

# UPDATE TO THE NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## 1. General Information

Non-Party Range State:	Russian Federation
Date of Report:	April 2004
Period Covered:	May 2003 – April 2004
Competent Authorities:	Moscow Lomonosov State University; Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences

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## 2. Status of individual species and trends

In the view of the latest surveys of the genus *Plecotus* (by F. Spitzenberger, P. Strelkov and E. Haring), Russian bat fauna counts now one more species of long-eared bats, namely *P. macrobullaris*, previously known for the Russian part of its range as *P. auritus macrobullaris* Kuzyakin, 1965, and in the rest of Europe as *P. alpinus* and *P. microdontus*. In Russian Federation it is restricted to the republic of North Ossetia-Alania and some of the adjacent territories. Its conservation status should be assessed both in Russia and as a whole (Table 1).

For the first time soprano pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, was recorded in Russia by Y. Glushkova, A. Borissenko and others (the Russian Bat Research Group). This species was found in Briansk region in summer 2003, on the territory of “Brianskiy Forest” Reserve, and was considered to be quite common there, occurring throughout the examined area together with *P. pipistrellus*. To evaluate its status and distribution within Russia’s borders is the matter of priority for the nearest future, especially employing those molecular technics, that had shown their efficiency in discriminating between these sibling species in Ukraine and Armenia in recent research by V. Matveev (not published).

For the first time pond bat, *Myotis dasycneme*, is found in the Caucasus (Gazaryan, submitted results).

Table 1. Current status and trends of bat populations in Russia: ↓ — decrease of population; ↑ — increase of population; o — population is stable

Species	Distributional status	Red-Data Book status*	IUCN status	Trend
<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	restricted		VU A2c	?
<i>R. mehelyi</i>	restricted	II	VU A2c	?

<i>R. hipposideros</i>	restricted	III	VU A2c	o/↑
<i>R. ferrumequinum</i>	restricted	III	LR: nt	↓
<i>Myotis blythii</i>	restricted	II	LR: 1c	o
<i>M. bechsteinii</i>	restricted	TBA	VU A2c	o
<i>M. dasycneme</i>	widespread		VU A2c	o/↑
<i>M. daubentonii</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	o/↑
<i>M. nattereri</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	o
<i>M. emarginatus</i>	restricted	II	VU A2c	↓
<i>M. brandtii</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
<i>M. mystacinus</i>	widespread		TBA	o
<i>M. auraszens</i>	widespread		TBA	o
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
<i>E. nilssonii</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	o
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	restricted		LR: 1c	?
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	o/↑
<i>P. pygmaeus</i>	widespread		TBA	?
<i>P. nathusii</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
<i>P. kuhlii</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	widespread		LR: nt	?
<i>N. noctula</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	?
<i>N. lasiopterus</i>	widespread	III	LR: nt	o
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	o
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	restricted	TBA	VU A2c	o/↑
<i>B. leucomelas</i>	restricted		LR: 1c	?
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	↑
<i>P. macrobullaris</i>	restricted		TBA	?
<i>P. austriacus</i>	restricted		LR: 1c	?
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	restricted	I	LR: nt	↓
<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>	restricted		LR: 1c	?

\* Red Data Book of Russian Federation 2000. Moscow, Astrel, 872 p. [in Russian]:

- I – endangered species (the threat of extinction is very high);
- II – species reducing its population;
- III – rare species (stable or slowly increasing population);
- IV – not numerous, poorly studied species (sporadically distributed, uncertain status);
- V – restored species (due to undertaken conservation measures), not liable to use for economic purposes.

Within DEFRA/FFI Flagship Species Fund Small Grants Programme (S. V. Gazaryan) key habitats of European barbastelle, *Barbastella barbastellus*, have been designated on Russia's territory, and appropriate protective measures suggested (Table 2). Within the framework of the same project *M. bechsteinii* was found to be rare in Russia. A list of its roosts and major habitats has been compiled by the author; certain adequate protective measures have been suggested as well (Table 3).

Table 2. Identified key habitats of *B. barbastellus* in the Russian Federation and information on required protective measures

Key habitat	Current protective status	Major threats	Required protective measure
Valley of Urushten river with Babaylovskaya cave	Right bank is situated in the Caucasian Reserve, the cave is not protected	Logging on the left bank, disturbance in the cave	Joining of left bank to the territory of the Caucasian Reserve, protection of accessible entrance
Tchernogorie karst massif with Canyon cave	Protected Area since 1984; the cave has a status of Nature Monument since 1999	Intensive logging, disturbance in the cave	Real protection of the area (cessation of logging), protection of the cave entrance
Djentu karst massif with caves Mayskaya, Zolushka, Pogrebok	—	Intensive logging, disturbance in the cave	Legislative protection by the donation of a status of Protected Area, cessation of logging and protection of entrances
Valley of Gunkina river and Gunkina-4 cave	—	Logging, excavations of gypsum, disturbance in the cave	Legislative protection by the donation of a status of Protected Area and protection of cave entrance

Table 3. Known roosts and habitats of *M. bechsteinii* in the Russian Federation with information on required protective measures

Roost or habitat	Current protective status	Major threats	Required protective measures
Forest in the foot of Achishkho mountain	Located on the territory of Sochi National Park	Logging, possible total deforestation as a consequence of the sky tracks construction	Joining to the territory of Caucasian Reserve
Bogatyrskaya cave	—	Disturbance	Protection of entrance
Lesser Akhstyr cave	Located on the territory of Sochi National Park	Disturbance	Protection of entrance
Greater Achstyr cave, 43°31'N 40°00'E	Located on the territory of Sochi National Park	Disturbance	Cessation of excursions, protection of entrance
Park in the town of Adler	Located on the territory of Sochi National Park	Logging of old trees	Protection of old trees
Forest near Maly Utrish settlement	Located on the territory of Protected Area "Utrish"	Logging of old trees	Protection of old trees
Greater Fanagoriyskaya cave	Nature Monument	Disturbance	Protection of entrance
Tchernogorie karst massif with Canyon cave	Protected Area since 1984; cave has a status of Nature Monument since 1999	Intensive logging, disturbance in the cave	Real protection of the area (cessation of logging), protection of cave entrance
Derbentskaya mine	—	Disturbance, excavations	The status of Nature Monument is required; protection of entrances
Forest in the delta of Samur river	—	Logging	The status of Protected Area is required

### 3. Threats

The situation is generally similar to the previous reporting period. Potential danger also comes from the new project of the Forest code, allowing transference (and hence appropriate utilization) of the 1<sup>st</sup>-group forests to lower categories, including non-forest lands, and also making provision for the proprietary right for the forested lands. This proposal will certainly affect primary forests in the first place.

Table 4. Distribution and population estimates of bats in European part of Russia

Species	Distribution within European part of Russia	Population estimate	Population estimate (after Gazaryan)
<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	W. Caucasus	Occasionally vagrant	—
<i>R. mehelyi</i>	E. Caucasus	50000*	<2000**
<i>R. hipposideros</i>	Caucasus	80000-100000*	20000–30000
<i>R. ferrumequinum</i>	Caucasus	150000-200000*	15000-20000
<i>Myotis blythi</i>	Caucasus	500000-900000*	20000-30000
<i>M. bechsteini</i>	Caucasus	?	?
<i>M. dasycneme</i>	Southward of 48° N	> 100000	—
<i>M. daubentoni</i>	Southward of 49° N, N.Caucasus	> 300000	—
<i>M. nattereri</i>	Except Lower Volga and Ural Basins	30000-50000	—
<i>M. emarginatus</i>	Caucasus	50000-120000*	<5000
<i>M. brandtii</i>	Northward of 48-52° N, N. Caucasus	> 300000	—
<i>M. mystacinus</i>	Southern and eastern areas for certain	35000-50000	?
<i>M. aurascens</i>	southward of 51° N	35000-50000	?
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Southward of 51-53° N	> 150000	>300000
<i>E. nilssoni</i>	Northward of 53-51° N, Caucasus	> 150000	—
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	Caucasus	?	? (Occasional records)
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Southward of 55-57° N	> 1500000	—
<i>P. pygmaeus</i>	Briansk region	?	—
<i>P. nathusii</i>	Southward of 57-60° N	> 1500000	—
<i>P. kuhli</i>	Caucasus, Lower and Middle Volga Basin	> 1000000	—
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Southward of 58° N	> 100000	—
<i>N. noctula</i>	Southward of 60° N	200000-300000	—
<i>N. lasiopterus</i>	Southward of 57° N	17000-27000*	—
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	Southward of 61° N	> 200000	—

<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Kaliningrad region, Caucasus	20000-60000	—
<i>B. leucomelas</i>	Daghestan	?	? (Occasional records)
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Northward of 50° N, Caucasus	> 200000	—
<i>P. macrobullaris</i>	North Caucasus	?	—
<i>P. austriacus</i>	Central-N. Caucasus for certain	?	—
<i>Miniopterus schreibersi</i>	N. Caucasus	50000-60000	20000-30000
<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>	Central-N. Caucasus	300-600*	? (Occasional records)

\* after Paniutin, K.K. 1985. Chiroptera. – In: Red Data Book of USSR. M. Rosselkhozizdat: pp. 18-28. Other estimates have been extrapolated from summer and winter data of faunistic works [in Russian];

\*\* after Amirkhanov, Z.M. 1980. Distribution of Chiroptera in Daghestan. – In: Issues of Theriology. Chiroptera. M. Nauka: pp. 63-69 [in Russian].

#### 4. Data collection

A comprehensive list of the competent authorities throughout Russia is presented on the web site of the Russian Bat Research Group: <http://zmmu.msu.ru/bats>.

#### 5. Publicity Initiatives

A number of leading television channels performed a series of reports dedicated to the 7th European Bat Night, and the ways different European countries hold it.

On the 3d of April 2004 one of the leading Russian TV channels, NTV, bearing a huge audience in the CIS and via satellites — in many other countries of the world, presented a television broadcast dedicated to many aspects of bat biology and conservation. The talk was performed by the specialist of the Russian Bat Research Group, Sergey Kruskop (Zoological Institute of Moscow State University). The broadcast has certainly favoured a positive insight on bats.

#### 6. Research

Some recent regional eco-faunistic surveys, apart from the ones cited above, are worthy of mentioning too. The first is dedicated to reconstruction of the distributional patterns of 11 bat species, occurring in European Russia northward of 57–58°N (S. V. Bogdarina, P. P. Strelkov; see "Plecotus et al.", issue 6, 2004).

S. V. Gazaryan investigated current faunal status of Daubenton's bat, *Myotis daubentonii*, in the Caucasus.

V. P. Snitko, observed 7 bat species residing during the summertime in 10 caves and 4 mines located in the forest and forest-steppe zones on the western slope of the South Urals (see "Plecotus et al.", issue 6, 2004).

Results of the research carried out by E. M. Poleschuk, I. V. Kuzmin, S. V. Gazaryan and A. D. Botvinkin deserve a special attention in the view of the forthcoming workshop on bat rabies. New lyssavirus, designated as WCBV (West Caucasian Bat Virus) was isolated from the

brain of *Miniopterus schreibersii*. During the laboratory test antibody response induced by rabies vaccination could not protect from this virus (see "Plecotus et al.", issue 6, 2004).

## **7. Legislation**

Without change.

## **8. Ratification**

Without change. The progress in the accession to the Agreement in the nearest future is fairly improbable due to ongoing total reorganization of executive agencies.

## **9. International co-operation**

Without change.

## **10. New items of publicity issued**

The 6-th issue of Russian bat journal "Plecotus et al." was published in April 2004.