

## **AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE**

### **Update to the National Implementation Report of Lithuania**

#### **A. General Information**

*Name of Party:* Lithuania

*Date of Report:* 10 April 2002

*Period covered:* April 2000– April 2002

*Competent Authorities:* Lithuanian Society of Bat Conservation; Theriological Society of Lithuania, Nature Protection Department of the Ministry of Environment, Lithuania

#### **B. Status of Bats within the Territory of the Party**

##### ***1. Summary Details of Resident Species***

To date, 14 bat species have been recorded in the territory of Lithuania. However, several of them are very rare and thus considered as Indeterminate and /or Insufficient known:

- *Myotis mystacinus* (Whiskered Bat). Presumably a rare species, because until now only a single locality is known (in Northern part of Lithuania where a skull was found in a limestone cave).
- *Nyctalus leisleri* (Leisler's Bat). Characterized as rare species, because only a few observations found during the autumn bat migration in Western part of Lithuania (Vente Cape).
- *Myotis dasycneme* (Pond Bat). Doubtful status, because it is quite rare and locally distributed, recorded mostly in North-Eastern, Eastern and South-Eastern parts of Lithuania. Summer status is Insufficient known, during winter the species is found in Kaunas fortress, thus the species is probably endangered.
- *Plecotus auritus* (Brown long-eared Bat), *Myotis daubentonii* (Daubenton's Bat) and *Pipistrellus nathusii* (Nathusius' Pipistrelle) are confirmed to be considered as common and widespread species.

Summarizing, the studies of bats resident species are at the stage of records' collection and in several cases there are no definite data, which are considered as satisfying and reliable. The best data sets on bats residence species are from:

Kaunas fortresses, Radviliskis district (Central part of Lithuania);

Telsiai, Mazeikiai districts, Zemaitija National park (North-Western part of Lithuania);

Birzai regional park (North-Eastern part of Lithuania);

Trakai historical nature park (Eastern part of Lithuania).

##### ***2. Status and Trends***

Situation similar to the last report, submitted 22 April, 2000.

##### ***3. Habitats and Roost Sites***

There are quite many habitats, which are used by bats in Lithuania, such as the former manor houses, widely distributed estates with old parks in the small towns and settlements at countryside, coastal forests broad-leaved forests and town's parks (especially during bats breeding season).

##### ***4. Threats***

Concerning the major threats that occur in Lithuania, situation similar to the last report.

##### ***5. Data collection and research***

As it was stated in the previous report, data are collected by Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation (LSBC), Institute of Ecology and is being coordinated, supervised by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. Moreover, the State Monitoring Program was elaborated in 1998, under which one sub-program is devoted purely for the observations and monitoring of fauna (including mammals), thus eight selected bat species in Lithuania are subject for yearly monitoring. Regrettably, a new institutionalized initiative to collect data in a systematized way (data quality assurance) is being hindered by the ministerial financial constrains. Therefore, during the last several years (actual reporting period) monitoring of the most abundant and widespread bat species has been performed mostly on voluntary basis (most active key-players are: LSFBC, Lithuanian Theriological Society). Meanwhile the Regulations of the State Monitoring Program has been prepared for the approval by the Ministerial Order, where all necessary prerequisites for the statutory implementation, methodology, data management, etc. of different monitoring sub-programs are elaborated.

There were several initiatives, considered as bats research activities, among them:

in the framework of bilateral Polish (Gdansk University) - Lithuanian (Kaunas University of Medicine) cooperation the project on “DNA heterogeneous genetic research of *Pipistrellus Nathusii* sp.” has been implemented during summer time 2001.

### **C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement**

#### ***6. Legal measures taken to protect bats, including details of enforcement actions to support such measures***

An amendment of Law of the Lithuanian Red Data Book (2000) has been issued, according which ten (10) bat species as endangered, vulnerable or of unknown status are protected in Lithuania, i.e.:

*Myotis dasycneme*, *Eptesicus Nilssoni*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *Nyctalus leisleri*, *Myotis nattereri*, *Myotis brandtii*, *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *Eptesicus serotinus*, *Vespertilio murinus*.

There should be mentioned several main national laws in the field of nature protection, where issues of wildlife conservation (including conservation of bats as well) are described also:

Law on Environmental Protection (1992), Law on Protected Areas (1993, as amended in 2001 December), Law on Wild Fauna (1997, as amended in 2001 December), Law on Protected Plant, Animal and Fungi Species and Communities (1997). The new version of the latter law is currently under preparation. “Lithuanian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan” (LBCSAP, 1998) was approved by the former Ministry of Environmental Protection and Ministry of Agriculture. Although there are no particular thematic topics concerning the enforcement measures and actions for the bats conservation, the above mentioned Strategy covers the appropriate measures for protection of biota resources through research, monitoring; protection of particular ecosystems and endangered species. The new version of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is planned to be prepared in the near future.

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

Situation similar to the last report.

Further information of recent sites’ identification and selection project see information provided below at the point No. 12.

Thus some progress has been made in identification of the future pSCIs to be included in the NATURA 2000.network as SACs (both hibernacula and maternity roosts).

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

Situation similar to the last report.

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

Following the workshops in 1999 and 2000 another series of bat detector training courses in Eastern European Countries, the **1-st Bat Detector training Workshop was held in Lithuania**, which was held on 16-21 May in the village Plateliai (Plunge district, North-Western part of Lithuania).

The authorities of the national protected area - Zemaitija National Park - welcomed appr. 30 participants of the International Seminar from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belorussia, Netherlands, Germany, Finland. There were held several theoretical and practical sessions introducing the survey and identification of bats with ultrasound detectors (sound and flight physics, bat biology, observational training and “know-how” handling the detectors), field work and excursions, etc.

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation (LSFBC) and Lithuanian Theriological Society.

The European Bat Nights (years-2000, 2001) were organized by the Ministry of Environment and most active non-governmental organizations working in the field of bats conservation (LSFBC, Lithuanian Theriological and Ornithological Societies). They were held in the first weekends of September in Vente Cape (the most western place of the country on a bank of the Curonian Lagoon). During the European Bat night in Lithuania-2001, the major national and commercial TV broadcasting companies took part in the event. After words they made the reports from the second national European Bat Night (in total calculated 7 reportages via TV, apart from a number of interviews with Dr. Pauza for radio stations, newspapers and public journals). Summarizing, the public awareness campaign surely had a big influence for accelerating the ratification of the EUROBATS agreement in the Lithuanian Parliament.

Therefore, Lithuania took several appropriate measures to promote conservation of bats and organized several public awareness campaigns in that respect.

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

Nature Protection department of the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment is willing to propose the Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation to act as a scientific national advisor responsible for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management within the territory of Lithuania.

### ***11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats***

Situation similar to the last report, no additional comments.

### ***12. Recent and ongoing programs (including research) relating to the conservation and management of bats***

No major additional comments to the last report submitted by the LSFBC. However there were several key activities during the reporting period (2000-2001) concerning the DANCEE financed program for “Implementation of Natura 2000 Network on regional and local level”. There were formed several working groups within the “Natura 2000 project”, one of which (i.e. Species working group) has been dealing with investigation, research, field works (and to some point,- monitoring) of the selected several bat species throughout Lithuania: *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Myotis Dasycneme*. Leading specialists from the Institute of Ecology and experts from LSFBC gathered in a group. They had a task during the several field seasons to investigate the above mentioned bat species, to collect the best available and reliable data in order to find out the possible areas to be proposed as possible Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs) for NATURA 2000 network. There were several territories investigated and preliminary proposed for the nomination as pSCIs. The outcomes of the species working group will be checked and taken into account during the setting-up final list of SPAs and pSCIs.

For more information see answer in the point 5.

### ***13. Consideration being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats, and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats***

Situation similar to the last report, no additional comments.

#### **D. Functioning of the Agreement**

The national Law on AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE (EUROBATS Agreement) has been adopted on 25-th of September, 2001 (No. IX-518), thus stating that Lithuanian Parliament has adopted the accession to the Agreement of the Conservation of Bats in Europe (UNEP/EUROBATS).