Agreement on the conservation of populations of European bats

National Implementation Report of Ukraine

2006 / 5 MOP

A. General Information

Name of Party:	Ukraine
Date of Report:	June 2006
Period covered:	2002 – June 2006
Competent Authority:	Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine: Department of Biotic, Water, Land Resources and EcoNet Fauna Division
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B. Status of bats within the territory of Party

1. Summary details of Resident Species

Totally, 27 species have been registered and confirmed for bat fauna of Ukraine (Table 1). One species — *Myotis aurescens* — was included into the list of fauna after revision of P. Benda and K. Tsytsulina (2000).

2. Status and Trends

Generally the situation is similar to the last report (2002). However, new data have been received on most of bat species of Ukraine in different regions of the country. This enables to precise the details on distribution and abundance of bat species in Ukraine (Table 1).

One species — *Miniopterus schreibersii* — has not been registered at all since 1993. Now the species is considered to be extinct for the region. Data obtained recently testifies an essential decrease of cave dwelling aggregations of *Myotis blythii* in Ukraine (as many as 10-100 times for the 20th century). A set of indirect data show declining of *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* aggregations in caves as well. Expansion of *Pipistrellus kuhlii*'s range inside Ukraine continues.

Table 1. Distribution and abundance of bat species in Ukraine*

N	Species	Distribution	Status	Estimated trend	RDBU (1994)	RDBU, new ed.
1	*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	restricted	frequent	–	yes	yes
2	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	restricted	frequent	?/o	yes	yes
3	*Miniopterus schreibersii*	restricted	extinct	–	yes	yes
4	*Myotis blythii*	restricted	frequent	–	no	yes
5	*Myotis myotis*	restricted	frequent	?/o	no	yes
6	*Myotis bechsteinii*	restricted	rare	?/o	yes	yes
7	*Myotis nattereri*	widespread	rare	?/o	yes	yes
8	*Myotis emarginatus*	restricted	very rare	?/o	yes	yes
9	*Myotis dasycneme*	widespread	rare	?/o	yes	yes
10	*Myotis daubentonii*	widespread	common	o	no	no
11	*Myotis brandtii*	restricted	rare	o	no	yes
12	*Myotis mystacinus* (s. l.)	widespread	frequent	o	no	yes
14	*Plecotus auritus*	widespread	frequent	o	no	yes
15	*Plecotus austriacus*	restricted	frequent	o	no	yes
16	*Barbastella barbastellus*	restricted	rare	?/o	yes	yes
17	*Nyctalus leisleri*	widespread	rare	?/o	yes	yes
18	*Nyctalus noctula*	widespread	common	o	no	no
19	*Nyctalus lasiopterus*	restricted	very rare	–	yes	yes
20	*Pipistrellus kuhlii*	widespread	common	+	yes	no
21	*Pipistrellus nathusii*	widespread	frequent	o	no	no
22	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	widespread	common	o	no	no
23	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	widespread	frequent	?	no	no
24	*Hypsugo savii*	restricted	very rare	o	yes	yes
25	*Eptesicus nilssonii*	restricted	very rare	–	no	yes
26	*Eptesicus serotinus*	widespread	common	-	no	no
27	*Vespertilio murinus*	widespread	common	o	no	yes

* Distribution: “widespread” — records of a species cover all the territory of Ukraine or its biggest part; “restricted” — a species was registered at the less part of Ukraine or in few localities.

Estimated trends during last 50 years: “o” stable/unknown, “–“ decreasing, “+” increasing.

Here and in the table 2 below *Myotis aurescens* is considered within *M. mystacinus* sensu lato.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

Table 2 summarizes all available data on bats’ roosts in Ukraine by three main types.

Table 2. Use of different roost types by bats in Ukraine

Species	Underground type*	Building (over) type	Tree type
R. ferrumequinum	W, S, M**	M	—
R. hipposideros	W, S, M	S, M	—
M. schreibersii	W, S, M	M	—
M. blythii	W, S, M	S, M	—
M. myotis	W, S, M	S, M	—
M. bechsteinii	W, S	—	M
M. nattereri	W, S, M	—	S, M
M. emarginatus	W, S, M	M	—
M. dasycneme	W, S	M	M
M. daubentonii	W, S	S, M	S, M
M. brandtii	W, S	—	—
M. mystacinus (s. l.)	W, S, M	S	—
P. auritus	W, S, M	W, S	S, M
P. austriacus	W, S	W, S, M	—
B. barbastellus	W, S, M	W, S	W, S
N. leisleri	—	S, M	S
N. noctula	W	W, S, M	W, S, M
N. lasiopterus	—	S	S, M
P. kuhlii	—	W, S, M	—
P. nathusii	—	S, M	S, M
P. pipistrellus	W, S	W, S, M	S, M
P. pygmaeus	?	M	?
H. savii	S, M	—	—
E. nilssonii	W	S	S
E. serotinus	W, S	W, S, M	M
V. murinus	—	W, S, M	S, M

* Underground type — natural caves, cellars, mines, quarries, wells, grottos, etc.; building (over) type — attics, bell towers, hollow walls, ventilation communications, etc.; tree type — hollow trees, cavities under bark, bird and bat boxes;
** W — winter records, S — summer records, M — maternity colonies or single breeding females.

4. Threats

Among main threats identified for today there are the next ones: disturbance in roosts (up to full removing and killing by humans); loss of roosts (including recreational mastering of underground cavities, so called sanitation felling and cleaning cutting); downfall during migration (including downfall in different anthropogenic traps).

Also chemical pollution of the environment and reduction of bat feeding resources most probably play a big role.

5. Data Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

Results of bat investigations carried out by Ukrainian zoologists are reflected in publications covering the following topics: general and regional reviews of bat fauna, description of rare species records, distribution of bats in Ukraine, biology and ecology of bats, bat conservation, parasitology, and functional morphology. Generally, for the considered period (2002–2006) about 70 works had been published (including short communications and abstracts; a full list of publications is placed at http://kazhan.org.ua). Geography of field faunistical data collection during the period covers, to a greater or lesser extent, almost all administrative provinces of Ukraine.

Results are regularly presented at Ukrainian scientific meetings. Each annual meeting of the Ukrainian Theriological Society — Theriological School — includes a special session titled “European Bat Night” for presentation of the results of investigations in the field of bat biology, morphology, ecology and conservation in Ukraine. For the considered period four scientific bat-nights had been carried out (October 2002, October 2003, October 2004, and November 2005).

C. Measures taken to implement Article III of the Agreement

6. Legal measures taken to protect bats, including enforcement action

Preliminary list of bat species expected to be included into the new edition of the Red Data Book of Ukraine contains 19 species. Last edition of the Book (1994) includes 12 bat species (table 1). Thus, according to the Laws of Ukraine "On the Red Data Book of Ukraine" and "On the Animal World" these species belong to natural resources of state significance and have to be protected at all the territory of Ukraine.

For the current moment in Ukraine bats have a protection status according to Law on Environmental Protection (1991); Law on Natural Reserve Fund (1992); Law on the Animal World (1993); Low on the Red Data Book of Ukraine (1994); Law on Ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1996), Law on Ukraine's Accession to the Bern Convention (1996), Law on Ukraine's Accession to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (1999), Law on Ukraine's Accession to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1999).

7. Sites identified which are important to the conservation of bats

Generally, the situation is similar to the last report (2002). Additionally, a row of underground key sites was determined in different part of Ukraine: in the Crimea (Crimean Autonomous Republic), in Central Podillya (namely, Ternopilska and Khmelitska provinces), in Transcarpathian region (Zakarpatska province), in the Central and Eastern Ukraine (Kievska and Kharkivska provinces).

8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats

Generally, the situation similar to the last report. A row of territories have been proposed for giving them a protection status based, among other, on their importance for bats. Some of such territories have been protected.

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

Since the time of Ukraine's involvement in the activities in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, a number of public awareness actions with regards to bat conservation has been done.

Public awareness activities towards the necessity and importance of bat conservation were as follows: development of the web-site, preparing and distribution of printed information, public lectures, and public education actions, dissemination of information through mass-media (TV, radio, news-papers).

A web-site of Ukrainian Centre for Bat protection, UCEBA (http://www.kazhan.org.ua) was developed and filled with information. A special line for questions on bats (through e-mail and telephone) was opened and is now in operation.

In Luganska, Zakarpatska, Kievska, Lvivska, Kharkivska, Sumska provinces and in the Crimean Autonomous Republic the actions were organized for students-biologists, speleologists and broad public that included excursions with bat-detectors, night field-work and discussions about bat distribution, activity, census and conservation; making and hanging out bat-boxes.

10. Responsible bodies, nominated for the provision of advise on bat conservation and management

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11. Addition action undertaken to safeguard population of bats

The Centre of Bat Rehabilitation of UCEBA at the Kyiv Zoo had been worked at the Kyiv Zoo since 1999. Coordinator is Mr. V. Tyshchenko. One of the tasks of the Centre is to take care of bats which occasionally loose their winter roosts in the city with following release of animals in spring. In sum few tens of individuals of 11 bat species had passed through it. The Centre also carries out an education work with people bringing bats and with young naturalists. Another task of the Centre is to elaborate methods of keeping bats in captivity and returning them into the wild.

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

Finished:

"Inventory of underground habitats in Ukraine and elaboration of recommendations to their protection" project. The project was supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Ukraine (2001–2002; project's leader: I. Zagorodniuk). A main result or the work is presented by a reference book "Cave fauna of Ukraine" published in 2004. The book includes description of systematical groups being typical inhabitants of caves, both invertebrates and vertebrates. An annotated list of caves which are important for including them into the econet and a full list of cave fauna species are given. A special attention is

given for recommendations on caves' protection, for criteria of estimation of amount of underground objects by a biotic component.

Working out a new edition of Red Data Book of Ukraine. A collective of Ukrainian bat-workers (V. Tyshchenko, L. Godlevska, Dr. I. Zagorodniuk, Dr. A. Dulitsky) in 2004 took part in the preparing of a new draft list of bat species for including it into a new edition of the Red Data Book of Ukraine. A number of "additional" species has been proposed and included into the draft version of the Red Data Book of Ukraine.

"Bat census in Crimean caves" project. One-year project was supported by the BP Conservation Programme (2004–2005; project's leader: L. Godlevska; executive team: Ukrainian-Polish-Romanian). The project aimed at determination of a current status of cave dwelling bats in the Crimean region (South Ukraine) and to rise attention of local public to the necessity of bats' and bat roosts' protection. A database on bats' records in the region had been compiled. A scaled bat census was carried out both in summer and winter seasons. Based on the results received 9 the most important bat sites had been identified. Activities aimed at raising of the awareness of necessity of bats' and bat roosts protection were implemented (developing of the web-site, preparing and distribution of printed production, distribution of information through mass-media, lectures for speleologists, etc.).

"Conservation of dendrophile species of mammals" project. The project was supported by KNIP fund (the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Ukraine). Project's head: Dr. I. Merzlikin, period: 2004. In borders of the project at the base of the "Desnyanski Zori" children ecocamp an action on making and hanging out about 100 bat-boxes was carried out.

Ongoing:

"ABC – Atlas of bats of the Carpathians – project". International project which is coordinated by the Chiropterological Information Center, Krakow, Poland. Chiropterologists from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine participate in it.

13. Consideration being given to the potential effect of pesticides on bats, and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals, which are highly toxic to bats

No consideration has been given.

D. Functioning of the Agreement

14. Co-operation with other Range States

Ukrainian bat workers co-operate with specialists from the UK, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. The project "Bat census in Crimean caves" is implemented by an international Ukrainian-Polish-Romanian team. Volunteers from Poland, Romania, Russia and Ukraine took part in the fieldwork investigations carried out in the project's borders. Preparation of the Atlas of Bats of the Carpathians ("ABC – project") is realized under a cooperation between Carpathians states (Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania). On-going experience exchange on investigations of bat fauna composition, long-term fauna dynamics, study of bat swarming takes place between C.I.C. (Institute of Animal Systematics and Evolution, PAS, Krakow) and UCEBA members.

15. Measures taken to implement Resolution adopted by Meeting of Parties

Resolution 2.4 (underground habitats) and Resolution 4.3 — among the investigations of bats carried out in Ukraine much attention was paid to those ones which deal with underground roosts of bats and to preparing recommendations for their protection. A list of identified key roost sites was sent for the relevant Intersession Working Group.