

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE

National report on the implementation of the agreement in Lithuania

A. General Information

Name of Party: Lithuania
Date of Report: September 2003
Period covered: 2000 - 2003
Competent Authorities: Nature Protection Department of the Ministry of Environment

B. Status of Bats within the Territory of the Lithuania

1. Summary Details of Resident Species

Situation is similar to the last report (March 2003).

14 bat species occur on the territory of Lithuania. However, several of them are very rare:

- *Myotis mystacinus* (Whiskered Bat). Presumably is 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). Characterised as a rare species, because only a few observations found during the autumn bat migration in Western part of Lithuania.
- *Myotis dasycneme* (Pond Bat). Doubtful status, because it is quite rare and locally distributed, recorded mostly in the North-Eastern, Eastern and South-Eastern parts of Lithuania. Summer status is Insufficient known, during winter the species is found in the 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 a common and widespread species.
- *Pipistrellus nathusii*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *Eptesicus nilssoni* and *Vespertilio murinus* are common species during autumn bat migration along the Baltic Sea coast.

2. Status and Trends

Species	Status in Lithuania	Apparent Trend
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	K/MIG	Unknown
<i>Eptesicus nilssoni</i>	R	Unknown
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	V	Stable
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	I/MIG	Unknown
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	K/MIG	Unknown
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	R/MIG	Unknown
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	V/MIG	Stable
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	K/MIG	Unknown
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	R	Probably stable
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	NT	Stable

<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	I	Unknown
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	K/MIG	Probably stable
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	R	Probably stable
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	I/MIG	Unknown
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	NT/MIG	Probably stable

E – endangered, **V** – vulnerable, **R** – rare, **K** – insufficiently known, **I** – indeterminate, **NT** – not threatened, **MIG** – migration species.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Situation is similar to the last report (March 2003).

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 in the 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, the situation is similar as it was reported in 2000.

5. Data collection and research

Data was collected by:

- Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation;
- Institute of Ecology
- Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
- Lithuanian Ringing Centre

Research works:

- Mickeviciene I., Mickevicius E., Baranauskas K. 1999. The summer distribution and status of bat species in Lithuania. Bats and Man. Million years of coexistence; 8th European bat research symposium. Krakow, p. 40-41.
- Baranauskas K. 2001. Hibernation of Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) in Seskine bunkers in Vilnius (Lithuania). A possible bat population response to climate change. Acta Zoologica Lituonica. V. 11. N. 1, p. 15-19.
- Smigelskas R., Baranauskas K. 2002. Mammals and other wild animals of the Zoology club of Vilnius Pedagogical University. 5th Baltic Theriological Conference. Abstracts. Birstonas, p. 46-47.
- Smigelskas R., Baranauskas K. 2003. Mammals in captivity at the zoologist's club of Vilnius Pedagogical University. Acta Zoologica Lituonica. Proceedings of the 5th Baltic theriological conference: part 2. V. 13, N. 1, p. 90-91.

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

The situation is similar as it was reported in March 2003.

The amendment of the Law on the Lithuanian Red Data Book (2000) has been adopted, 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*.

But in future, Ministry of Environment plans to include another 4 species in the Lithuanian Red Data Book.

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).

"Lithuanian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan" (LBCSAP, 1998) was approved by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Ministry of Agriculture.

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

The situation is similar as it was reported in March 2003.

8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats

The situation is similar as it was reported in March 2003.

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

The European Bat Nights-2003 was organised by the Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation and the Ministry of Environment. It was held on 30th of August in Vente Cape (the most western place of the country on a bank of the Curonian Lagoon).

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 competent authorities.

The Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation and Institute of Ecology are scientific authorities.

11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats

The situation is similar as it was reported in March 2003.

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

The situation is similar as it was reported in March 2003.

DANCEE financed the program for "Implementation of NATURA 2000 Network on Regional and Local level in Lithuania". 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*.

For *Barbastella barbastellus* preliminary are selected 6 NATURA 2000 territories, for *Myotis Dasycneme* preliminary are selected 9 NATURA 2000 territories.

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

The situation is similar as it was reported in March 2003.

D. Functioning of the Agreement

Situation is similar to the last report, no additional comments.