

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: May 2004
Period covered: 2003 - 2004
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 (September 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 the 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 pipistrelus*, *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 pigmaea</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 (September 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

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

Highly toxic chemicals are not used in Lithuania, but pesticides are used in our country, but these pesticides correspond to all EU requirements.

5. Data collection and research

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

Data was collected by:

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

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 September 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*.

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.

In this year Ministry of Environment approved The list of potential sites of community importance. Now are nominated 5 territories of roost sites for *Barbastella barbastellus* and 6 territories of feeding areas for *Myotis dasycneme*.

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

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

8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats

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

A lot of the known roosts and habitats important for bats in Lithuania are located in the protected areas - National or Regional Parks, Reserves, NATURA 2000 sites, etc. It is hoped that bats will benefit from the general and individual rules applied to protected habitats in these areas.

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 September 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 September 2003.

Pauza, D.H., Pauziene, N. & Gudaitis, A. The Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) in Lithuania. *Nyctalus (Neue Folge) – Fledermaus-Fachzeitschrift* 2003, 8(6): 639-641.

In the beginning of 2004 started one project on Bat conservation in Zemaitija National Park.

We have one draft proposal for project on Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district. Vilnius district have some important territories for bats habitats. These territories are included in NATURA 2000 sites.

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

There was no special consideration for this point in Lithuania.

.B Functioning of the Agreement

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