The issue of bat mortality related to onshore wind farms in Europe

a NGO / conservation scientist's perspective





Society

Herman Limpens – Bat Research and Conservation Team - Dutch Mammal Society – 24/08/2023











species!





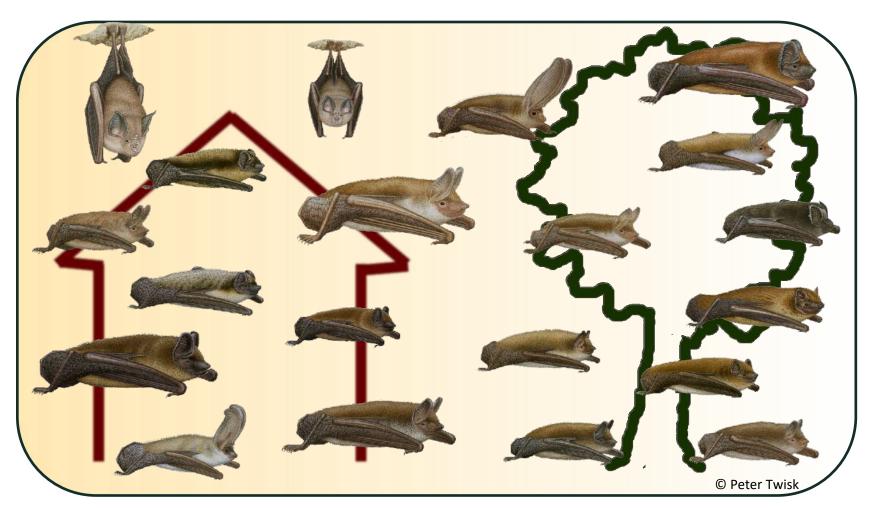




bat ≠ bat



Many different species!



Buildings

Trees





bat ≠ bat

Many different species!

Herman Limpens - Dutch Mammal Society













© Ditmar Nill

Nyctalus noctula





are highly social mammals with a complex behaviour, using a complex network of differentiated functional habitats for their maternity, mating and hibernation roosts, their daily foraging and seasonal migration routes, and their foraging habitats,



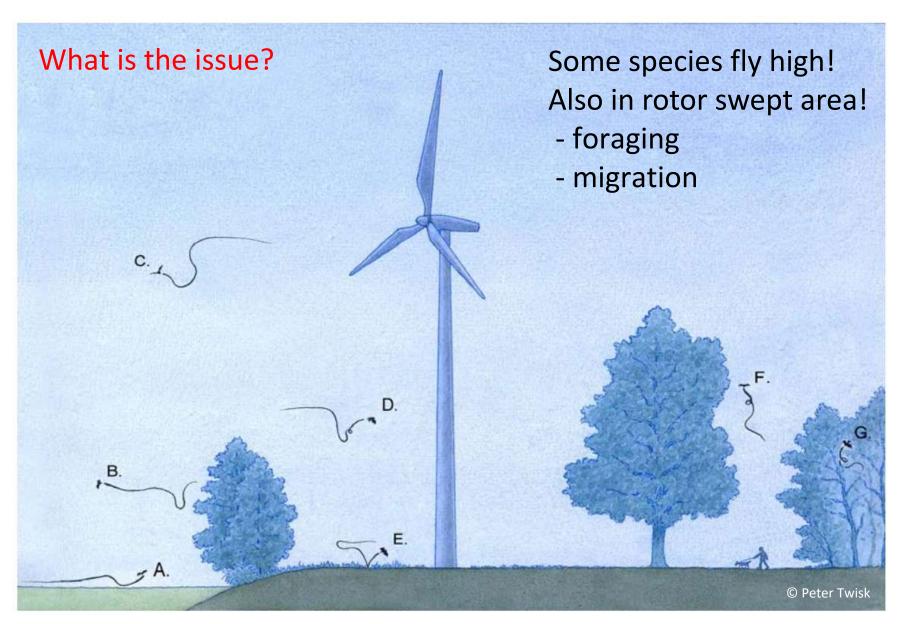
Where behaviour and strategies are very much differentiated between species ...

to fuel their energy costly life.



Wind turbines and renewable energy are a good thing!!

So what is the issue with bats & wind turbines?



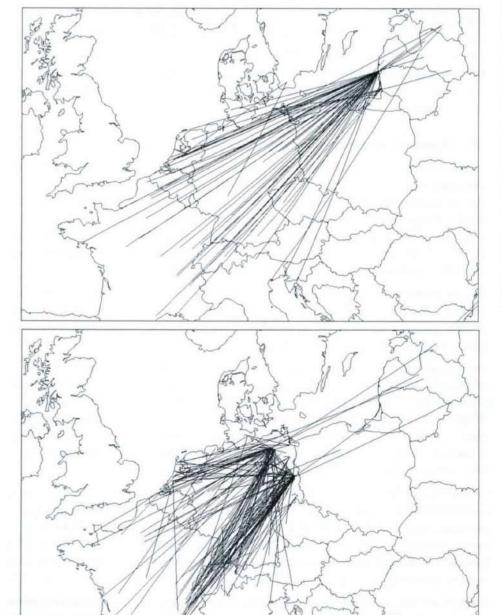


Fig. 25. Long-distance movements of Nathusius' bats banded in eastern Europe (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia; top) and in central Europe (Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Czech Republic; bottom).

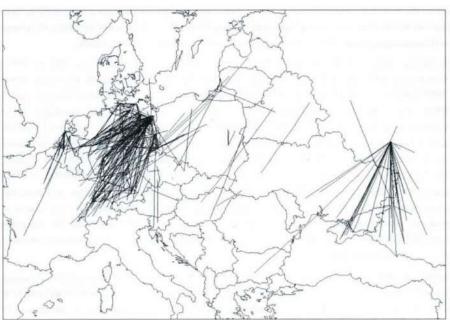
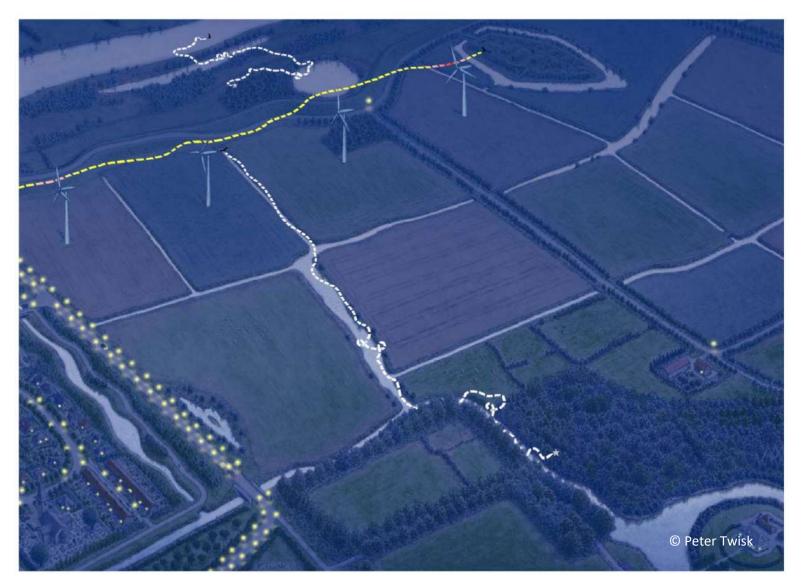


Fig. 23. Documented long-distance movements of Nyctalus noctula in Europe (n=667).



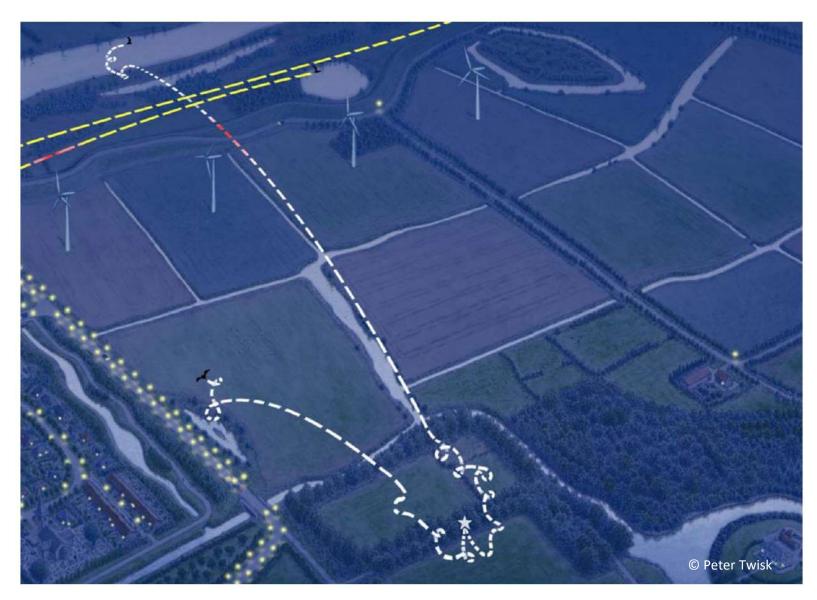
Fig. 22. Documented long-distance movements of Nyctalus leisleri in Europe (n=36).

Bat species migrate



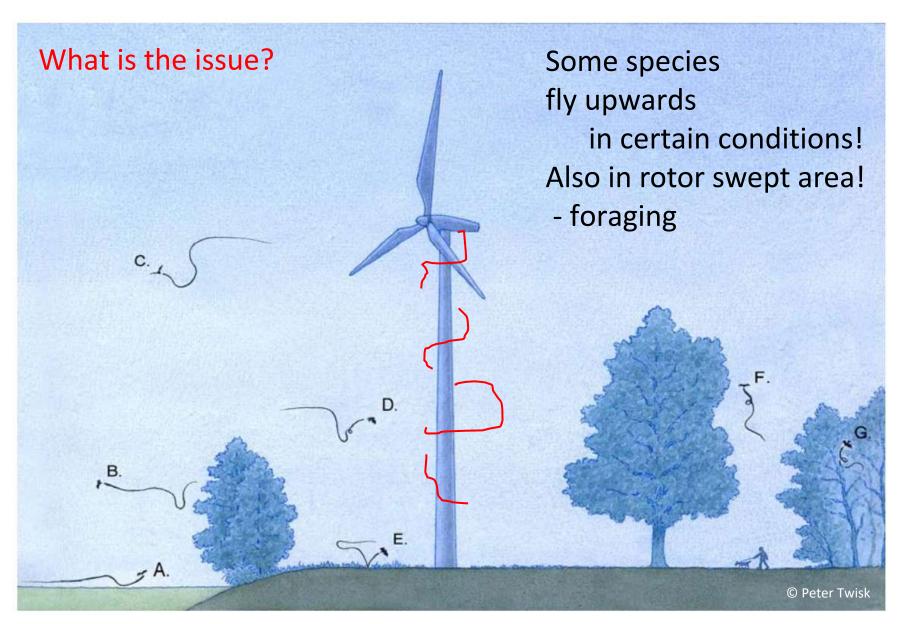


Pipistrellus nathusii





Nyctalus noctula







Pipistrellus pipistrellus





Eptesicus serotinus



What is the issue?

Bats get killed by wind turbines!





© Frinat © BuWa



What is the issue?

Fatality Risk correlated with ...

activity at higher altitudes

- (transit) flight at higher altitudes
- foraging at higher altitudes
- flying up to forage near turbine

high density of bats (foraging and/or transit)

- high numbers of bats
- high activity levels



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· higher energy demands



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high density of bats (foraging and/or transit)

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- high activity levels

specific species migration

higher energy demands

- migration period
- maternity period
- swarming period

higher energy demands



What is the issue?

Where are ??

Migration routes

+ roosts + foraging areas

Maternity/summer roosts

- + daily routes
- + foraging areas

Swarming & hibernation sites

+ roosts + foraging areas

higher energy demands

- migration period
- maternity period
- swarming period

higher energy demands



What is the issue?

Bats get killed by wind turbines!





© Frinat © BuWa





What is the issue?

Bats get killed by wind turbines

We don't exactly know how many

- accidental findings
- high rate of disappearance
- yes/no fatality search
- where do they fall?
- what portion is found?





What is the issue?

Bats get killed by wind turbines

We don't exactly know how many

- accidental findings
- are data shared/reported?
- disappearance / fall, portion?
- (methodical) fatality search →
 not in every wind farm
 not all data shared



- incomplete overview fatalities!

Fledermausverluste an Windenergieanlagen / bat fatalities at windturbines in Europe

Dokumentation aus der zentralen Datenbank der Staatlichen Vogelschutzwarte im Landesamt für Umwelt Brandenburg

A = Österreich, BE = Belgien, CH = Schweiz, CR = Kroatien, CZ = Tschechien, D = Deutschland, DK = Dänemark, ES = Spanien, EST = Estland, FI = Finnland, FR = Frankreich, GR = Griechenland, IT =

Zweifarbfledermaus

Großes Mausohr

Kleines Mausohr

Teichfledermaus

Wasserfledermaus

Bechsteinfledermaus

Fransenfledermaus

Wimperfledermaus

Zwergfledermaus

Rauhautfledermaus

Mückenfledermaus

Weißrandfledermaus

Pipistrellus spec.

Alpenfledermaus

Mopsfledermaus

Graues Langohr

Braunes Langohr

Bulldoggfledermaus

Langflügelfledermaus

Große Hufeisennase

Mehely-Hufeisennase

Hufeisennase unbest.

Fledermaus spec

Große Bartfledermaus

Kleine Bartfledermaus

Vespertilio murinus

Mvotis mvotis

M. dasycneme

M. daubentonii

M. emarginatus

M. mystacinus

Pipistrellus pipistrellus

P. pipistrellus / pygmaeus

Barbastella barbastellus

Plecotus austriacus

Myotis spec.

P. nathusii

P. kuhlii

P. pygmaeus

Pipistrellus spec.

Hypsugo savii

Plecotus spec.

Tadarida teniotis

Rhinolophus spec.

Chiroptera spec.

Miniopterus schreibersi

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum

P. auritus

R. mehelyi

gesamt:

M. bechsteini

M. nattereri

M. brandtii

M. blythii

https://lfu.brandenburg.de/lfu/de/aufgaben/natur/artenschutz/vogelschutzwarte/arbeitsschwerpunkt-entwicklung-und-umsetzung-von-schutzstrategien/auswirkungen-von-windenergieanlagen-auf-voegel-undfledermaeuse/ Art BE CH CR CZ D DK ES EST FI FR GR IT LV NL PT PL RO s UK ges. Nyctalus noctula Großer Abendsegler N. lasiopterus Riesenabendsegler N. leislerii Kleiner Abendsegler Nyctalus spec. Eptesicus serotinus Breitflügelfledermaus E. isabellinus Isabellfledermaus E. serotinus / isabellinus E. nilssonii Nordfledermaus

 Stand: 09. August 2023, Tobias Dürr - E-Mail: tobias.duerr[at]lfu.brandenburg.de

Fledermausverluste an Windenergieanlagen / bat fatalities at windturbines in Europe

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gesamt:

A = Österreich, BE = Belgien, CH = Schweiz, CR = Kroatien, CZ = Tschechien, D = Deutschland, DK = Dänemark, ES = Spanien, EST = Estland, FI = Frinjand, FR = Frankreich, GR = Griechenland, IT =

17 40 29



Tabel 3.7 Gevonden soorten vleermuizen in de slachtofferonderzoeken bij windparken (zie Tabel 3.5), inclusief de gevonden slachtoffers in Windpark Delfzijl Zuid en Windpark Echteld (waar wel slachtoffers zijn gevonden, maar niet specifiek is gezocht naar vleermuizen).

Soorten	Aantal gevonden slachtoffers	Bijdrage provincies
ruige dwergvleermuis	52	Flevoland (71%), Noord-Brabant (13,5%) Groningen (13,5%), Noord-Holland (2%)
gewone dwergvleermuis	16	Noord-Brabant (88%), Noord-Holland (6%) Flevoland (6%)
dwergvleermuis spec.	4	Flevoland (100%
laatvlieger	1	Gelderland (100%
rosse vleermuis	1	Flevoland (100%
tweekleurige vleermuis	1	Flevoland (100%



Jeninga/Bureau Waardenburg, 2020

Graag citeren als: Jeninga, S.K., 2020. Monitoring van vogel- en vleermuisslachtoffers bij windparken en hoogspanningsverbindingen in Nederland. Begeleidende rapportage bij interactieve database. Rapport 20-101. Bureau Waardenburg, Culemborg.



What is the issue?

Bats get killed by wind turbines

We don't exactly know how many



- methodical fatality search
- fatalities + acoustic activity



- estimates!!
- confidence intervals!!



What is the issue?

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- methodical fatalities search
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Population effects ??



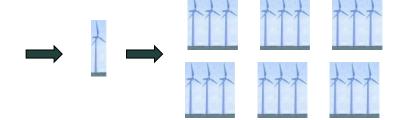
(added) mortality !? population sizes ??



- estimates!?
- confidence intervals !?



What is the issue?



Bats get killed by wind turbines

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- methodical fatalities search
- fatalities + acoustic activity

Population effects ?????



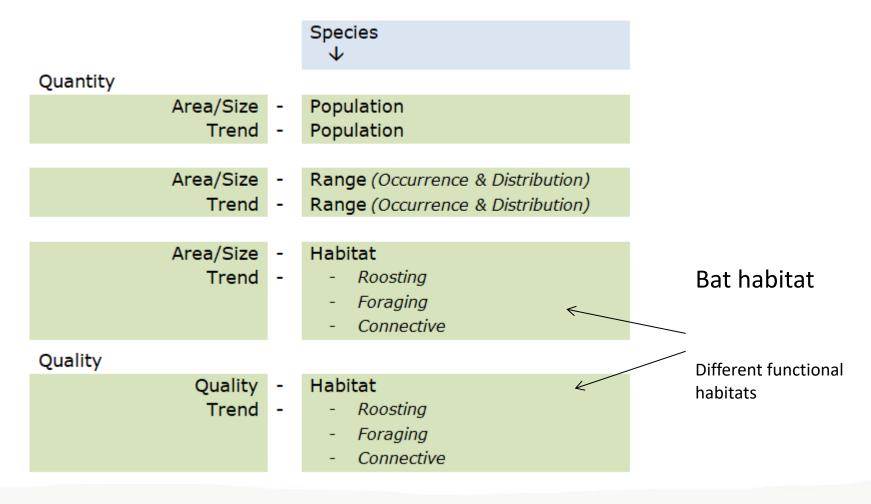
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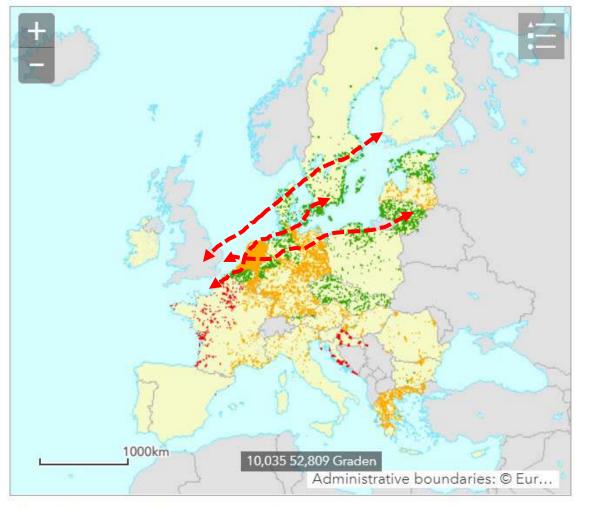


- estimates !?
- confidence intervals !?
- (inter)national cumulation ??



Conservation Status Indicators ≈ viability Indicators





- **Good**: the species is viable and maintaining itself on a long-term basis, its natural range is not reduced, and it has a sufficient large habitat.
- Poor: the species is not as critical as being unfavourable-bad, but still requires significant conservation and restoration measure to make it viable in the long-term, or to enlarged its current range, or to improve the quality and availability of its habitat.
- Bad: the species is either not maintaining itself on a long-term basis and is not viable, or its natural range as been or is being drastically reduced, or its habitat is largely insufficient; the species requires major conservation and restoration measures.
- Unknown: the information available for the species is scarce and does not allow a proper assessment of its conservation status.



Conservation Status Pipistrellus nathusii

- CS mostly poor
- data availability poor

+

- migration → cumulation !!



- risk for species
- legal/planning risk for development



What is the issue?

Bats get killed by wind t

We don't exactly know h

Population effects ?????

added mortality !? population sizes ??

National ... on European scale ...

- data fatalities?
- data population dynamics?
- data CS or viability?
- completeness, accessibility/sharing data?
- lacking combined data analysis

Vals !!

- (inter)national cumulation ??

Bats & wind turbines – working together



Energy transition → long and complex planning

→ acceleration planning process & deployment needed

Bat Species (BioDiv) → Conservation Status needs to be improved



Energy transition

→ long and complex planning

→ acceleration planning & deployment

Bat Species (BioDiv)

→ Conservation Status needs to be improved



Stakeholders working together

Authorities →

Industry →

Conservation organisations →

Nature Inclusive Energy Transition

- Speed up process
- Improve Conservation Status



Energy transition → acceleration

Bat Species (BioDiv) → improvement

Stakeholders working together → **Nature Inclusive** Energy Transition

- → Accelerate process development renewable Energy / Wind
- → Make planning process simpler and standardised
- → Planning process with accurate handling of species
 - in compliance to demands Nature Conservation Law (EHD)
- → Wind farm operation with adequate mitigation / curtailment



→ Additional appropriate species conservation measures contributing to the maintenance or restoration of the populations of the species



Energy transition → acceleration

Bat Species (BioDiv) → improvement

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+ = additional

Applicable Legal

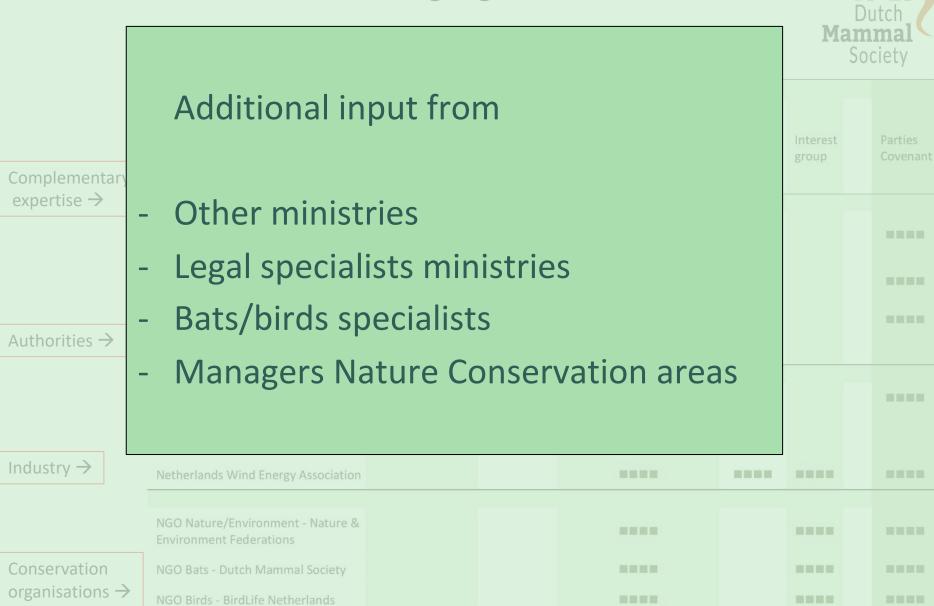
→ Additional appropriate species conservation measures contributing to the maintenance or restoration of the populations of the species



Stakeholders Nature Inclusive Energy Transition Wind and Grid on land	Responsible for Nature inclusive Energy Transition	Competent Authority	Specialized Technical and Organizational Knowledge	Business Interest	Interest group	Parties Covenant
Ministry of Economic Affairs & Climate	••••					
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	••••					****
Provinces	****	****				
Provinces - work associations	****		****			
Operators Grid - TenneT				****		
Developers/operators/energy industry				****		
Netherlands Wind Energy Association			****			
NGO Nature/Environment - Nature & Environment Federations			****			
NGO Bats - Dutch Mammal Society			****			
NGO Birds - BirdLife Netherlands			****			



Complementary expertise →	Stakeholders Nature Inclusive Energy Transition Wind and Grid on land	Responsible for Nature inclusive Energy Transition	Competent Authority	Specialized Technical and Organizational Knowledge	Business Interest	Interest	Parties Covenant
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Authorities →	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	****					****
	Provinces	****	****				
	Provinces - work associations			****			
	Operators Grid - TenneT			****			****
Industry →	Developers/operators/energy industry						
	Netherlands Wind Energy Association			****	-		
Conservation	NGO Nature/Environment - Nature & Environment Federations			••••		****	****
organisations >	NGO Bats - Dutch Mammal Society			****			****
	NGO Birds - BirdLife Netherlands			****			



Bats &

Shared challenges

Dutch Mammal Society

Complementary expertise →

- Legal structure 'agreement/covenant'
- Data & knowledge gaps species
- Organisation of data sharing
- Organisation of meta analysis of shared data
- Species are just one of the factors that slow down the process → less development

Authorities →

- Budgets extra conservation measures
- Getting extra measures incorporated in existing landscape/nature management processes

Conservation organisations

Industry →

- Capacity for fieldwork and research

Herman Lin

Bats &

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Bats &

Shared challenges



-	Data	&	knowledge	gaps	species
---	------	---	-----------	------	---------

expertise →

Complementary

Authorities →

Industry →

Conservation organisations -

Research & development program

- Protocol preconstruction assessment Update post construction monitoring protocol
- (fatalities/acoustic activity)
- Spatial risk analysis model
- Improvement prediction model fatalities, optimisation curtailment
 - Modelling population effects
- Spatiotemporal modelling bat migration

stakeholders agree on application of curtailment and monitoring

hes – working together



Complementary	Stakeholders Nature Inclusive Energy Transition Wind and Grid on land	Responsible for Nature inclusive Energy Transition	Competent Authority	Specialized Technical and Organizational Knowledge	Business Interest	Interest group	Parties Covenant				
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	ers agree on n of curtailment coring	-	HIGH-RISK-PERIOD	LOW-RISK-PERIOD	Dutcl Mamma Societ		mal
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expertise ·			Monitoring standard	Monitoring standard			
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Industry →	LOW-RISK-LOCATION		Curtailment <u>not</u> standard	Curtailment <u>not</u> standard			
Conservati organisatic			Monitoring standard	Monitoring standard			

	ers agree on n of curtailment toring	HIGH-RISK-PERIOD	LOW-RISK-PERIOD	Ma	am	itch mal ciety
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expertise ·						
Authorities		Monitoring standard	Monitoring standard			
Industry \rightarrow	LOW-RISK-LOCATION	Curtailment <u>not</u> standard	Curtailment <u>not</u> standard			
Conservati organisatic		Monitoring standard	Monitoring standard			
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expertise					
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Industry Dow-RISK-LOCATION	Curtailment <u>not</u> standard	Curtailment <u>not</u> standard			
Conservati organisatio Herm	Monitoring standard	Monitoring standard			





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Compleme	HIGH-RISK-LOCATION	Curtailment standard	(Curtailment <u>not</u> standard	erest		Parties Covenant
expertise							
Authorities		Monitoring standard		Monitoring standard			
Industry 🧳	LOW-RISK-LOCATION	Curtailment <u>not</u> standard		Curtailment <u>not</u> standard			
Conservati organisatio Herm		Monitoring standard		Monitoring standard			





1	ers agree on];	HIGH-RISK-PERIOD		LOW-RISK-PERIOD			utch
application	n of curtailment toring		Autumn Migration (15 July - 15 October)		Outside Autumn Migration (15 March – 15 July)	M	am	mal ciety
Compleme	HIGH-RISK-LOCATION Turbines - on or close to larger water bodies		Curtailment standard Criteria: • no heavy precipitation		Curtailment <u>not</u> standard	erest		Parties Covenant
expertise	(<150 m) - and/or close to for st (<150/200 m)		 +t≥10 °C + wind speed at nacelle height: inland ≤ 5 m/s or coastland ≤ 6 m/s + between sunset and sunrise 	,				
Authoritie			Monitoring Handard		Monitoring standard			
Industry -								
Industry =	- other locations		Curtailment <u>not</u> standard		Curtailment <u>not</u> standard			
Conservat organisatio			Monitoring standard		Monitoring standard			
Herm								







De Zoogdiervereniging - Dutch Mammal Society



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info@zoogdiervereniging.nl

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+ bat team DMS

Note: many thanks to all who helped with pictures & graphs and critical discussions

De Zoogdiervereniging - Dutch Mammal Society

Our mission

- Study and conservation of mammals
- Data and evidence / science based conservation
- Objective and constructive
- Platform & knowledge hub
- Communication
- Identification of conservation problems policy and research agenda
- Pilot projects regarding emerging conservation problems
- Development and innovation of mammal/bat methods
- Monitoring mammal species: Dutch Network Ecological Monitoring scientific methods + volunteers / citizen science
- Assessment of Favourable Conservation Status and Red Listing
- Education, training and courses: professional and volunteers bat workers

