

## 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:* June 2006  
*Period covered:* 2004-2006  
*Competent Authorities:* Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

#### 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.

Several of them are common:

- *Plecotus auritus* (Brown long-eared Bat), *Myotis daubentonii* (Daubenton's Bat) and *Pipistrellus nathusii* (Nathusius' Pipistrelle) are confirmed to be 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.
- *Myotis dasycneme* (Pond Bat). The status is vulnerable, 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.

Eleven (11) bat species as endangered, vulnerable or of unknown status are protected in Lithuania and listed in the Lithuanian Red Data Book. They are as follows: *Myotis dasycneme*, *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Nyctalus leisleri*, *Vespertilio murinus*, *Myotis nattereri*, *Myotis brandtii*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *Plecotus auritus*, *Eptesicus nilssoni*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *Eptesicus serotinus*.

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

Species	Status in Lithuania	Apparent Trend
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	2004 – K/MIG; 2005 – R/MIG; 2006 – R/MIG	2004 – unknown; 2005 – unknown; 2006 – unknown
<i>Eptesicus nilssoni</i>	2004 – R; 2005 – V; 2006 – I	2004 – unknown; 2005 – stable; 2006 – stable

<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	2004 – V; 2005 – V; 2006 – I	2004 – stable; 2005 – stable; 2006 – stable
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	2004 – I/MIG; 2005 – I/MIG; 2006 – R/MIG	2004 – unknown; 2005 – unknown; 2006 – unknown
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2004 – K/MIG; 2005 – V/MIG; 2006 – V/MIG	2004 – unknown; 2005 – unknown; 2006 – unknown
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	2004 – R/MIG; 2005 – R/MIG; 2006 – I/MIG	2004 – unknown; 2005 – probably stable; 2006 – probably stable
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	2004 – V/MIG; 2005 – R/MIG; 2006 – V/MIG	2004 – stable; 2005 – stable; 2006 – stable
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	2004 – K/MIG; 2005 – K/MIG; 2006 – R/MIG	2004 – unknown; 2005 – unknown; 2006 – unknown
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	2004 – R; 2005 – R; 2006 – V	2004 – probably stable; 2005 – probably stable; 2006 – probably stable
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	2004 – NT; 2005 – NT; 2006 – NT	2004 – stable; 2005 – stable; 2006 – stable
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	2004 – I; 2005 – I; 2006 – I	2004 – unknown; 2005 – unknown; 2006 – unknown
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	2004 – K/MIG; 2005 – R/MIG; 2006 – R/MIG	2004 – probably stable; 2005 – unknown; 2006 – unknown
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2004 – R; 2005 – NT; 2006 – I	2004 – probably stable; 2005 – unknown; 2006 – unknown
<i>Pipistrellus pigmaea</i>	2004 – I/MIG; 2005 – I/MIG; 2006 – I/MIG	2004 – unknown; 2005 – unknown; 2006 – unknown
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	2004 – NT/MIG; 2005 – NT/MIG; 2006 – NT/MIG	2004 – probably stable; 2005 – probably stable; 2006 – 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**

Concerning the major threats that occur in Lithuania, the situation is similar as it was reported in previous years. The number of people interested in bats has 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 have been 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.

#### **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***

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 the 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 of the habitats and species of EU importance found on these sites;
- Order of the Minister of Environment No. D1-301 of June 14, 2005, concerning the amendment of Order No. 504 on the protected plant, animal and fungi species listed in the Lithuanian Red Data Book.

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

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

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

The situation is similar every year. A lot of the known roosts and habitats important to bats in Lithuania are located in 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 are organized in regional parks every year.

Two workshops were organized under a project "Conservation of Bats in Vilnius District" in Pavilniai Regional Park in January and February 2005. A lecture "Bats in Lithuania, their biology, distribution and conservation" was delivered for school teachers in 2005. Questionnaires "Hibernating bats in private houses" were developed and distributed for teachers and schoolchildren.

More than 10 articles on bat items were published in magazines and newspapers, there were some programmes on TV last year.

Leaflets, postcards, posters of bats were produced under a project "Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district" in 2004.

Bat hibernation sites were arranged in Pavilniai Regional Park using the EU financial resources of structural funds in 2004-2005.

A Society for Lithuanian Bat Survival 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 the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.

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 in 2004. This site has been proposed to include in NATURE 2000. The activities, carried out under a project "Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district" following the instructions of bat experts, included the management.

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

##### **The articles and presentations:**

- Baranauskas K., Mickevicius E., Mickeviciene I., 2005. Bats Population in Vilnius District Hibernation Sites. – Ecology, No. 1: 37-42.
- Baranauskas K., Velaviciene N., Makavicius D., 2005. First data about the intensity of *Pipistrellus natusii* of autumn migrations in the south-eastern part of Lithuania (presentation). – In the 10<sup>th</sup> European Bat Research Symposium, Galway, Ireland. P. 17.

- Lina P. H. C., Baranauskas K., Velaviciene N., Makavicius D., 2004. Recommendation for Bat Researches Regarding Possible Rabies Risk. – *Acta Zoologica Lithuanica*.
- Pauza D. H., Pauziene N., Gudaitis A. The Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) in Lithuania. – *Nyctalus (Neue Folge) – Fledermaus-Fachzeitschrift*, 2003, 8(6): 639–641.
- Pauza D. H., Pauziene N., Sidabriene G., 2004. Bats. – Kaunas.
- Maehl P., Christiani O., Ciuplys R., Gudzinskas Z., Ryla M., Rimsaite J., Baranauskas K., Dapkus D., Raudonikis L., 2005. Recommendations for the management of Natura 2000 sites in Lithuania. Recommendations for identifying favourable conservation status and threats, applying management and reconstruction activities and calculating their costs (a draft version; one of the recommendations is for *Barbastella barbastellus* species). – Vilnius.

**The projects:**

- A 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.
- A project “Conservation of Bats in Vilnius District” was finished in March 2005. Vilnius district has some important territories for bats habitats. These territories are included in NATURA 2000 sites.
- Baranauskas K., Greimas E., Durinck J., 2005. The Nature Management Plan for Rokai fortas pSCI (the draft version is about *Barbastella barbastellus* and *Myotis dasycneme* species protection programme; developed under a project “Development of Management Plans in Protected Areas of Lithuania EUROPEAID/113516/D/SV/L”). – Vilnius.
- Baranauskas K., 2006. The Nature Management Plan for Most Important Bats Hibernating Sites in the Vilnius City (the draft version is about *Barbastella barbastellus* and *Myotis dasycneme* species protection programme; developed under a project “Protection of endangered species of habitats through the implementation of CITES and the Bern and Bonn Conventions and the related EU legislation”). – Vilnius.

**Others:**

- The biggest breeding sites of *Myotis nattereri* in Lithuania were found in Renavas Palace in 2004.

***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.

**D. Functioning of the Agreement**

***14. Cooperation with other Parties and Range States***

There is cooperation with Latvia, Estonia 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.