

**Luxembourg**  
**National Report of the Implementation on the**  
**‘ European Bat Agreement ‘**

**A. General information:**

*Name of the Party:* Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

*Date of Report:* 10th May 2002

*Period Covered:* May 2000- May 2002

*Competent Authority:*

Administration des Eaux et Forêts  
 Service de la Conservation de la Nature  
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**B. Status of bats within the territory of the Party:****B.1. Summary details of resident species:**

Currently 19 bat species have been recorded for Luxembourg.

	<u>Family Rhinolophidae</u>	<b>IUCN</b>	<b><u>Population</u></b>
	<b>Rhinolophus</b>	<b>Red List</b>	
1.	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> (SCHREBER, 1774)	LR:cd	Population ca. 250-280 ind, 1 breeding colony known; Cat.: 1: Threatened by extinction
2.	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (BECHSTEIN, 1800)	VU:A2c	Only a few individuals left, no reproduction since 1974; Cat.: 1: Threatened by extinction
	<u>Family Vespertilionidae</u>		
	<b>Barbastella</b>		
3.	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> (SCHREBER, 1774)	VU:A2c	Only a few records since 1950, Cat.: 1:Threatened by extinction
	<b>Eptesicus</b>		
4.	<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</i> (KEYSERLING & BLASIUS, 1839)	LR:lc	Detector records, 1 breeding colony known; Cat.: 1: Threatened by extinction
5.	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i> (SCHREBER, 1774)	LR:lc	Common; Cat.: 3: Threatened
	<b>Myotis</b>		
6.	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> (KUHLE, 1817)	VU:A2c	Lack of data due to a lack of survey Cat. 2?: High threatened
7.	<i>Myotis brandtii</i> (EVERSMANN, 1845)	LR:lc	Not enough data available, reproduction known Cat. 2: Highly threatened
8.	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i> (KUHLE, 1819)	LR:lc	Common; Cat.: 4: Potentially Threatened
9.	<i>Myotis emarginatus</i> (GEOFFREY, 1806)	VU:A2c	Population est. at 650 females; several Reproduction colonies known ;Cat. :1 : Threatened by extinction
10.	<i>Myotis myotis</i> (BORKHAUSEN, 1797)	LR:nt	Population est. of 1.600 females ;several Reproduction colonies known; Cat.:2: Highly Threatened
11.	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i> (KUHLE, 1817)	LR:lc	Reproduction known Cat. 3: Threatened

12.	<i>Myotis nattereri</i> (KUHL, 1817)	LR:lc	Lack of information / reproduction Cat. 2?: Highly threatened
	<b>Nyctalus</b>		
13.	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> (KUHL, 1817)	LR:nt	Not common, 2 reproduction colonies known Cat. 2: Highly threatened
14.	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i> (SCHREBER, 1774)	LR:lc	Common Cat. 3: Threatened
	<b>Pipistrellus</b>		
15.	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i> (KEYSERLING & BLASIUS, 1839)	LR:lc	Bat detector records, deficient data Cat. :?
16.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> (SCHREBER, 1774)	LR:lc	Common; Cat. 4 : Potentially threatened
	<b>Plecotus</b>		
17.	<i>Plecotus auritus</i> (LINNAEUS, 1758)	LR:lc	Common Cat. 3: Threatened
18.	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i> (FISCHER, 1829)	LR:lc	Not common, several reproduction colonies known; Cat. 2: Highly threatened
	<b>Vespertilio</b>		
19.	<i>Vespertilio murinus</i> (LINNAEUS, 1758)	LR:lc	Deficient data Cat.: ?

### **B.2. Status and Trends:**

Status: Since the provisional Red Data List for bats in Luxembourg (Pir & Roesgen 1991) no revision has been made. The new Red Data List has not yet been published.

### **B.3. Habitats and roost sites:**

Due to the lack of an official survey and monitoring programme, only a few important roosting sites are surveyed regularly, for example, the last roosting site of *R. ferrumequinum* in the south-east of Luxembourg or the great site of *Myotis myotis* in the 7-castle-valley.

Unfortunately, there is also no monitoring of the success of bat protection programs (e.g. LIFE-program...) carried out in Luxembourg.

### **B.4. Threats:**

All threats to bat populations mentioned in the last report still remain.

One of the richest chiropteracoenosis in the 'Grünwald' forest region is being severely affected by the construction of a motorway. The construction has begun in 1998 and is not finished yet.

The planned construction of 17 by-pass roads will have a considerable impact on important bat populations (e.g. the CR 102 between Mersch and Schoenfels being part of the infrastructure of the motorway construction mentioned before).

Several important known roosting sites of *M. myotis* and *M. emarginatus* have been renovated the last two years, the church of Fischbach and the castle of Ansembourg, both in the 7-castle-valley.

Unfortunately, due to a missing professional advisory body, the preservation of these colonies is not fully guaranteed, but they are regularly surveyed.

### **B.5. Data Collection:**

The data of a national bat survey project by the Natural History Museum are collected in the national database LUXNAT.

There will be a publication of all bat surveys carried out in Luxembourg during the past 10 years (Harbusch, C.; J. Pir & E. Engel (2002): *Verbreitung der Fledermäuse Luxemburgs*. Travaux scientifiques du Musée National d'Histoire Luxembourg), Vol. 30. The publication will be available in a few months.

## **C. Measures taken to implement article II of the Agreement :**

### ***C.6. Legal Measures taken:***

All bat species are fully protected by law in Luxembourg (Law of the 11.08.1982 and RGD of the 08.04.1986).

The Bat Agreement came into force on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1993. *Tadarida teniotis* is included to the Agreement by the law of the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2000. (Loi du 6 mai 2000 portant approbation des amendements relatifs à la conservation des chauves-souris en Europe, adoptés à la première session de la quatrième réunion des Parties, qui s'est tenue à Bristol, du 18 au 2 juillet 1995).

A second supplementary motion of the Parliament will be taken in a few weeks by the national authorities.

### ***C.7. Sites identified and protected :***

In relation with the EU-Life programme: Trans-boundary Protection of Bats in Western Central Europe LIFE 95/A22/D/EU/00045) six majors sites (with tens of kilometres of underground habitats) could be protected in Luxembourg:

“Mine de Bettendorf” (mine in the eastern of Luxemburg, near Diekirch),

“Ardoiserie de Perlé (mine on the north of Luxemburg),

“Barrage de Steinfort”, (dam in the south)

“Casemates de la Ville de Luxembourg”,

“Ardoiseries de Schimpach”, (slate quarry in the north)

“Dolomie de Wasserbillig”, (limepit in the eastern).

Nevertheless no bat site is protected by a national nature reserve.

### ***C.8. Consideration to important bat habitats:***

While establishing the official list of ‘proposed Sites of Special Scientific Interest (pSSSI) of the Habitat Directive (92/43/CEE) all bat species of the appendix II were considered and the sites chosen in accordance.

### ***C.9. Promotion Activities:***

Numerous conferences and bat detector excursions have been organized for adults and also for children by the “administration des Eaux et Forêts” in order to increase their sensitivity and their awareness for nature.

Important promotion activities were done in relation with the EU-Life programme: Trans-boundary Protection of Bats in Western Central Europe (LIFE 95/A22/D/EU/00045). A press conference was held on the occasion of the opening of the casemates (historic underground fortifications) in the city of Luxembourg. This event was a great success. A leaflet called *Trans-boundary bat protection* and full color information magazine (36 pp. in all) edited by *Science & nature*: Special bats were published via Life-programme. The magazine is available for free in French and German.

Luxembourg organized the 5th European Bat Night together with the Secretariat of the Agreement. The 5<sup>th</sup> European Bat Night with bat detector excursion was organized in the castle of Ansembourg in the 7-castle-valley with an enormous success.

The next Bat-Night will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2002 in Colpach in the western part of the country.

***C.10. Responsible Bodies in Accordance with article III.5.***

Still no responsible body in accordance of article III.5. of the Agreement is existing in Luxembourg.

The administration des Eaux et Forêts and the Natural History Museum give some advice for people having problems with bats in their houses. Actually, the Ministry of Environment sees no need to install a professional body in concordance to the implementation of article III.5. of the Agreement.

***C.11. Additional actions:***

The trans-boundary bat protection association: ‘Association pour la Protection Transfrontalière des Chauves-souris asbl (APTCS)’ with the financial support of EU and the ministries of environment of the countries involved, was doing much work for bat protection and promotion activities during their Life project (1996-1998) in Luxembourg.

The outstanding success of this work was rewarded with the LIFE Award of the European Commission.

***C.12. Recent and ongoing protection programs (including research):***

The program called : „Combles et Clochers” (Steeple and attics) initiated by SICONA-Ouest and SICONA-Centre, nature protection syndicates of communes, has permit to open 32 churches for bats in 17 rural communes in the western part of the country and 9 churches for bats in 5 rural communes in the central part of the country.

Beginning with the year 2000, a new financial aid can be granted for protection measures and habitat improvement measures for threatened species. A first financial aid has been granted for the bat-friendly restoration of a roosting site in a large church attic in Fischbach, a second aid for the conservation of a very important roosting site (~250 *Myotis myotis*) in a castle in Ansembourg.

Research: No new research project has been undertaken since the last report.

***C.13. Potential effects of pesticides:***

Until now, there has been no research on the effects of pesticides on bats in Luxembourg. A list of harmless timber treatment products is available upon demand.