

# NATIONAL REPORT OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## on implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats

### A. General Information

Non-Party Range State: Russian Federation

Date of Report: April 2005

Period Covered: April 2004 — April 2005

Competent Authorities: Institute of Ecology of Mountain Territories, Kabardino-Balkarian Scientific Centre of Russian Academy of Sciences; Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences

### B. Status of bats within the territory of Russia (European part and the Caucasus)

#### 1. Summary details of resident species

30 bat species have been recorded in European part of Russia and the Russian Caucasus (Table 1). Although Grey Long-eared Bat *Plecotus austriacus* was mentioned among Russian bat species in previous National Report, it hasn't ever been reported for the territory of the Russian Federation outside the Caucasus. Since all Caucasian records of Grey Long-eared Bat had been referred to *P. macrobullaris* (Spitzenberger et al., 2003), a presence of *P. austriacus* in the Russian bat fauna is not confirmed. Probably, three other bat species had extinct in Russia because new information on their occurrence is absent during several last decades. These species are *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Barbastella leucomelas* and *Tadarida teniotis*.

Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pigmaeus* has been found in several new localities in the Western Caucasus and South Ural. It seems the species is widespread in the European part of Russia.

#### 2. Status and trends

13 bat species have restricted area (Table 1), the most of them are distributed in Russia in the Caucasus only. Trends are poorly known for all of the species and had been estimated by fragment data. Trends in the populations of colonial cave bats and several woodland species are rather decline than stable. National conservation status still needed for at least two species - *M. bechsteinii* and *B. barbastellus*.

**Table 1.** Current status and trends of bat populations in Russia (European part and the Caucasus): - — decrease of population; + — increase of population; 0 — population is stable

Species	Distributional status	Red-Book status*	IUCN status	Trend
<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	restricted		VU A2c	-
<i>Rh. mehelyi</i>	restricted	II	VU A2c	?
<i>Rh. hipposideros</i>	restricted	III	VU A2c	0/-
<i>Rh. ferrumequinum</i>	restricted	III	LR: nt	-
<i>Myotis blythii</i>	restricted	II	LR: 1c	0
<i>M. bechsteinii</i>	restricted		VU A2c	0/-

<i>M. dasycneme</i>	widespread		VU A2c	0/+
<i>M. daubentonii</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	0/+
<i>M. nattereri</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	0/+
<i>M. emarginatus</i>	restricted	II	VU A2c	-
<i>M. brandtii</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	+
<i>M. mystacinus</i>	widespread		TBA	0/+
<i>M. aurascens</i>	widespread		TBA	?
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	+
<i>E. nilssonii</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	0
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	restricted		LR: 1c	?
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	0/+
<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	0
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	0
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	restricted		VU A2c	0/-
<i>B. leucomelas</i>	restricted		LR: 1c	?
<i>P. macrobullaris</i>	restricted		TBA	?
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	widespread		LR: 1c	0/+
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	restricted	I	LR: nt	0/-
<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);

### 3. Habitats and roost sites

A general survey of roosts and habitats is given in Table 2. The most of underground roost sites are located in mountain regions – in caves and mines of the Caucasus and Ural, as well as in limestone quarries of the Zhiguli Mountains in the Middle Volga. Winter roosts of *Hypsugo savii*, *B. leucomelas*, *N. leisleri*, *N. lasiopterus* and *Tadarida teniotis* have not been found yet in Russia.

**Table 2.** Major habitats, summer and winter roosts of bat species occurring in European part of Russia and the Russian Caucasus

Species	Hibernation roosts	Summer roosts	Major habitats
<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	Caves	Caves	Deciduous forests of Colhic type
<i>Rh. mehelyi</i>	Caves	Caves	Semi-arid mountain grasslands
<i>Rh. hipposideros</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Lofts and undergrounds	Mountain deciduous and mixed forests of the Caucasus
<i>Rh. ferrumequinum</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Various types of mountain habitats of the Caucasus
<i>Myotis blythii</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Lofts, church attics, chimneys, bridges, caves and artificial undergrounds	Various types of habitats in lowlands and mountains of Precaucasus
<i>M. bechsteinii</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Tree hollows, undergrounds	Mountain deciduous and mixed forests of the Caucasus
<i>M. dasycneme</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Lofts, church attics, tree hollows	River floodplains and vicinities of other water bodies
<i>M. daubentonii</i>	Caves, artificial undergrounds, fissures in rock	Lofts, tree hollows, bridges	River floodplains and vicinities of other water bodies
<i>M. nattereri</i>	Caves, artificial undergrounds, fissures in rock	Lofts, tree hollows	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes
<i>M. emarginatus</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Low-mountain karsts landscapes of the Western Caucasus
<i>M. brandtii</i>	Caves, artificial undergrounds, fissures in rock	Lofts and cracks in buildings, hollows and fissures in trees, undergrounds	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes
<i>M. mystacinus</i>	Caves, artificial undergrounds, fissures in rock	Lofts and cracks in buildings, hollows and fissures in trees, undergrounds	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes
<i>M. aurascens</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Lofts and cracks of buildings, bridges, fissures in rock	Forest-steppe and steppe landscapes with water bodies
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Various shelters in buildings, caves and artificial undergrounds	Lofts and cracks of buildings, undergrounds	Settlements and their vicinities in forest forest-steppe zone, in the Caucasus also in mountain forests
<i>E. nilssonii</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Lofts and cracks in buildings, hollows and fissures in trees, undergrounds	Coniferous and mixed forests
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	Not known	Fissures in rock	Various types of mountain habitats of the Caucasus

<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Various shelters in buildings, fissures in rock	Various shelters in buildings, hollows and fissures in trees, fissures in rock	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes
<i>P. pygmaeus</i>	Not known	Various shelters in buildings, hollows and fissures in trees	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes
<i>P. nathusii</i>	Fissures in rock, tree hollows	Various shelters in buildings, hollows and fissures in trees, bridges	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes, occurs in steppes and deserts during migration
<i>P. kuhlii</i>	Various shelters in buildings	Various shelters in buildings	Settlements and their vicinities
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Not known	Hollows and fissures in trees	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes
<i>N. noctula</i>	Various shelters in buildings, fissures in rock, tree hollows	Lofts, church attics, tree hollows, caves	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes, occurs in steppes and deserts during migration
<i>N. lasiopterus</i>	Not known	Tree hollows	Forest and forest-steppe landscapes
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	Various shelters in buildings, fissures in rock, caves and artificial undergrounds	Various shelters in buildings, tree hollows, fissures in rock	Settlements in forest and forest-steppe landscapes, occurs in steppes and deserts during migration
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Tree hollows, caves and artificial undergrounds	Mountain deciduous and mixed forests
<i>B. leucomelas</i>	Not known	Not known	Semi-desert landscapes
<i>P. macrobullaris</i>	Caves	Lofts, church attics, ruins	Mountain steppes and grasslands
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Tree hollows, lofts, caves and artificial undergrounds	All types of forests
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Caves and artificial undergrounds	Karsts areas of the Western Caucasus
<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>	Not known	Fissures in rock	Mountain steppe

#### 4. Threats

Situation is similar to the last Report. Main threats come from loss of habitats and disturbance in underground roosts. Intensive logging in ancient forests may be reducing a number of suitable summer roosts for woodland bats. Intensification of logging is related with preparing new edition of the Forest Code, which will permit a privatization of forestlands. State forest farms try to get as much income as possible before this privatization will begin and order very intense felling in all types of forests.

#### 5. Data collection

Data collection is ongoing. Centres of bat research are related in Russia with several biological institutes of the Russian Academy of Science, with educational bodies like State Universities and Institutes, and also with the science departments of State Reserves or National

Parks. Specialists from these institutions have their own databases, which could be compiled in national database. This compilation is a matter of the nearest future.

Two PhD studies devoted to the bat fauna of South Ural had been finished during the period covered by the Report. Researches of V. Snitko had concentrated on the mountain part of South Ural and resulted in detailed data on underground roosts. Study of N. Yanyaeva is mostly concerned in summer distribution and biology of bat species occurring in the pre-mountain areas in the Volga and Ural Rivers' basins. Both studies include recommendations for the protection of bats in the investigated areas.

### **C. Measures Taken to Implement Article III of the Agreement**

#### **6. Legal measures taken to protect bats**

All animals are protected in Russia under the Law on Animal World (1995). It foresees a direct protection of animals, which are included in the Red Data Book of Russian Federation or regional Red Data Books. There are only 7 bat species in the latest issue of the Red Data Book of Russian Federation, but several other bat species are protected by regional Red Data Books.. Thus, the first edition of the Red Data Book of Rostov-on-Don Region was issued in 2004. It includes 4 bat species – *N. lasiopterus*, *N. leisleri*, *M. dasycneme* and *P. auritus*. Three latter species have not been entered in the Red Data Book of Russian Federation (2000).

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

Many key sites have been identified since the time of the first National Report (2000). Most of them are the underground roosts or woodland habitats. Information on these sites was given to responsible governmental bodies. Nevertheless, local NGOs or scientists themselves have protected only few undergrounds with grills; no woodland areas, important for bats, have been officially protected against felling, and none of maternity roosts have been specially conserved.

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

No considerations are given.

#### **9. Activities carried out to promote the awareness of the importance of the bat conservation**

No significant activities have been carried out in 2004. Individual bat specialists continue their work to promote public awareness of the importance of bats.

#### **10. Responsible bodies nominated for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management**

Russian Nature Control Agency of the Ministry of Nature Resources and their regional departments are the bodies responsible for the provision of advice on the bat conservation and management. They also have a police service.

#### **11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats**

No additional actions have been undertaken.

## **12. Recent and ongoing programmes relating to conservation and management of bats**

Several research projects dealing with the conservation of bats are taking place in Russia. The most of them are related with the monitoring of roosts and habitats in mountain territories (see chapter **B, 5**).

## **13. Considerations being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats**

No considerations are given due to the lack of data on the matter.

## **D. Functioning of the Agreement**

### **14. Cooperation with other Range States**

Russia didn't officially cooperated with other Range States, besides the participation on annually Meetings of Parties. But Russian bat workers have wide contacts with their colleagues from other Range States. Russian Bat Research Group and friendly NGOs from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia have prepared a joint application for CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund). The proposed project is devoted to transboundary bat conservation.