

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BAT IN EUROPE

Report on the implementation of the agreement in Estonia

2007-2008

A. General Information

Name of Party: Estonia
Date of report: March 31 2009
Period covered: April 2008-March 2009
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

2. Status and Trends

Status and trends of species are the same as in previous years. Changes in trends have not been discovered.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Most important habitat sites include old forests, parks with old trees, areas with wooden buildings, surroundings of lakes and ponds. Important wintering sites are artificial mining sites (Piusa), artificial military underground spaces and limestone cellars all over the country.

4. Threats

Intensive real estate development, lack of information, negligence of hibernation sites (cellars), lack of capacity

5. Data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

EELIS is the system of official data collection about protected species in Estonia.

Data analysis and interpretation is done by several NGO-s.

Amount of data collected yearly is insufficient for trend estimations and population range estimations. A volunteer network is not yet established.

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

New species protection sites for *Myotis dasycneme* maternity colonies are under the preparation.

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

Hanila maternity colony for *Myotis dasycneme*. 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

Project involving surveys in old parks across Estonia has been carried out.

Complete survey and risk assessment of Laagri hibernation site was carried out, which will improve possibilities of bat protection.

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

Bat detector seminars were held for the Environmental Board members in order to carry out surveys. Presentations concerning bat research in Estonia were held in several international conferences during the year 2008. A special session was dedicated to bats in Baltic Theriological Conference, held in Lapanina, Estonia, in October 2008.

Information on bat conservation has been distributed by bat experts on occasion when possible by means of media (TV, radio, Internet).

A leaflet introducing bats and their habitat was published during the year 2008.

The public e-mail address nahkhiir@lk.ee and the telephone number +3725247899 exists to give advices in the case of problems with bats. An e-mail list for people interested in bats is working.

The Boreal bat identification book material is gathered and is waiting for publishing.

A new NGO was established in order to organize bat related activity. (NGO Long-Ear)

The International Batnight was celebrated by means of several organized batwalks around Estonia.

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 a new unit under the Ministry of Environment – Environmental Board, which continues the tasks of State Nature Protection Centres and Environmental Service Centres.

11. Additional actions undertaken to safeguard population of bats

Several surveys have been ordered from bat experts in different habitats (including, parks, hibernating sites, windturbines etc).

Seminars in order to renew the bats conservation action plan for Estonia are being carried out.

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). Funded by government.

Inventory of old parks covering whole Estonia by Lauri Lutsar and Matti Masing. Funded by government and KIK.

Ongoing research at Laagri bat hibernation area in the Tallinn University and Euro University connected with multiple thesis, funded by Tallinn University, NGO Triinu Hobituba and NGO Long-Ear.

Surveys of South-Estonian manor cellars, funded by NGO Triino Hobituba.

New projects are planned for year 2009 of Tallinn bat fauna, in cooperation with NGO Long-Ear and SEI Tallinn centre, funded by KIK.

The monitoring of bat hibernation in small cellars of West-Estonia and summer surveys in Lääne county were continued by Kaja Lotman (funded by the government).

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

Several Estonian bat experts are involved in cooperation with range states. Active cooperation is held between Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and Italy.

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

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

Environmental Board is hereby responsible for the licenses for bat ringing activities keeping in mind the resolution.