

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: April 2005
Period covered: 2004 - 2005
Competent Authorities: Nature Protection Department of the Ministry of Environment

B. Status of Bats within the Territory of Lithuania

1. Summary Details of Resident Species

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

- *Myotis mystacinus* (Whiskered Bat). Presumably it is a rare species, because so far only a single locality has been known (in the Northern part of Lithuania where a skull has been found in a limestone cave).
- *Nyctalus leisleri* (Leisler's Bat). It is characterised as a rare species, because only a few observations found during autumn bat migration in the Western part of Lithuania.
- *Myotis dasycneme* (Pond Bat). The status is doubtful, because it is quite rare and locally distributed, recorded mostly in the north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern parts of Lithuania. Summer status is known insufficiently, in 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 consider as common and widespread species.
- *Pipistrellus nathusii*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *Eptesicus nilssoni*, *Eptesicus serotinus* 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>	R/MIG	Unknown
<i>Eptesicus nilssoni</i>	V	Stable
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	V	Stable
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	I/MIG	Unknown
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	V/MIG	Unknown
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	R/MIG	Probably stable

<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	R/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>	R/MIG	Unknown
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	NT	Unknown
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaea</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

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

4. Threats

Last year a number of people interested in bats substantially increased. Scientists often find signs of visitors on the hibernation sites. The disturbance is particularly dangerous during the hibernation season. Another problem is – martens, rats and cats feeding on bats during the hibernation season.

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

5. Data collection and research

Data were collected by:

- Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University;
- State Protected Areas Service under the Ministry of Environment;
- Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania;
- Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation;
- Lithuanian Ringing Centre.

There are a few data sets prepared by these institutions: bat observations (based on bibliography, information and field work), monitoring of selected bat species and ringing of bats (captures and recaptures) in the 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 amendment of the Law on Protected Plant, Animal and Fungi Species and Communities (1997, amended in December 2001) has been adopted, according to which 10 (ten) 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.

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

Law on Protected Areas (1993, (as) amended in December 2001),

Law on Wild Fauna (1997, (as) amended in December 2001),

Law on Protected Plant, Animal and Fungi Species and Communities (1997, (as) amended in December 2001).

Government Resolution No. 130 of 7 February 2005 on the approval of the National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme for 2005-2010

Government Resolution No. 276 of 15 March 2004 on approval of the General Statutes for SCI and SPA.

Order of the Minister of Environment No. D1-233 of april 29, 2004 Concerning the amendment of order No. D1-57 on the compilation of the list of the sites that meet pSCI's criteria, and the submission of the list to the EU together with the list the habitats and species of EU important of found on these sites”.

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

5 territories of roost sites for *Barbastella barbastellus* and 6 territories of feeding areas for *Myotis dasycneme* presently are nominated.

8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats

The situation is similar as it was reported last year. A lot of the known roosts and habitats important to 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 for protected habitats in these areas.

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

Bat night events have been organized in Pavilniai Regional Park and Rambynas Regional Park. The event took place in Rambynas Regional Park at the end of August. This event started with an introductory lecture presented by P.H.C. Lina. This lecture was about bats diversity, biology and conservation. Bats were registered by detectors in the evening tour.

Two workshops were organized under the Project “Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district” in Pavilniai Regional Park in January and February 2005.

Leaflets, postcards, posters of bats have been produced under the Project “Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district”.

Several articles on bat items were published in magazines and newspapers, there were some programmes on TV last year.

Society for Lithuanian Bat Survive was established in December 2004.

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

The Competent Authority is Nature Protection Department of the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment.

Scientific Authorities are the Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation and the Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University.

11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats

A very important bat hibernation site was improved last year. This site has been proposed to include in NATURE 2000. The activities carried out under the Project “Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district” following the instructions of bat experts, included the management.

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

The Project “Arrangement of the former military base in Plokštinė for bats protection and cognitive tourism” was finished in 2004. The project implemented the practical measures of effective protection (in respect) of the internationally endangered bat species.

D.H. Pauža, N. Paužienė, G. Sidabrienė Bats The hardback Bats is designed for the general use and popularly delineates the conservation and biology of 17 bat species that have been identified or are presumably distributed in Lithuania.

The Project “Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district” was finished in March 2005.

Peter H.C. Lina, K. Baranauskas, N. Vėlavičienė, D. Makavičius “Recommendation for Bat Researches Regarding Possible Rabies Risk” Acta Zoologica Lithuanica.

The biggest breeding sites of *Myotis nattereri* in Lithuania have been found in Renavas Palace.

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 of this point in Lithuania.

.B Functioning of the Agreement

Cooperation with other parties and range states

There is cooperation with Latvia, Germany and the Netherlands. Experts from these countries consult our specialists. There is also cooperation on a number of questions with scientists in many other European countries.