

**CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY  
SPECIES OF WILD ANIMAL**

**Report of Lithuania on implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of  
Migratory species of Wild Animals**

**Period covered by this report 2002-2005**

Date of entry into force of the Convention in Lithuania – 1. February 2002

Territory to which the Convention applies: Lithuania

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**Information on the exceptions to the taking of Appendix I species**

8 Appendix I species are observed in Lithuania:

*Pelecanus crispus*

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

*Anser erythropus*

*Branta ruficollis*

*Aythya nyroca*

*Polysticta stelleri*

*Haliaeetus albicilla*

*Aquila clanga*

Two of these species are breeding in Lithuania:

Population of *Haliaeetus albicilla* is about 40 breeding pairs and the population is increasing.

Population of *Aythya nyroca* is estimated about 5-20 pairs. Breeding is sporadic.

There is no data about the breeding cases of *Aquila clanga* during the last 85 years.

*Anser erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* are migrating species which are observed in single cases every year.

Every year up to 2300 individuals of *Polystica stelleri* are wintering in Baltic Sea near to the Lithuanian coast. It is observed that wintering number of individuals is declining.

*Pelecanus crispus* and *Pelecanus onocrotalus* are occasionally observed in Lithuania and these species are not characteristic species to Lithuania.

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These bird species are protected in Lithuania, their habitats and resting places in migration time are declared as protected areas. No exceptions are planned and applied to the use of these species and their habitats in Lithuania.

### **Development of CMS Agreements**

Lithuania has ratified these CMS Agreements:

1. The Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe ( April, 2004).
2. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (November, 2004).
3. The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (April, 2005). Since 1999 Lithuanian representatives are participating in the Meetings of the Advisory Group of ASCOBANS.

During the last 10 years there were observed 4 individuals of Common Porpoises in the territorial waters of Lithuania what shows the potential distribution of this species into the territorial waters of Lithuania. To date there is no special projects for Common

Porpoise distribution monitoring, for safeguarding species distribution and for creation of living conditions. All specimens of this species were registered when they were caught in fishing nets, therefore here is a problem of implementation of compensation system and nets of a new construction, also here is a lack of financial resources for implementation of these means.

Since 1998 there have been done several research works on Aquatic Warbler, its habitats, conservation and management activities in the Republic of Lithuania.

In 1999-2003 15 breeding pairs of Aquatic Warbler were counted in Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve, up to 100 singing males were counted in Kliošiai Important Bird Area (flooded coastal meadow) which is by the Curonian Lagoon, 5-8 singing males - in the neighbouring Svencelė meadows, 40 – in Nemunas delta, 10 – in Sausgalviai meadows. The total Lithuanian population of Aquatic Warbler is estimated about 165-180 males.

For all known habitats of Aquatic Warbler are being prepared management plans and 5 territories are selected as Important Bird Areas.

In Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve management plan are planned mowing activities (in about 200 ha area). Currently about 10 singing males live in this area but because of overgrowing with bushes this area may become unsuitable habitat for Aquatic Warbler.

Mowing is promoted in Nemunas delta and Svencelė meadows. The system of meadows mowing was created during the PHARE project in 1998-2000.

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Establishing Natura 2000 in Lithuania were selected 7 territories of resting places for cranes (*Grus grus*). For these areas management plans and activities are being prepared. For implementation of these plans is planned to use national financial resources and financial resources of structural funds.

In year 2005 started PHARE project "Protection of endangered species of fauna and flora and their habitats through implementation of CITES, Bonn and Bern Conventions and related EU legislation". One of the objectives of this project is to prepare management plans for some of the Bern and Bonn Conventions species. Project will end in November 2006.

During the PHARE project “On Protection of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna and their Habitats through implementation of CITES and the Bern and Bonn Conventions and related EU Legislation” there is foreseen to prepare Species action plans for 16 rare and migratory species and their habitats, site management plans for 4 Special Protected Areas (SPAs) and 2 planned proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs); to prepare reports on the national inventory of at least 38 species listed in the appendices of Bern and Bonn Conventions and related EU Directives, there will be created database of 38 species listed in the appendices of Bern and Bonn Conventions and relevant EU Directives.

### **SITES IMPORTANT FOR MIGRATING BIRDS**

Seventeen territories, important for migrating birds, have been selected on the basis of congregations of international importance of migrating or wintering birds (Annex 7. of Birds Directive). It should be mentioned, that all wetlands, important for migrating birds according to the Ramsar Convention requirements, have been included in this list. Abundant congregations of migrating birds that occur in different parts of the country, but do not meet the IBA selection criteria were not taken into consideration when selecting sites of European importance.

Out of the aforementioned 17 SPAs, 15 are important for certain bird species, whereas two territories – Lakes Meteliai, Dusia and Obelija and Kuršių Nerija NP – have been selected entirely due to large congregations of migrating birds.

#### **Important congregations and wintering sites**

Congregations of international importance occur in 16 sites. Fifteen of them are important for certain bird species, whereas one site – Lake Meteliai, Dusia and Obelija – accommodates more than 20 000 waterbirds of different species during seasonal migrations.

Undoubtedly, Nemunas River Delta is the most important site for the protection of migrating birds. Congregations of international importance of 24 species of birds occur regularly in this site in different seasons of the year. In spring, this site is of particular importance for migrating Bewick’s and Whooper Swans, White-fronted, Bean and Greylag Geese, Wigeon, Gadwall, Smew, Goosander. Congregations of Caspian, Little and Black Terns and Little Gulls are

observed here in late summer. Particularly large congregations of Great Crested Grebes, Greylag Geese, Pintail, Tufted Ducks, Pochards, Wigeons, Goldeneyes, Goosanders, Cranes, Coots, White-tailed Eagles form here during autumn migrations.

Northern Part of the Curonian Lagoon is the second according to the number of qualifying migrating species. Congregations of Bewick's and Whooper Swans form here in spring, while large flocks of migrating Little Gulls occur there in late summer. Tufted Ducks, Pochards, Goldeneyes, Smews and Goosanders are abundant in this site in autumn. The White-fronted Goose forms long-term numerous congregations in autumn, while in spring time the important staging been registered for a several weeks only. In warmer winter months, when a part of the lagoon remains ice-free, congregations of international importance of Goosanders and White-tailed Eagles form in this site. When the lagoon freezes up, birds move to inshore waters of the Baltic Sea and to the territory of the Klaipėda seaport.

Palanga inshore is the wintering site of international importance for Red-throated Divers, Steller's Eiders and Goosanders. It should be mentioned here that this site is one of the two wintering sites of Steller's Eiders in the entire Baltic Sea. Large congregations of Little Gulls are observed here in late summer.

Congregations of three species of migrating birds regularly occur in four sites – Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve, Mūšos Tyrelis, Kuršių Nerija inshore and Lake Senosios and Naujosios Rusnės.

Congregations of Bean and White-fronted Geese and Cranes occur in autumn in Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve and Mūšos Tyrelis, while the largest flocks of migrating Bean and White-fronted Geese and Whooper Swans are observed in Lakes Senosios and Naujosios Rusnės in spring. Kuršių nerija inshore is a wintering site of international importance for Red-throated Divers, Velvet Scoters and Guillemots.

Large flocks of Bean and White-fronted Geese are regularly recorded in autumn in the Kamanos Strict Nature Reserve. Congregations of single species of migrating birds are recorded in different seasons in 7 sites. Sulinkiai peatbog, Tyruliai Reserve and Novaraistis Ornithological Reserve are sites of important congregations of Cranes in autumn. Numbers of White-tailed Eagles in Kaunas Reservoir and Grybaulia fishponds in late summer – autumn exceed the criterion of international importance. In some springs, large congregations of White-fronted Geese occur in Birvėta fishponds and Dysna River Valley. Baltoji Voke peatbog

with adjacent fishponds and the shallow Lake Papis is of particular importance. This is the only site in Lithuania, which support an internationally significant congregation of Great Egret (*Egretta alba*). These congregations started to form some 2 – 3 years ago, and the numbers of Great Egrets are increasing every year.

Two sites are attributed to category – Congregations in “bottleneck” sites – Kuršių Nerija and Nemunas River Delta Kuršių Nerija has been know for years as one of the most important bottleneck sites for migrating passerines and raptors in the eastern Baltic region.

More than 1000 raptors and 100 000 passerines pass through this narrow coastal strip during one day of intensive autumn migration. Similar numbers of birds are observed in the Nemunas River Delta Regional Park. However, it is more difficult to assess the abundance of migrating birds in the latter site, since birds fly over a wider coastal strip of the eastern Curonian Lagoon.

### Congregations of species in Lithuania

Nr.	Species	Population number
1.	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	750
2.	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	1200
3.	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	3000
4.	<i>Egretta alba</i>	120
5.	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	200
6.	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	170
7.	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	2400
8.	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	300
9.	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>	800
10.	<i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>	3000
11.	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	6000
12.	<i>Anser anser</i>	2000
13.	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	1760
14.	<i>Anas penelope</i>	12500
15.	<i>Anas strepera</i>	300
16.	<i>Anas crecca</i>	4000
17.	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	50000
18.	<i>Anas acuta</i>	12000
19.	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	20000
20.	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	400
21.	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	3500
22.	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	10000
23.	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	50000
24.	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	10000
25.	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	3000
26.	<i>Mergus albellus</i>	250
27.	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	1800
28.	<i>Fulica atra</i>	15000

29.	Grus grus	600
30.	Pluvialis squatarola	1700
31.	Pluvialis apricaria	10000
32.	Philomachus pugnax	3000
33.	Vanellus vanellus	70000
34.	Calidris canutus	3500
35.	Calidris alpina alpina	14000
36.	Limosa lapponica	1000
37.	Limosa limosa	3500
38.	Numenius arquata	3500
39.	Tringa totanus	1500
40.	Tringa nebularia	1800
41.	Larus canus	16000
42.	Larus matrinus	4800
43.	Sterna hirundo	6000
44.	Chlidonias niger	1700
45.	Alca torda	100

## **AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN- EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (The Hague, 1995)**

**Implementation during the period November 2004 and June 2005**

**Contracting Party:** The Republic of Lithuania

**Designated AEWA Administrative Authority:**

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

**Full name of the institution:**

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

**Name and title of the head of the institution:**

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ongoing or completed in the last three years

#### **1. Overview of Action Plan implementation**

##### *1.1 Summary of progress to date*

The Agreement was ratified in November 2004.

##### *1.2 Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years*

Monitoring of waterbirds and habitats.

### *1.3 Outline of priorities for international co-operation over the next three years*

## **2. Species conservation**

### **Legal measures**

*2.1 Has a national policy/strategy or legislation to protect and conserve species covered by the Agreement (Table 1: column A; column B) and their supporting important areas been developed? If so:*

*a. What are the main features of the policy/legislation?*

All species of Table 1 of the Agreement and their habitats are protected by these national legal acts:

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 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 the habitats and species of EU important of found on these sites".

Law on Hunting (2002).

Rules on Hunting in Lithuania (2002).

Rules on Trade in Wild Animals (2004)

*b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?*

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania;

The State Environmental Protection Inspectorate;

State Protected Areas Service under the Ministry of Environment;

Regional Environmental Protection Departments.

*c. How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?*

*2.2 What legal measures or practices has your country developed to prohibit or regulate for the following (refer also to section 4 on hunting):*

*a. Taking of, and trade in birds listed in Column A and B of Table 1 (where utilization or trade contravenes the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1 (a) and 2.1.2 of the Action Plan)?*

The national Hunting Law prohibits the taking of birds listed in Column A of Table 1, except *Anser albifrons* which hunting is allowed in restricted period. Two bird species listed in Column B of table 1 are hunted in Lithuania (i.e. *Anas querquedula*, *Gallinago gallinago*). However, the taking of these bird species is regulated by the Lithuanian hunting legislation.

The trade in birds in Lithuania is regulated by the Rules on Trade in Wild Animals. The international trade in birds is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and EU Regulations.

*b. Methods of taking?*

Only firearms are allowed.

*c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?*

There are no limits. Regional Nature Protection Departments summarise information collected from hunters and provide reports on hunted birds/animals in their region to the MoE (twice during the hunting season).

*d. Sustainable hunting of species listed in Categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A only?*

No hunting of such species is allowed.

*e. Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?*

### **Single Species Action Plans**

*2.3 Of the species covered by the Agreement (species listed in Table 1: column A), which spend part or all of their life history in your country, which have formal international (Category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or national (column A) Single Species Action Plans:*

*a. Proposed?*

No.

*b. In preparation?*

No.

*c. Being implemented?*

No.

*Please append a list of species and their action plan status. (For international plans indicate which other countries are involved in plan development/implementation.)*

### **Emergency measures**

*2.4 Describe any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action that your country has undertaken to develop and implement emergency measures to conserve species in response to unfavourable or endangering conditions occurring in the Agreement area.*

Lithuania has signed Intergovernmental bilateral agreements concerning the cooperation on environmental issues with Latvia, Belarus, Sweden and Russian Federation. In addition there are many bilateral institutional agreements between Lithuanian institutions and institutions of other countries (Sweden, Austria, Poland, Holland, Finland, Belarus, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Latvia and Slovak Republic)

concerning the cooperation on environmental issues or specific environmental questions.

The trilateral cooperation among the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) on environmental issues is well developed and is based on the agreement among the Governments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (signed in 1995). Within this framework the Ministers of Environment of all three Baltic states periodically meet on environmental protection issues.

Permanent international cooperation of Lithuanian environmental specialists is not limited by the Baltic Sea Region. Such cooperation is promoted devising and implementing working plans for bilateral intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements between Lithuania and foreign countries.

Being a Party to the Baltic Sea Environment Protection Convention (Helsinki Convention) from 1994 and a Party to the Convention on Fisheries and the Protection of Fish Resources in the Baltic Sea from 1994, Lithuania actively participates in the implementation of biodiversity and its resources protection in the Baltic region.

Strengthening international relations with other European States Lithuania has signed two Conventions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Lithuania actively participates in the implementation of the joint programme Baltic 21. This is a joint programme for sustainable development in the Baltic sea region approved by the Council of Baltic Region Countries (Ministers of Foreign Affairs) in 1998.

### **Re-establishments**

*2.5 Has a policy on species re-establishments been developed in your country? If yes, please outline the main features of the policy and give details of any re-establishment programmes for species covered by the Agreement.*

There is no special programmes for species re-establishment in Lithuania. The general policy in Lithuania is to protect and restore wetlands.

### **Introductions**

*2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species? Please provide details, particularly describing measures to control the release or introduction of non-native species (please indicate which species and their status).*

According to the Law on Wild Fauna and the Rules on Introduction of Wild Animals in case of deliberate introduction of non-native species it is necessary to get permit from MoE.

### **3. Habitat conservation**

#### **Habitat inventories**

*3.1 Has your country developed and published inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, please provide details, including any provisions to maintain or update these inventories.*

73 areas have been designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) according to the EEC Bird Directive. 5 of these are Ramsar Sites according to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Information on these sites has been published in book and the information is on the home-page :<http://www.am.lt/natura2000/>

S. Svazas, E. Drobelis, L. Balciauskas, L. Raudonikis Important wetlands in Lithuania, 2000;

L. Raudonikis, P. Kurlavicius Important Bird Areas in Lithuania, 2000;

L. Raudonikis Important Bird Areas of The European Union importance in Lithuania, 2004;

Inventory of coastal and marine Important Bird Areas in the Baltic Sea, 2000.

*3.2 Has your country undertaken a strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement? Please append a list of identified sites of international importance.*

See point 3.1

#### **Conservation of areas**

*3.3 Describe the legal frameworks and other measures through which sites (including transfrontier sites) including of international importance gain practical protection. (Please append a list of internationally important protected sites.)*

Internationally important protected sites are protected according to the provision in the EEC Bird Directive, the Ramsar Convention and national legislation – nature conservation areas and/or wildlife reserves.

*3.4 Has your country developed a management planning process for protected sites? If yes, please outline the types of management plans and organisations responsible for development and implementation.*

In the beginning of 2004 started project EUROPEAID/113516/D/SV/LT on Development of Management Plans in Protected Areas of Lithuania. This project will prepare 20 management plans for important SPA's for migratory species.

In year 2005 started PHARE project "Protection of endangered species of fauna and flora and their habitats through implementation of CITES, Bonn and Bern Conventions and related EU legislation". One of the objectives of this project is to prepare management plans for some of the Bern and Bonn Conventions species. Project will end in November 2006.

During the PHARE project "On Protection of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna and their Habitats through implementation of CITES and the Bern and Bonn Conventions and related EU Legislation" there is foreseen to prepare Species action

plans for 16 rare and migratory species and their habitats, site management plans for 4 Special Protected Areas (SPAs) and 2 planned proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs); to prepare reports on the national inventory of at least 38 species listed in the appendices of Bern and Bonn Conventions and related EU Directives.

*3.5 How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites and their management planning status):*

*a. Proposed?*

*b. In preparation?*

36 management plans for NATURA 2000 sites.

*c. Being implemented?*

*3.6 What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetland habitats and to prevent habitat degradation e.g. pollution control and managing water resources? Please provide examples of best practice initiatives particularly involving crosssectoral co-operation or public participation.*

The most relevant legal instruments regarding conservation and wise use of wetland are the following:

Law on Environmental Protection (1992),

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).

Law on Hunting (2002)

In Lithuania the national wetland policy is covered by an integrated and a comprehensive set of nature protection and environmental laws and strategies which also complies with article 6 of the Convention of Biological Diversity. Lithuania has prepared a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which contains section of Action Plan for the protection of wetlands ecosystems.

### **Rehabilitation and restoration**

*3.7 Does your country have a policy for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for species covered by the Agreement? Please provide examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects and initiatives undertaken.*

The objectives of Lithuanian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan are conserve wetlands, ban new exploitation of wetlands and restore damaged wetland and meadows. Some smaller wetlands have been restored since 1999.

## **4. Management of human activities**

### **Hunting**

*4.1 Outline the main features of legislation or legal measures in your country to control hunting of the species covered by the Agreement (e.g. use of lead shot and poisoned baits, and to eliminate illegal taking).*

Administrative authority competent for hunting policy in Lithuania is the Ministry of Environment. MoE confirms hunting rules, list of huntable species and terms of hunting; allowable and forbidden hunting methods and terms of their use; allowable and forbidden hunting tools, list of species whose hunting is limited and their annual hunting limits evaluation order, sets the order of issuing of licences for huntable species; sets the order of hunting exam and program.

There are two main legal acts regulating hunting in Lithuania: Law on Hunting (2002) and Rules on Hunting in Lithuania (2002).

*4.2 Does your country monitor hunting levels? If so, how is this information collated and reported?*

Bag statistics in Lithuania are collected since 1934. In our country Regional nature protection departments of MoE (we have 8 dep.) collect data on bird hunting bags twice a year. Since hunting period 2003/2004 the bags are recorded per bird species. Before 2003 the bags were recorded per group of bird species (geese, ducks), 4 times a year.

Hunters in Lithuania are obliged by law to give their annual bag. Hunters after each hunting must fill a special hunting data sheet (special list) and sign it (it is obligatory). In such data sheet there is an information about hunting place and hunting date, name of a hunter, names of species of harvested birds (or animals) and number of harvested individuals. These documents are regularly controlled by environment inspectors. Hunting clubs twice a year make a summary (report) about harvested species and number of individuals and submit this information to Regional nature protection departments (special form confirmed by a minister of environment).

Regional nature protection departments summarise information collected from hunters and provide a reports about harvested birds/animals in their region to the MoE (twice during hunting season). Also there are collected data about accidentally killed animals on the roads; how much domestic animals were killed by wolfs; harvested animals sick with tuberculosis and cases of rabies (hydrophobia).

MoE every year makes the report about harvested **animals** in all the country (based on collected information from Regional nature protection departments). Every person can get the information about bag statistics for free.

*4.3 Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organisations to manage hunting activity e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licences and proficiency testing of individual members.*

There is the common educational and examination programme for hunters in Lithuania approved by the Ministerial Order 2002 No. 510

### **Eco-tourism**

*4.4 What is the status of eco-tourism programmes or initiatives in your country? Please provide examples of projects with an indication of the significant outcomes.*

In the most of the National and Regional parks and Strict Nature Reserves are constructed watchtowers for bird watching and nature trails for eco-tourists.

*4.5 What social and economic benefits accrue to the local communities from the conservation of important waterbird sites?*

Benefits to the local communities from the conservation of waterbird sites are insignificant.

### **Other human activities**

*4.6 Does your country carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, briefly describe the main features of your EIA policy and procedures.*

The main features of the Lithuanian EIA are that companies or others making specific constructions (airports, infrastructures, farms, plants) have to make an assessment of the potential impact on the environment, including wetlands and migratory birds. If the impact is assessed to be significantly negative alleviating measures has to be carried out or the construction may even be translocated to another place.

*4.7 Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimising disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any landuse conflicts especially emphasising successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.*

Impact from sailing, hunting and other recreation activities have been minimised by establishing more NATURA 2000 sites and by restriction of hunting season.

## **5. Research and monitoring**

### **Status of research and monitoring programmes for species**

*5.1 How are priorities for research identified in your country? Please briefly describe your country's research programmes, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action, for wetland habitats and for species covered by the Agreement (e.g. studies into species population, ecology and migratory patterns). Please append a list of research activities initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.*

Priorities for research are identified individually by the different research institutes. Ornithologists from the Institute of Ecology, Lithuanian Ornithological Society and Protected Areas are participating in different research and monitoring programmes, but there is no centralised information on all projects in one place. The information is scattered in different institutions.

*5.2 What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or multilateral cooperative action, of wetland areas and species covered by the Agreement (e.g. national monitoring schemes, International Waterfowl Census)? Please append a list of monitoring activities or programmes initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years*

A new National Environment Monitoring Program for 2005-2010 was adopted in February. In this new NEMP is included monitoring of bird species listed in the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). This year in Lithuania started monitoring of few breeding and migratory bird species in Natura 2000 sites. According to the requirements of Birds Directive Lithuania must submit to European Commission a report on monitoring every 3 years.



Since 2003 monitoring of wintering water birds is going on in Lithuania. This monitoring makes Institute of Ecology.

Also some project concerning waterfowl and other bird species were carried out in last few years: 1) Important trans-border wetlands in Lithuania, Belarus and the Kaliningrad region of Russia (2001-2002); 2) Reduction of impacts of gillnet fisheries on migrating and wintering waterfowl and seabirds in the Lithuanian inshore waters of the Baltic Sea (2001-2002); 3) Protection and management of Important Bird Areas included into Natura 2000 network in Lithuanian inshore waters of the Baltic Sea (2003-2004).

## **6. Education and information**

### **Training and development programmes**

*6.1 Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.*

No special training or development programmes specific to the AEWA Action Plan, but training in general nature conservation is taken care of by some NGOs.

*6.2 What bilateral or multilateral co-operative action is your country undertaking to develop training programmes and share examples of good practice?*

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### **Raising public awareness**

*6.3 Describe activities to raise public awareness of the objectives of the AEWA Action Plan.*

*Please outline any particular successes generating public interest in, and securing support for, waterbird and wetland conservation (e.g. campaigns, information notes or other initiatives)?*

NGOs regularly organise actions and meetings on nature protection and species conservation for public.

## **7. Final comments**

*7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan*

No special comments.

*7.2 Observations concerning the functions and services of the various AEWA bodies*  
*a. The Agreement Secretariat*

No special comments.

*b. International organisations*

No special comments.

*c. AEWA NGO partners*

No special comments.

*7.3 How might the Action Plan be further developed as a practical aid for national and international conservation of migratory waterbirds?*

## **8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties**

*Please summarize progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties.*

## **9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions**

Contracting Parties are invited to outline below any further information regarding the aims of the Agreement, for example, planned actions or other informative examples.

1. Species conservation
2. Habitat conservation
3. Management of human activities
4. Research and monitoring
5. Education and information

### **List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report**

The Ministry of Environment - MoE

### **References**

### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans**

**Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance**

**Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance**

**Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects**

**Appendix 5: List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation**

**Appendix 6: List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation**

**Appendix 7: List of relevant migratory waterbird and habitat conservation projects**

**initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years**

## **AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE**

National report on the implementation of the agreement in Lithuania

### **General Information**

*Name of Party:* Lithuania  
*Date of Report:* April 2005  
*Period covered:* 2004 - 2005  
*Competent Authorities:* Nature Protection Department of the Ministry of Environment

### **Status of Bats within the Territory of Lithuania**

#### ***5. Summary Details of Resident Species***

15 bat species occur in the territory of Lithuania. However, several of them are very rare:

4. *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).
5. *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.
6. *Myotis dasycneme* (Pond Bat). The status is doubtful, 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, thus the species is probably endangered.

7. *Plecotus auritus* (Brown long-eared Bat), *Myotis daubentonii* (Daubenton's Bat) and *Pipistrellus nathusii* (Nathusius' Pipistrelle) are confirmed to consider as common and widespread species.
8. *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.

## 6. Status and Trends

Species	Status in Lithuania	Apparent Trend
<b>Vespertilio murinus</b>	R/MIG	Unknown
<i>Eptesicus nilssoni</i>	V	Stable
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	V	Stable
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	I/MIG	Unknown
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	V/MIG	Unknown
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	R/MIG	Probably stable
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	R/MIG	Stable
<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	K/MIG	Unknown
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	R	Probably stable
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	NT	Stable
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	I	Unknown
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	R/MIG	Unknown
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	NT	Unknown
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaea</i>	I/MIG	Unknown
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	NT/MIG	Probably stable

**E** – endangered, **V** – vulnerable, **R** – rare, **K** – insufficiently known, **I** – indeterminate, **NT** – not threatened, **MIG** – migration species.

## 7. 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).

## 8. Threats

Last year a number of people interested in bats 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.

#### **9. Data collection and research**

Data were 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.

There are a few data sets prepared by these institutions: bat observations (based on bibliography, information and field work), monitoring of selected bat species and ringing of bats (captures and recaptures) in the Lithuanian Ringing Centre.

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

#### **10. *Legal measures taken to protect bats, including details of enforcement actions to support such measures***

The amendment of the Law on Protected Plant, Animal and Fungi Species and Communities (1997, amended in December 2001) has been adopted, according to which 10 (ten) bat species as endangered, vulnerable or of unknown status are protected in Lithuania, i.e.:

*Myotis dasycneme, Eptesicus nilsoni, Pipistrellus pipistrellus, Nyctalus leisleri, Myotis nattereri, Myotis brandtii, Barbastella barbastellus, Nyctalus noctula, Eptesicus serotinus, Vespertilio murinus.*

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 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 the habitats and species of EU important of found on these sites".

#### **11. *Sites identified and protected which are important for the conservation of bats***

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

12. ***Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats***

The situation is similar as it was reported last year. A lot of the known roosts and habitats important to bats in Lithuania are located in the 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.

13. ***Activities to promote the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats***

Bat night events have been organized in Pavilniai Regional Park and Rambynas Regional Park. The event took place in Rambynas Regional Park at the end of August. This event started with an introductory lecture presented by P.H.C. Lina. This lecture was about bats diversity, biology and conservation. Bats were registered by detectors in the evening tour.

Two workshops were organized under the Project "Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district" in Pavilniai Regional Park in January and February 2005.

Leaflets, postcards, posters of bats have been produced under the Project "Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district".

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

Society for Lithuanian Bat Survive was established in December 2004.

14. ***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 Nature Protection Department of the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment.

Scientific Authorities are the Lithuanian Society for Bat Conservation and the Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University.

15. ***Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats***

A very important bat hibernation site was improved last year. This site has been proposed to include in NATURE 2000. The activities carried out under the Project "Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district" following the instructions of bat experts, included the management.

16. ***Recent and ongoing programs (including research) relating to the conservation and management of bats***

The 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.

D.H. Pauža, N. Paužienė, G. Sidabrienė Bats The hardback Bats is designed for the general use and popularly delineates the conservation and biology of 17 bat species that have been identified or are presumably distributed in Lithuania.

The Project "Conservation of Bats in Vilnius district" was finished in March 2005.

Peter H.C. Lina, K. Baranauskas, N. Vėlavičienė, D. Makavičius "Recommendation for Bat Researches Regarding Possible Rabies Risk" Acta Zoologica Lithuanica.

The biggest breeding sites of *Myotis nattereri* in Lithuania have been found in Renavas Palace.

17. *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.

## **Functioning of the Agreement**

### **Cooperation with other parties and range states**

There is cooperation with Latvia, Germany and the Netherlands. Experts from these countries consults our specialists. There is also cooperation on a number of questions with scientists in many other European countries.