“ by Triinu Tõrv and others.

Publications:

Masing, M. 2007. Nahkhiirte detektor-uuring nelja tuulepargi alal 2007. aasta suvel. Sicista Arenduskeskus, Tartu: 55 lk. (tellija: Hendrikson & Ko) (käsikiri).

Masing, M. 2007. Seireprojekti „Nahkhiired“ 2007. aasta töö kokkuvõte. Sicista Arenduskeskus, Tartu: 64 lk. (tellija: Riiklik keskkonnaseire programm, Eesti Looduseuurijate Selts) (käsikiri).

Masing, M. & Lutsar, L. 2007. Hibernation temperatures in seven species of sedentary bats (Chiroptera) in northeastern Europe. -- Acta Zoologica Lituanica, 17 (1): 47—55. http://www.ekoi.lt/uploads/docs/AZL_2007_01_47-55%20psl.pdf

Masing, M. & Lutsar, L. 2007. New age records of bats from Estonia. - Myotis, 43, Bonn: 63—65.

Lotman, K 2007. Haarang Matsalu pisisimetajatele. - Eesti Loodus (12): 48-50.

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 in Estonia

C. Functioning of the Agreement

14. Co-operation with other Range States

Matti Masing has worked in Lithuania in summer 2007

Visit to Tallinn University and an open lecture given by dr. D. Scaravelli, Italy, concerning

bats and habitats in Mediterranean area

Cooperation with the Finnish Chiropterological Society, participation in meetings and workshops in Finland. Dutch Mammal Society summercamp in Matsalu National Park in July 2007

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 process.

Renewing the programme in the Matsalu Ringing Centre where the data about bat ringing is also kept.

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

The Resolution tekst was translated into Estonian and is on the web page of SNCC at the part of protection species

<http://www.lk.ee/index.php?main=37>

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