

LIFE Project Number LIFE16 NAT/EE/000710

Progress Report Covering the project activities from 01/07/2017 to 30/09/2018

Reporting Date **31/10/2018**

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym **EstBatLIFE**

Data Project

Estonia		
01/07/2017		
30/06/2021		
972 395 €		
583 437 €		
60%		
Data Beneficiary		
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List of key-words and abbreviations

AB Associated beneficiary
CB Coordinating beneficiary
EC European Commission

ELF Eestimaa Looduse Fond (Estonian Fund for Nature)

ELM Eesti Loodusmuuseum (Estonian Museum of Natural History)

ESS Electronic Surveillance System

EU European Union

EUROBATS Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats

KPI Key Project-level Indicators NGO Non-governmental organisation

PR Public relations

SA Sihtasutus (Foundation)
SC Steering Committee
VAT Value added tax
WG Working group

1. Executive summary

1.1. General progress

The overall goal of the project is to contribute actively into the protection of the threatened bat species in Europe whose population has been in decline during last century. That species is the Pond Bat, *Myotis dasycneme* (Annex II, IV of the EU Habitats Directive) and contribution is foreseen to be done through safeguarding the wintering habitats of that species in Estonia, improving conditions of these underground habitats and rising awareness in order to reach successful conservation of the species with local community involvement. The previous attempts of managing the visitor flows or prohibiting the entrance to the underground sites were unsuccessful as the placed grilles had been destroyed or removed rapidly. It proves the need for awareness raising and community involving conservation activities. Therefore, the existing experience and knowledge of the EUROBATS and Estonian bat conservationists must be combined with the community involvement.

The list of key deliverables as defined in the grant agreement and with deadline before or less than half a year after the reporting date of current report, are indicated below. Fulfilment of the deliverables is considered till the end date of the reporting period, 30/09/2018.

Name of the Deliverable	Number of	Deadline	Fulfilment
	the associa-		
	ted action		
Project website	E1	31/12/2017	Completed with delay
Technical design documentation	A1	31/05/2018	Delayed
established			
Report on the seasonal visitation	A2	30/09/2018	Delayed
flows in project sites			
Construction drawings and	A1	31/10/2018	Delayed
building permits			
Report on the counts	A3	31/03/2019	In progress

General progress of actions implementation:

- A. Preparatory actions: Planning documents for conservation actions including preliminary technical design and construction types were prepared (Annex 1). Most of the discussions on design and construction drawings as well as application of building permits where relevant were postponed to the last quarter of the 2018, after the EUROBATS Advisory Committee meeting in Tallinn in May and study tour to the Netherlands on 20-30/08/2018. Explanations of that postpone are given in detail in Annex 1. Temporal grilles were tested in Ülgase project site in October and November 2017. Visitor counting is going on in all project sites, but as it started in February 2018 there is still need for counting visitation also in autumn months in 2018 to have complete report ready for all seasons. It will not affect timing of other project activities. Winter counts and mapping of all bats in all four project sites has been well performed in February-March 2018 by all four bat-experts of the project. Report of the counts will be compiled after second winter counts during February 2019 as planned.
- C. Conservation actions: Most of these actions are planned to be started and performed during next reporting period. First testing of temporal grilles has been done already during October-November 2017 and also first voluntary camps have been performed at the Vääna-Posti site on 18/10/2018 more than 10 m³ of mixed residual waste was collected by 20 volunteers and illegal cavity between two underground tunnels has been successfully filled by six volunteers (Annex 2).
- D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions: Impact can be monitored after the project conservation actions are done and therefore it is not completely relevant yet. Still, first contacts with most of the stakeholders (landowners, interest groups, state and local institutions) has been set and meetings are planned to be done during November 2018 to February 2019. Also first meeting with Environmental Board has been done in April 2018 on a matter of ELF role in updating management plans of protected areas that contain project sites as well as species action plan of bats (Annex 3).
- E. Public awareness and dissemination of results: Study tour to Netherlands was commenced by 30/08/2018 (Annex 4). Delay in comparison with application was due to better suitability for hosts and possibility to monitor also Pond Bat already in hibernation sites as well as in bat boxes. First EUROBATS Advisory Committee annual meeting during the project time was held in Tallinn, Estonia from 14/05/2018 to 17/05/2018 and project team assisted hosts with arrangement of excursion to Lahemaa National Park and Ülgase project site for all participants before the meeting on 13/05/2018 (Annex 5). Also preliminary project leaflet and roll-up was produced and presented at the meeting (Annex 6). Project website, http://elfond.ee/nahkhiired was published with short delay by the end of January 2018 in Estonian language and translated to English and Russian during February 2018, respectively: http://elfond.ee/bats and http://elfond.ee/letuchie-myshi (Annex 7). First communication with Latvian colleagues has been done during EUROBATS meeting in Tallinn and further discussions were done during summer and at the LIFE platform meeting in Tartu in September 2018. Possibilities for cooperation in compilation of Species Protection Plan for Pond Bat in Latvia has been set, one possible option is to help with translation of Estonian Species Protection Plan of Bats and draft Latvian Species Protection Plan for Pond Bat into English. Preparation of information boards and project leaflets has been started, but is planned to be finalised during next reporting period. Weatherproof batcamera system is purchased and preliminary tests were done (Annex 8), it will be further

tested on web during the winter 2018/2019. First brainstorming on interactive exhibition production has started (Annex 9). First four Bat-Nights were arranged on 18/08/2018 in four towns in Estonia by four bat-experts contracted by project.

• **F. Project management:** Project manager and executive team were contracted and steering committee (SC) has been formed. First meetings of both full team (Annex 10) and SC (Annex 12) have been arranged and communication channels set for both team and SC. Partnership agreement is signed between project partners (Annex 14). Financial management and rules for exchange of documents is set up within and between partner organisations. First monitoring meeting has been organised on 18-19/04/2018 (Annex 15). Purchase of the fieldwork car has been launched and some of the other needed equipment is purchased for smooth performance of the project preparatory actions.

1.2. Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable

Project objectives are still very viable as preliminary results of visitor load counting shows still high number of illegal human visits in all project sites. Strong proof of it is the illegal cavity that was dug most probably within one day during period between 21st to 29th of January 2018 when nobody of project experts did not visit the Vääna-Posti project site. Digging was done despite it is completely prohibited by law even to enter the site between 1st of September to 30th of April. Also most of the public performances on project and its actions has been giving lots of positive and promising feedback on strong interest on bats among people.

Few proposed changes in work plan are caused by making it more logical, so that actions depending from each other will be set in time correctly and these changes do not affect the project results. No substantial delays are foreseen at that moment and if project conservation (C) actions can start in time next year everything will hopefully go as planned. Currently we do not see that delay in action A1 and small delay in action A2 would cause a substantial delay in C-actions and we still plan that all conservation work will be finalised by the end of 2019.

1.3. Identified deviations, problems and corrective actions taken in the period

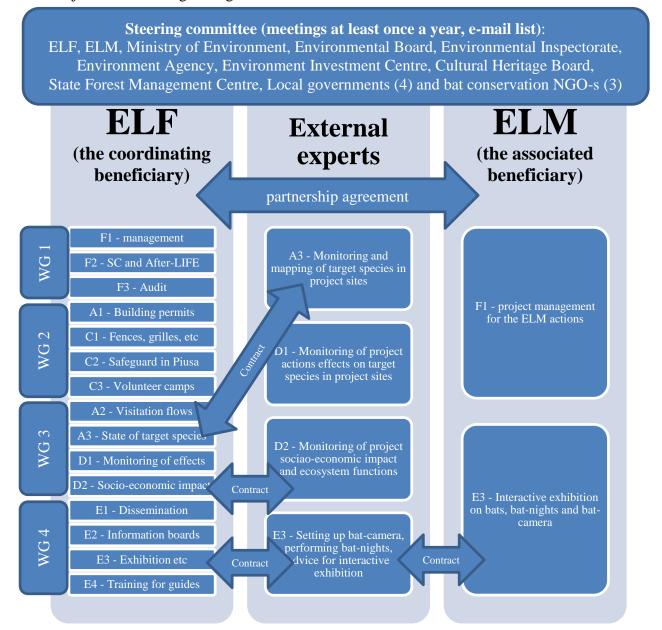
Project was supposed to start on 01/07/2017, but recruitment of the project manager took some time due to summer period and was successful on 24/09/2017. Due to that also some of the first milestones were with some delay, but it is not affecting the overall schedule of the project.

Preparation for project conservation actions, especially tasks under action A1 have been somewhat rescheduled, due to need for clarification what type of actions exactly are needed in every project site, either grilling, fencing and/or electronic surveillance system (ESS). As the best design and combination of all these three conservation actions should be well weighted and discussed beforehand and as the study tour to Netherlands on that issue (E1) was planned to be commenced by the summer period of 2018, it was not wise to order design documents before that. Due to that it was planned that conservation actions at every project site will be described in planning document (that includes also preliminary descriptions and drawings of possible types of conservation means) that will be prepared by project team and agreed by all concerned institutions and persons during the November 2018 to February 2019 (Annex 1). Final design as well as building permits for conservation actions described in these planning documents will be ordered separately for every project site and action as one package with construction itself, starting early in 2019 and planned to be finalised by the end of 2019.

There have been no problems or difficulties concerning schedule, budget or the overall role of the only associated beneficiary – Estonian Museum of Natural History.

2. Administrative part

Project has following management structure:



Project manager (Lauri Klein) together with project coordinator from associated beneficiary (Laura Pärtel) participated in LIFE kick-off meeting in Brussels in October 2017.

Project manager has initiated project team and SC during October-December 2017. First meeting of project team was held on 21/12/2017 (Annex 10) and first meeting of SC on 29/01/2018 (Annex 12). Project team consists 25 persons in total from 7 institutions (Annex 11). Project team was divided into four WG-s that were indicatively named according to the main topic they deal with: WG1 – management (5 persons); WG2 – safeguarding (9 persons); WG3 – monitoring (7 persons); WG4 – awareness (14 persons). After first full project team

meeting WG-s have had many smaller working-meetings during 2018 that are not protocolled, but mainly every-day work is going on by e-mails, lists were set up for that. In order to have all WG-s actively working every one of them have at least one member that has paid employment status in the project, so called ELF executive committee member beside of project manager.

ELF executive committee includes five employees with full or part-time work-load. Project assistant (Aili Saluveer since start until July 2018, replaced with Kärt Mell starting in Sept. 2018) has been maintaining technical documentation, contracts, assisting project manager in organisation of meetings and taking care of the office for the project staff. Project financial manager (Kadri Kalmus) is involved in financial planning of the project, controls expenditure documents and provides financial reports of the project. Doing so, she is also providing assurance that project expenditures are in line with LIFE, EU and national provisions. She also has checked financial correctness of associated beneficiaries' financial reports and provided answers for relevant enquiries. PR coordinator (Mariliis Haljasorg since start until April 2018 and replaced with Kertu Hool after that) together with communication assistant (Laura Oro) has established project web site (in January 2018). Articles and press-releases as well as news for social media have been prepared with assistance of PR coordinator and her assistance. PR coordinator is also responsible for the overview of media coverage and relevant statistics. Overview table on media coverage is in Annex 16. In order to fulfil all project actions so that they are best for a target species – Pond Bat – project leading expert (Lauri Lutsar, since Sept. 2017) as a part-time paid employee was recruited from the staff of ELF. He is assisting project manager with content issues and is involved in all these actions that are directly dealing with target species (all other than F-actions currently). He has been working actively already for all A actions, being coordinator for evaluation of initial state of target species in the project sites, setting up and maintaining visitation flows counters and having active assistance for project manager on preparatory work for technical designs and building permits of project sites. He also has been working already with monitoring of the project's socio-economic impact and ecosystem functions as well as with dissemination planning and execution. Overall concern is that his work load is actually higher than possibilities initially planned in project application and for some actions there are no work load at all foreseen (actions C3 and F1), but his expertise is needed for all conservation works, including voluntary camps as well as content assistance in project management. Therefore, we will propose a shift of some amounts from external assistance and equipment costs to personnel costs for his use, but we will specify amounts and budget lines for that in the mid-term report.

Beside of the leading expert, three more external bat experts were contracted for these actions that require bat expertise – A3 (Evaluation of initial state of target species in the project sites), E3 (conducting Bat Nights). These experts are known and educated bat experts in Estonia: Matti Masing, Oliver Kalda, Rauno Kalda. They are planned to be contracted also for other duties during the project, especially these that need content expertise for bat ecology – D and E actions.

SC consists of 24 persons from 16 institutions (listed at the project management structure figure above and in detail in Annex 13). SC is planned to have at least one meeting annually. As first meeting that was planned to be held before the end of 2017 was done in January 2018, there is also a second meeting of SC planned to be held before the end of the 2018 or early 2019 and perhaps also other meeting after all conservation actions are done at the end of 2019 or early 2020. Project manager keeps record on project team and SC contacts and will make relevant corrections if needed.

Project has two partners – ELF as coordinating beneficiary and ELM as associated beneficiary. Partner agreement was signed at 26/01/2018 (Annex 14). ELM has already started preparing its main action – the interactive exhibition (E3). They have had meetings considering the concept and the visual identity of the exhibition. There have been also several meetings during summer period considering the purchased bat camera and its installation.

3. Technical part

Below are described the activities undertaken during project implementation time July 2017 to October 2018. Each action description highlights are pointed out.

3.1. Progress per action

3.1.1. Action A – Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans

3.1.1.1. Action A1 – Technical designs and building permits of project sites – in progress

Foreseen start date: 01/10/2017 Actual start date: 11/09/2017 Foreseen end date: 31/12/2018 Anticipated end date: 28/02/2019

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Technical design process	31/01/2018	Preparation of preliminary technical design
has been initiated in all		documents (Annex 1) was initiated in all sites in
project areas		time. Temporal grilles were tested in Ülgase
		project site in Oct. and Nov. 2017 (Annex 8).
Technical design	31/12/2018	Approval is postponed to 28/02/2019, because
documentation approved		documentation cannot be finalised before getting
by all relevant authorities		input from EUROBATS Advisory Committee
		meeting and study tour to the Netherlands.
		Detailed explanation is given in Annex 1.

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Technical design	31/05/2018	Preliminary documentation on conservation
documentation established		actions in every project site, including reflections
		to technical design is prepared by the project
		manager (Annex 1). Finalisation of technical
		design documentation and construction drawings
		was postponed to be done with construction firm
		that will perform the work. Detailed explanation is
		given in Annex 1.
Construction drawings	31/10/2018	Ref. to description above for Technical design
and building permits for		documentation and Annex 1.
conservation activities		

Due to the need for getting well adapted and thoroughly discussed solutions for grills and/or fences and ESS as well as having important input from EUROBATS meeting and study tour to the Netherlands within action E1 (commenced by the end of August 2018), discussions and agreement procedures were planned to be performed during the autumn 2018 and preliminary

planning documents that have all details on design and construction are expected to have approved by all relevant authorities by the postponed deadline 28/02/2019. After that will technical design and construction drawing documents finalised by construction firms within same order together with construction itself. Explanations of these delays are given also in Annex 1.

3.1.1.2. Action A2 – Evaluation of visitation flows – in progress

Foreseen start date: 01/10/2017 Actual start date: 15/09/2017 Foreseen end date: 31/03/2019 Anticipated end date: 31/03/2019

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Visitor counting	28/02/2018	Equipment was not purchased, as it appeared that
equipment purchased and		relevant counters (census mat) are not in a market
set in project sites		anymore (and also out of production), but we
		found needed number of relevant type and free of
		charge available counters from Estonian state
		institutions (Environment Agency and State Forest
		Management Centre) and did set them up in all
		project sites in time. It caused no extra costs for
		the project.

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Report on the seasonal	30/09/2018	Due to the need to get seasonal visitation flows
visitation flows in project		there is a need to count in all project sites during
sites		all four seasons. As we started counts in all sites in
		February 2018 (it took some time to find relevant
		counters as we did not find them in a market),
		counted in spring and in summer, there is still
		need to have counts in autumn and therefore full
		report for all seasons and all sites is planned to be
		ready by 31/03/2019.

Delay in preparation of the report on the seasonal visitation flows in project sites does not affect timing and quality of the other related project actions (especially C-actions) and their planning phase. Preliminary results from all sites for three months are already there and we can use that information already while discussing conservation actions with stakeholders as well as designing actions themselves.

3.1.1.3. Action A3 – Evaluation of initial state of target species in the project sites – in progress

Foreseen start date: 01/10/2017 Actual start date: 14/09/2017 Foreseen end date: 31/03/2021 Anticipated end date: 31/03/2021

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Preliminary counts carried	31/03/2019	First winter (2017/2018) counts were done in
out in all project sites		February-March 2018, in time in all project sites
		by four bat experts: Lauri Lutsar as leading expert

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
		together with contracted experts Matti Masing, Oliver Kalda and Rauno Kalda (ref. to ch. 2).
Final counts carried out in all project sites	31/03/2021	Not relevant yet

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Report on the counts	31/03/2019	Report will be prepared after second winter
		(2018/2019) counts were done in February 2019.

First winter counts were successful and data is in process. All four bat-experts were involved. Second winter counts are planned to be done during February-March 2019. We hope that these counts will not be affected by changing weather and that despite of very tight schedule for reporting we still manage to finalise it before the end of March. Still, as some of the counts have to be usually done during March, it might happen that there will be slight delay in reporting.

3.1.2. Action C – Conservation actions

3.1.2.1. Action C1 – Restriction of human access to the hibernacula - started

Foreseen start date: 01/07/2018 Actual start date: 02/07/2018 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2021 Anticipated end date: 30/06/2021

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Grilles are tested in project sites	31/03/2019	First testing with temporal and existing grilles was done within action A1 in October-November 2017 at Ülgase project site (look photos in Annex 8). Further testing can be done after grilles are placed in project sites where necessary. First testing in Ülgase did show that grilles are not good for bats. Bats avoid to fly through grilles, only few animals per night fly through. We even observed bats collide with grilles and fall down after that. Decision on usage of grilles will be made
		accordingly and separately for every site.
Additional security measures tested and installed	31/10/2019	Not relevant yet
Hibernacula entrances are closed in appropriate way in 4 sites	31/10/2019	Not relevant yet

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Report on the restrictions	30/06/2021	Not relevant yet
to the entrances of		
hibernation sites of all		
four project sites		

3.1.2.2. Action C2 – Safeguarding the collapsing caves – not started yet

Foreseen start date: 01/04/2019 Actual start date: not relevant yet Foreseen end date: 30/09/2019 Anticipated end date: 30/09/2019

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Culvert is placed and secured	30/09/2019	Not relevant yet

$3.1.2.3.Action\ C3$ – Cleaning and filling the cave systems and organising volunteer camps - started

Foreseen start date: 01/04/2019 Actual start date: 08/10/2018 Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020 Anticipated end date: 30/09/2020

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Sites are cleaned and	30/06/2020	Actions are planned during 2019 and 2020. Still,
shafts filled where		first two volunteer camps were done already on
necessary		18/10/2018 in Vääna-Posti project site (Annex 2).
		These camps were both less than one day camps
		on same site. One camp, five hours, was for
		cleaning the site with 20 volunteers and other
		camp, three hours, was for filling illegally made
		cavity between two tunnels with five volunteers.

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Report on removed waste	31/08/2020	Report is not started yet, but amount of waste we
		did already collect from the Vääna-Posti site (10
		m ³) as well as estimated amount of waste still
		there is showing that we will exceed the indicative
		amount (10 m ³) we did set ourselves to be
		collected by the end of the project. Despite of that
		we do not see that it will cause more expenses that
		foreseen in the initial budget. As that action is still
		in a very beginning, we will report more on that
		action within next report.

3.1.3. Action D – Monitoring of the impact of the project actions

3.1.3.1. Action D1 - Monitoring of the effects of project actions on target species and visitation flows - not started yet

Foreseen start date: 01/04/2019 Actual start date: not relevant yet Foreseen end date: 30/06/2021 Anticipated end date: 30/06/2021

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Terms of reference for the	31/07/2019	Not relevant yet, but it is already clear that it
monitoring are established		should be postponed to a period when
		conservation actions are finalised. There was

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
		wrong milestone deadline in application, it should
		be 31/12/2019, because it is not wise to prepare
		terms of reference for the monitoring of how
		target species reacts to the conservation action
		results before we know what are these results
		(either grilles, fences, ESS or something else).

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Report of the effect of	31/12/2019	It should be postponed to a period when
conservation measures on		conservation actions are finalised and there has
target species and on		been at least two winters (2019/2020 and
visitation		2020/2021) for monitoring of the effect of
		conservation measures. That deadline should be
		30/06/2021

3.1.3.2. Action D2 – Monitoring of the project's socio-economic impact and ecosystem functions – in progress

Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017 Actual start date: 12/09/2017 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2021 Anticipated end date: 30/06/2021

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
4 meetings with local	31/12/2018	Preparatory work has started, most of the local
stakeholders organised		stakeholders (including all landowners) are
		contacted, but meetings were not yet held.
		Meetings are planned to be hold during the last
		quarter of 2018.
Background studies	31/12/2019	Not started yet. Planned to be done during 2019.
collected for ecosystem		
functions report		

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Preliminary report on socio-economic impact	31/10/2020	Not relevant yet
Preliminary report on ecosystem functions	31/12/2020	Not relevant yet
Final report on ecosystem functions	30/06/2021	Not relevant yet
Final report on socio- economic impact	30/06/2021	Not relevant yet

3.1.4. Action E – Public awareness and dissemination of results

3.1.4.1. Action E1 – Dissemination planning and execution – in progress

Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017 Actual start date: 25/09/2017 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2021 Anticipated end date: 30/06/2021

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Study tour commenced	30/06/2018	Study tour to the Netherlands was commenced on 20-30/08/2018. Instead of having it for 4 persons for 4 days, as in application, it was with same budget held for 6 persons for 6 days (even 10 days for 3 persons). Short report of the study tour is in Annex 4.
Project final seminar carried out	30/04/2021	Not relevant yet
EUROBATS advisory committee meetings attended (4 annual meetings)	30/06/2021	First EUROBATS advisory committee annual meeting during the project time was held in Tallinn, Estonia from 14/05/2018 to 17/05/2018 and due to the cost savings from Estonian experts' attendance this time, it was possible to use that amount to promote networking and to present project through organising an excursion for meeting participants on 13/05/2018 (Annex 5). One of the project experts (Matti Masing) did also presentation at the meeting about bats and their research in Estonia and we did show the movie about bats in Estonia to meeting participants. Two of the project experts also attended the meeting for full period.

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Project website	31/12/2017	Website, http://elfond.ee/nahkhiired was published
		with short delay by the end of January 2018 in
		Estonian language and translated to English and
		Russian during February 2018, respectively:
		http://elfond.ee/bats and http://elfond.ee/letuchie-
		myshi (Annex 7). Website has had 2472 visits
		since publishing, almost 2000 of these are unique
		visits and average duration of visits is about one
		and half minutes.
Layman's report	31/03/2021	Not relevant yet
Report on the replication	31/03/2021	Not relevant yet
of innovative solutions		_

E.1.1 Dissemination plan and networking with other projects and EUROBATS experts

1. A study tour - to visit project sites with applied grilles and fences in the Netherlands in order to learn from the existing experiences of Pond Bat conservation methods was commenced with two-month delay and it did cause two-month delay also for action A1 technical documents to be prepared and building permits to be obtained. Short report of the study tour is in Annex 4.

- 2. Participating in annual EUROBATS meetings presenting by either poster or report the results and achievements of the project for the circle of bat researchers, specialists and conservation officers of member states. First EUROBATS Advisory Committee meeting was held in Tallinn, Estonia, excursion was organised for participants (Annex 5), project experts were attending the meeting, made presentations there and also especial leaflets about project were produced as well as project roll-ups in two languages (Annex 6).
- 3. Final event of the project is not yet relevant.

E.1.2 Development of the Dissemination Pack

- 1. Project's website, bat camera shots, video broadcast and on-line Q/A forum, counselling of house owners in bats-in-houses issues for all the project's results and achievements the web-page is set up or existing web resources used. Website was set up in three languages in January-February 2018 (Annex 7). That website has already first camera shots and videos on bats in project sites uploaded, but online video broadcast as "nature camera" is still in a testing phase and is planned to be set before the next reporting period. Also the Q/A forum is not yet set up, but there are links to the guidelines how everyone and especially house owners can help protect bats.
- 2. Elaboration and print of Layman's report is not relevant yet.
- 3. Report on the replication of innovative solutions is also not relevant yet, but first experiences for replication are already obtained through testing temporary grilles according to EUROBATS guidelines with a preliminary result that bats (including Pond Bat) do not like them, they can even be such obstacles that may injure bats on their way. Also first testing of bat camera system for video broadcasts has shown good possibility for replication that will certainly be written to the report. Lot of exchange of experiences was done with bat experts from Netherlands during the study visit and it was mutually useful.

E.1.3. Dissemination of Estonian experience in Latvia

1. The Species Protection Plan for Pond Bat in Latvia. Discussions how the cooperation with Latvian colleagues on their preparatory work of that protection plan started at the EUROBATS meeting in Tallinn and went on through communication on e-mail basis. Conditions with Pond Bat in Estonia and Latvia are quite different – that bat species has only two suitable hibernation sites in Latvia and therefore they focus their protection actions on summer roosts that exist in their churches. In Estonia main focus is on hibernation and summer roosts are not well known, but do not exist in churches. Therefore, we have decided that there are two most possible options for a cooperation on elaboration of that protection plan – translation of draft Latvian plan into English and existing Estonian protection plan for all bat species into English and then exchange comments and suggestions on both. As Latvian plan is still under elaboration there is still time to do that before the summer 2019. Other cooperation actions planned are two workshops close to Pond Bat hibernation sites in Latvia and discuss safeguarding as well as bat-camera issues there after our project has reached these results that we can share with them. These actions can be done after our conservation actions are finished and effects to the target species monitored, so during years 2020-2021.

- 2. Workshop near Cēsis is not relevant yet.
- 3. Workshop in Daugavpils is not relevant yet.

Three-month delay in actual starting date of the action was due to late recruitment of the project manager. Although it caused also one-month delay in setting up website and two-month delay in commencing study tour, it has not been affecting project results substantially and all project goals and targets are still planned to be achieved in time.

3.1.4.2. Action E2 – Elaboration of project information boards and information materials - started

Foreseen start date: 01/07/2018 Actual start date: 01/09/2018 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020 Anticipated end date: 30/06/2020

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Information boards placed	31/05/2019	Collection of the information for the boards has
in all project sites		started. Discussions with stakeholders about
		locations and types of the boards are going on.
		Production of the boards is planned to be
		performed during last quarter of 2018 and first
		quarter of 2019, placement of the boards after
		wintering period of bats, during May 2019.

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Projects information	01/03/2020	Preliminary leaflets about project actions were
leaflet		prepared and distributed to participants of the
		EUROBATS Advisory Committee meeting in
		Tallinn (Annex 6). Final leaflet will be done
		during 2019.

3.1.4.3. Action E3 – Public events and exhibitions - started

Foreseen start date: 01/10/2018 Actual start date: 31/10/2017 Foreseen end date: 31/12/2020 Anticipated end date: 31/12/2020

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Conception and schema	30/06/2019	Preparation of conception has started with very
for the exhibition		first brainstorming lead by the ELM. Very first
established		draft ideas are listed in document that is uploaded
		to web and currently under revision by project
		partners (Annex 9).
The exhibition Night	01/03/2020	Not relevant yet
Flyers Bats is ready to		
open		

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Night Flyers exhibition	01/03/2020	Preliminary collection of ideas has started, look
educational materials		Annex 9.

As a preparatory action for an exhibition, ELM has purchased weatherproof high quality bat video-camera system and the system has been tested. Several video clips of bats in caves have already been recorded when preliminary testing of grilles was carried out at the Ülgase site during October-November 2017 (Annex 8). Camera system past testing and calibration during winter period of 2017/2018, was accepted and purchased in May 2018. ELM is also planning to purchase a high quality photo-camera for taking high quality bat photos for an exhibition. Also, they have contacted several Estonian nature photographers to raise their awareness of the project and to encourage them to take photos of bats. ELM has purchased 3 computers for projecting digital data (sound and visuals) and interactive programmes at the exhibition. These computers are being tested right now.

In cooperation with Estonian Theriological Society the Pond Bat and other bat species are proposed to be the Mammals of the Year 2020.

18/08/2018 there was a celebration of Estonian Nature Day as an official event within the celebrations of Estonian 100-year anniversary. In the evening of that day four public Bat-Nights were successfully arranged by the project in four Estonian cities: Tallinn, Tartu, Haapsalu and Narva. In all of these towns group of 10 to 25 interested persons were gathered and during about two hours they had guided tour led by bat experts with bat detector in habitats that were more suitable for bats (parks, fortresses, coastal areas of river, lake or sea). Most successful tour was in Haapsalu, bringing together 25 persons and detecting more than 30 bats from 6 different species (4 species were also spotted in flight).

3.1.4.4. Action E4 – Field training for tourist guides for bat-friendly tours – not started vet

Foreseen start date: 01/01/2020 Actual start date: not relevant yet Foreseen end date: 30/06/2020 Anticipated end date: 30/06/2020

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Training for the tourist guides carried out	31/05/2020	Not relevant yet

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Training programme for	31/03/2020	Not relevant yet
the tourist guides		

Action is expected to be in time. Perhaps the preparation will start earlier and the training programme will be prepared earlier to be ready with first training session by the end of the wintering season of bats in March 2020 already, so that trainees will also see actual situation in wintering sites. Preliminary plan is, if possible, to arrange training in two sessions. First in wintering sites on identification of bats there and about bats wintering habits as well as about most un-disturbing ways of human behaviour in caves during the wintering period. Second training session during April-May or early June about usage of bat-detectors during summer time and perhaps about maternity roosts of bats etc.

3.1.5. Action F – Project management

3.1.5.1. Action F1 – Project management – in progress

Foreseen start date: 01/07/2017 Actual start date: 24/09/2017 Foreseen end date: 30/09/2021 Anticipated end date: 30/09/2021

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)				
Project manager hired	01/08/2017	Project manager was contracted on 24/09/2017.				
		Until the end of 2017 he worked on partial time				
		and since 01/01/2018 on full time.				
Project team completed,	30/09/2017	Agreements with the project team members were				
all relevant experts agreed		obtained during October-November 2017 and first				
		meeting of full team (25 persons) was arranged on				
		21/12/2017 (Annex 10). Team was divided into				
		four WG-s and further communication was done				
		in WG-s (ref. to Ch. 2 above).				
Steering group formed	31/10/2017	SG was formed during November-December 2017				
		and first SG meeting (Annex 12) was arranged on				
		29/01/2018. There are 24 persons from 16				
		institutions in SG and it is planned to have at least				
		one meeting per year (ref. to Ch. 2 above).				

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Updated Performance	31/10/2018	Performance Indicators were entered into KPI
Indicator table (progress		web-based database in January-February 2018. As
stage)		we understood there is no need to do intermedium
		update during the project and the next update of
		the indicator values will be done at the end of the
		project.
Progress report	31/10/2018	Compiled and delivered in time on 31/10/2018
Updated Performance	30/04/2020	As we understood there is no need to do
Indicator table (mid-term		intermedium update during the project and the
stage)		next update of the indicator values will be done at
		the end of the project.
Midterm report	30/04/2020	Not relevant yet
Project reports delivered	30/06/2021	Not relevant yet
and approved by the		
contracting authority		
Updated Performance	30/06/2021	Not relevant yet
Indicator table		
Final report	30/09/2021	Not relevant yet

ELF has hired executive committee that includes six employees with full or part-time workload (ref. to Ch. 2 above): project manager, project assistant, project financial manager, PR

coordinator, communication assistant, project leading expert. Beside of that three more bat experts (Matti Masing, Oliver Kalda, Rauno Kalda) are contracted with separate contracts when needed (currently for actions A3 – evaluation of initial state of target species and E3 – conduct Bat-Nights). In order to ease the process for contracting experts other than leading expert who is a staff member, we do propose to treat these three experts next time as external assistance experts and not to use personnel costs for them, but external assistance costs instead. Main reason for that is quite a small daily rate (130 EUR) - for Bat Nights arrangement it means that experts will after all taxes are paid get only ca 90 EUR and contracting for that will be quite time consuming. Slight shift of funds between budget lines (2340 EUR from personnel to external assistance) may be needed for that.

ELF has had a long consideration process on what kind of 4x4 fieldwork car is needed for the project and also considered possibility to repair an existing old car, but at the end had a decision still to purchase newer car and has launched a purchase process for such a car just before a deadline of current report, purchase contract is just signed by parties on 24/10/2018 and car should be ready for ELF project fieldwork before the end of 2018, so in time for next fieldwork period. As the price of the car was less than expected in application, ELF did also purchase a laptop computer for a leading expert for a bat sound and video analysis needed for actions A3, D1, D2, E3 and E4. That laptop was already initially planned in application, but was put into a wrong section – F1 (Form C1f, page 85) together with laptop needed for project manager and mentioned as an office equipment. But if the laptop for project manager is indeed a matter to be covered by ELF overhead and treat as an office equipment, then laptop for leading expert's fieldwork is very targeted to project actions – A2 (for on-site download of visitor counters data), A3 (for analysis of sounds, photos and videos of bats), D1, D2, E3 (for Bat-Nights presentations with bat detector) and E4 (for field training with bat detectors).

ELM has hired a part-time project coordinator and a legal expert for legal advice for procurements and drawing up project documentation. Both positions are foreseen in the approved proposal.

3.1.5.2. Action F2 – After-LIFE plan and steering committee meetings – in progress

Foreseen start date: 01/09/2017 Actual start date: 29/01/2018 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2021 Anticipated end date: 30/06/2021

Name of the Milestone	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
Steering group meetings	30/06/2021	First meeting was arranged on 29/01/2018 (Annex
annually carried out		11). Next is planned either in December 2018 or
		in January 2019. All together at least four SG
		meetings are planned.

Name of the Deliverable	Deadline	Actions (Status 30/09/2018)
After-LIFE plan	30/06/2021	Very first draft of After-LIFE plan is compiled by
established		project manager and it is planned to be discussed
		at the second meeting of SG.

ELF has arranged a separate meeting with Environmental Board on the topic of updating process of protection rules of protected areas that include project sites as well as updating process of protection plans of bats and a role of ELF in that process. Such a meeting was held in 11/04/2018 and its memo is attached as Annex 3.

3.2. Envisaged progress until next report

Actions / sub- actions		2017			2018			2019			2020			2021				Envisaged progress until the midterm report by 30/04/2020				
		1T	2T	3Т	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3Т	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1
				О		1/0	7/20)17		3	0/04	4/20	20	ור	3	0/06	5/20:	2.1	o			Carry on according to the
Overall project	Proposed					1/0	,,2		X		0, 0	., 2			X	1			X			project agreement
schedule	Actual							X	K=P	rog	gres	ss r	epo	rts)		
A1	Proposed																					Finalise design documents
	Actual																					and construction drawings and get them approved with building permits
A2	Proposed																					Finalise visitor counting and
	Actual			•											┸							compile a report
A3	Proposed														╀							Perform second winter
C1	Actual			-						_					1		-					Counts and prepare report Order safeguarding work
CI	Proposed Actual												-		1			-				(fences, grilles, ESS) according to the approved planning documents
C2	Proposed														t							Place the culvert to the
	Actual																					tunnel in Piusa against collapsing of the roof
C3	Proposed											•			-							Needed cleaning and filling
	Actual																					of the tunnels at the Vääna (Humala) project site should be done and at least three
D1	Proposed											- 1			þ							voluntary camps organised Terms of reference for
	Actual														ŧ							monitoring should be there and first monitoring done
D2	Proposed														b							Meetings with local
	Actual														F							stakeholders held and background studies collected
E1	Proposed														þ							EUROBATS annual
	Actual														ĺ							meetings attended, website updated, two workshops held with Latvian colleagues
E2	Proposed																					Information boards placed in
	Actual														F							all project sites, project leaflet produced
E3	Proposed														ŧ		•					8 bat-nights arranged, bat-
	Actual														t							camera set up at least in one of the project sites, Night Flyers exhibition prepared
E4	Proposed														•	Ī						Training for the tourist
	Actual														F							guides carried out
F1	Proposed														þ		•					Project well and smoothly
	Actual														Ī							managed, all needed purchases done and all meetings arranged
F2	Proposed				•										F							At least one SC meeting
	Actual																					arranged and draft After- LIFE plan discussed and approved

Before next reporting deadline ELF is planning to finalise documentation and order conservation activities in all project sites. Most of these activities (culvert in Piusa, staircase in Ülgase, filling the shaft in Vääna (Humala) as well as most needed electricity connections, fencing and grilling as well as setting up ESS in all sites) we plan also to finish before next reporting. Go on with visitor counting, finish its first report. Finalise winter counting and start with monitoring conservation effect. Arrange at least three voluntary camps. Participate in EUROBATS meetings and arrange cooperation meetings in Latvia. Place information boards and produce project leaflet. Set up bat-camera and arrange Bat-Nights. Prepare material for training of guides. Organise at least one SC meeting per year.

ELM is planning to finish the preparations for the exhibition: complete the visual identity and conception, create interactive programmes and educational material etc. The personnel will be hired. Museum is planning to open the exhibition in the beginning of the year 2020.

3.3. Impact

Preparatory actions, especially A3 - Evaluation of initial state of target species in the project sites has already resulted in much better knowledge on the numbers and locations of hibernating bats in all four project sites. Also the visitor loads in all project sites are known much better now due to counting them within action A2. First voluntary camp (action C3) in Vääna-Posti project site — closing illegally made cavity between two underground tunnels did stabilise temperature and moist conditions in both tunnels and made them better again for hibernation for Pond Bats. Many public presentations (articles and interviews) about project and bats in Estonia (action E1) by project leading expert and project manager has given a lot of feedback and new data on bat hibernation sites and summer distribution in Estonia. First Bat-Nights were very popular and gave good ground for rising awareness on target species — Pond Bat in Estonia. Articles published on bats in local newspapers have initiated discussions and inspired local communities. Two of them — Saue and Jõelähtme Municipality have started to focus more on bat protection issues, Saue Municipality has even discussed to rise an issue that Pond Bat could be an animal for the coat of arms of the municipality. Local landowners contacted at every project site have been also showing interest on bat issues and are mainly positively minded.

As conservation actions of the project are still in a preparatory phase there are not yet good evidence on the replication of the actions, but share of experiences during the study tour to the Netherlands was already mutually useful for example on a basis of exchanging views on monitoring methods used in both countries. Also our Latvian colleagues were already very interested of the results what we reach in our project and consider to take our experiences over if they will be successful for target species.

Although the project is still in a preparatory phase there is already a progress achieved towards the KPI targets. We cannot report yet any results of the actions on the project area or target species condition as the conservation actions are just about to be started. But we do have already first results on the awareness rising indicator 11.1 on the visitation of the project website. We did foresee that by the end of the project our project website has been visited by 15000 individuals, 7500 unique visits and average visit duration is 1 minute. These numbers by the date of current report are as follows: 2472 individuals; 1939 unique visits and average duration of the visit is 1,2 minute. Values for the indicator 10.2. Involvement of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders in project activities are also well in a mid-way or even over it towards the targets: number of individuals is currently reaching already 15 while target by the end of the project is 25 and number of NGOs involved is already reached the

target, it is 4 and more are foreseen to be involved. We can also give some values about the current status of the indicator 11.2. Other tools for reaching/raising awareness of the general public. Displayed information was foreseen to reach 4 posters or information boards by the end of the project. Currently we have produced one roll-up about the project and four information boards are in process. In print media we have had already 19 articles and target for the end of the project is 70. In TV/radio we do have already 10 broadcasts done, but target is to have 145. We also had preliminarily an indicator on waste removal from the project sites and it was foreseen that at least 10 m³ of waste will be removed by the end of the project. This target has been met already during first preliminary voluntary camp in Vääna-Posti site. It is expected to be exceeded, as there is still a lot of former military and other waste in Vääna-Posti site.

First meeting with Environmental Board on updating protection rules of protected areas did show quite good cooperation and input to these plans by ELF is needed during the project. We agreed that ELF is preparing proposals for updating protection rules of protected areas where it is relevant for better bat protection, especially Vääna (Humala) and Piusa sites (Annex 3).

3.4. Outside LIFE

Valuable contacts on compilation of European Atlas of Mammals were set during EUROBATS advisory committee meeting in Tallinn. During study tour to the Netherlands also other activities on bat research and survey than safeguarding of hibernacula were studied, especially monitoring of bat boxes, studying a house where large maternity roost of Pond Bat exists and monitoring Pond Bat habitat suitability by ultrasound detectors. During the study visit we also did bat detector survey on the sea and detected some species of bats flying over the sea between Denmark and Germany. These activities are not directly foreseen to be done during the project, but are valuable experience for Estonian bat experts.

4. Financial part

4.1. Costs incurred

Budget breakdown categories	Budgeted costs in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 30/09/2018 in €	% of Budget
1. Personnel	358 350,00	78 067,44	21,79
2. Travel and subsistence	32 700,00	9 207,92	28,16
3. External assistance	343 420,00	1 122,00	0,33
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	34 550,00	0,00	0,00
Equipment	74 000,00	7 566,00	10,22
Prototype	0,00	0,00	0,00
5. Land purchase / long-term lease	0,00	0,00	0,00
6. Consumables	9 100,00	3 734,06	41,03
7. Other Costs	56 775,00	3 243,20	5,71
8. Overheads	63 500,00	6 307,00	9,93
TOTAL	972 395,00	109 247,62	11,24

All conservation actions are still ahead, therefore infrastructure and external assistance costs are not yet spent or are spent with very little amount. Laptop computer for project leading expert for bat video and sound analysis that was missing in initial budget in application (although it was present in the descriptive part of the application under action F1, project management, together with a laptop needed for project manager) was put under consumables, therefore and also due to preparatory phase for fieldworks, that budget line is spent with highest amount. Laptop for project manager was put under overheads.

Action type	Budgeted	Estimated % of
	person- days	person-days spent
Action A: Preparatory actions	300	53,42
Action B: Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation		
payment for payment rights	-	•
Action C: Concrete conservation actions	70	3,30
Action D: Monitoring of the impact of the project action	160	13,46
Action E: Public awareness/Communication and	627	10,08
dissemination of results	027	10,00
Action F: Project management (and progress)	1825	25,13
TOTAL	2982	23,67

INDEX of deliverables

Project website (E1) – Annex 7

Website was established with delay. It is available in three languages: Estonian, English and Russian. Addresses are as follows: http://elfond.ee/nahkhiired; http://elfond.ee/bats and http://elfond.ee/letuchie-myshi. Pages structure is as follows:

- **Home:** opening page with direct shortcut to sections Who are bats? Gallery and News
- **Life project:** introduction to the project. Subsections: Objectives; Project sites; Team
- **Activities:** description of actions within the project
- **About bats:** introduction to the bat species living in Estonia
- **Photos and videos:** gallery of bat photos and videos as well as photos of activities in project
- News: different news about bats in Estonian media
- Contacts: main contact persons of the project

$\begin{array}{l} Technical\ design\ documentation\ (A1)\ /\ Construction\ drawings\ and\ building\ permits\ (A1) \\ -\ Annex\ 1 \end{array}$

Instead of the documents named as technical design documents and construction drawings and building permits we have adjusted these deliverables to be called planning documents. Explanation of that adjustment in details is given in Annex 1 and documents themselves are

listed as Annexes 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D in Estonian language. Four planning documents, one for each project site were prepared by project team and will be discussed and then requested approval by stakeholders. Currently these documents are as drafts. These documents will be for construction firms that will be tendered for conservation actions as a basis for finalisation construction drawings. But as approval will be requested already to these planning documents, there is no further approval needed for construction drawings.

Title of every document is similar: Conservation actions planned within the EstBatLIFE project in the NN project site.

Contents are as follows:

- Introduction
- Description of the site
- Nature conservation relevant extracts from the site-based nature conservation legislation, like rules of protected areas and management plans
- Cultural heritage protection relevant extracts from the site-based cultural heritage legislation, like conditions for building monuments etc
- Land ownership list and contacts of landowners
- Planned conservation actions details of the planned actions, type, design, location, dimensions:
 - Fencing and grilling (all sites) description of locations, dimensions and EUROBATS requirements
 - o Electricity connections (all sites) locations, length of wire
 - o Electronic surveillance system (all sites) locations, length of wire
 - o Filling the shaft (Vääna (Humala) site) description of location and alternatives
 - O Stairway (+ wooden path if possible) (Ülgase site) location and dimensions
 - Setting culvert against collapsing ceiling (Piusa site) location, dimensions, type, possible way to bring it into the undeground system
 - Cleaning the area with voluntary camps (Vääna (Humala), Vääna-Posti and Ülgase sites) – locations and description of work
 - o Information boards and signs (all sites) possible locations
 - Bat camera (all sites) possible locations for setting up best places for mobile camera system

Documents have descriptions of all conservation actions in every project site with illustrations and maps. Documents will be basis for further discussions with stakeholders and matter for corrections according to the suggestions and requirements rising from these discussions.

ANNEXES

- **Annex 1.** Explanatory overview about corrections made and delays appeared within production of deliverables within action A1 Technical designs and building permits of project sites.
- **Annex 2.** Memo of the first voluntary camps at the Vääna-Posti site (in Estonian).
- **Annex 3.** Memo of the first meeting with Environmental Board in 11/04/2018 on a matter of ELF role in updating management plans of protected areas that contain project sites as well as species conservation plan of bats (*in Estonian*).
- **Annex 4.** Memo of the Study tour to the Netherlands in 20-30/08/2018 (in Estonian).
- **Annex 5.** Memo of the excursion to Lahemaa National Park and Ülgase project site for all EUROBATS advisory committee meeting participants in 13/05/2018 (*in Estonian*).
- **Annex 6.** Preliminary project leaflet and roll-up presented at the EUROBATS meeting.
- Annex 7. Project website, http://elfond.ee/nahkhiired.
- **Annex 8.** First videos and photos taken with purchased weatherproof bat-camera, including of the testing of temporary grilles in Ülgase project site.
- **Annex 9.** Material of first brainstorming on interactive exhibition production (*in Estonian*).
- **Annex 10.** Memo and presentations of the first full team meeting of the project (in Estonian).
- **Annex 11.** List of members of full project team and division to smaller working groups.
- **Annex 12.** Memo and presentations of the first meeting of the SC (in Estonian).
- Annex 13. List of members of the SC.
- **Annex 14.** Partnership agreement signed between project partners (in Estonian).
- **Annex 15.** Memo of the first monitoring meeting held in 18-19/04/2018 (in Estonian).
- Annex 16. Overview table on media coverage during the period 01/07/2017 to 30/09/2018.
- **Annex 17.** ELF internal guidelines for selecting sub-contractors.