



Conservarea acvilei țipătoare mici în România

LIFE08 NAT/RO/000501

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International Conference and an Working Group were organized in Romania for updating the European Action Plan for the Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila Pomarina*)

More than 50% of migratory birds of prey populations in the African-Eurasian region were in poor conservation status and many species were showing rapid or long-term decline.

Many raptors are internationally protected, including under UNEP/Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and covered by the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (MoU).

The Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila Pomarina*) has shown a major population decline in large parts of its range and is in unfavorable conservation status in Europe.

During the period **31 October–2 November 2013**, in the framework of the LIFE Project 08/NAT/RO/000501 „*Conservation of Aquila Pomarina in Romania*,” funded by the European Commission and co-funded by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, more than 50 ornithologists from 16 European countries, attended the International Conference and the Working Group for Updating the European Action Plan for the conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle.



The meeting was organized in Romania, in Bâlea Waterfall region, Făgăraș Mountains, by the Environmental Protection Agency Sibiu, in partnership with the Romanian Ornithological Society and the Association for Bird and Nature Protection Milvus Group.

The initiative was received with enthusiasm by the participants from Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, Georgia, Serbia and Romania.

The meeting coincided with the 5th Anniversary of the Raptors MoU, on the 1st November 2013.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change was represented by Dr. Nela MIAUTA, Romania's National Focal Point on the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia and the facilitator was Dr. Umberto GALLO - ORSI (Italy), with long experience in developing the International Action Plans for bird species.

The Conference facilitated the sharing of information among the experts from countries in the distribution range of the Lesser Spotted Eagle and networking between LIFE projects focusing on the conservation of this species.

Taking into account the objective to restoring Lesser Spotted Eagle population at a favorable conservation status, the participants identified the current threats: the loss of breeding habitat due to inadequate forestry legislation, the loss of grasslands, arable land suitable for feeding, electrocution by power lines, the wind farms, shooting, illegal taking and trade, poisoning and the loss of roosting sites.

Details about the threats and actions proposed will be available by the end of November 2013 on the project website <http://www.pomarina.ro/EN>

It was agreed to expand the scope of updating the European Action Plan for the conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle to the entire flyway, with the support of the UNEP/CMS/ Raptors MoU Secretariat.

In the last day of meeting, a field trip was organized in the Special Protection Area Piemontul Făgăraș, in the nesting area of the Lesser Spotted Eagle, monitored during the LIFE Project 08/NAT/RO/000501 through direct observation and with the satellite telemetry.

The fruitful discussions contributed to sharing experiences between participants, identifying key categories of threats and actions for the conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle population.

Through the synergy of two LIFE projects for the conservation of this species in Romania and Slovakia, working in cooperation, a finalized updated European Action Plan will be forwarded in 2014, to the Raptors MoU Secretariat, to the Ornithological Committee and to the Council of the European Union.

Romania has already elaborated the National Action Plan for the conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila Pomarina*) and a Guide for the management of its habitats. These documents will be approved by the Minister's Order until the end of November 2013.