### Training Seminar on Egyptian Vulture Field Survey Techniques

#### 28.7.2013-03.08.2013 (7 Days), Bulgaria

#### Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day (Date)</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Arrivals (28.7.2013)</td>
<td><strong>Till 20:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Arrival of participants: welcome and transportation to the Eastern Rhodopes by BSPB staff (<em>Accommodation in Gorno Pole: <a href="http://www.divata-ferma.vibs.bg/divata-ferma.php">http://www.divata-ferma.vibs.bg/divata-ferma.php</a></em>)&lt;br&gt;<strong>20:00-21:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Welcome dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations (29.7.2013)</td>
<td><strong>7:30 – 08:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;Breakfast&lt;br&gt;<strong>8:30 – 09:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations: Introduction to the Training Seminar: the aim of the seminar and update on the results from the LIFE+ project “The Return of the Neophron” <em>(by Stoyan Nikolov)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>09:00 – 09:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations: Status of the Balkan population of the Egyptian vulture <em>(by Vladimir Dobrev)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>09:30 – 10:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations: Techniques for monitoring of the breeding territories and productivity <em>(by Vladimir Dobrev)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>10:00 – 10:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations: Nest-guarding and supplementary feeding of Egyptian vultures in Bulgaria <em>(by Vladimir Dobrev)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>10:30 – 11:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Coffee break&lt;br&gt;<strong>11:00 – 11:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations: Raising awareness of local people on the conservation of Egyptian vultures in Bulgaria <em>(by Nikolai Terziev)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>11:30 – 12:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations: Anti-poison work in Greece <em>(by Thanos Kastritis)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>12:00 – 12:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations: Collecting blood samples and samples for pathogens from Egyptian vultures <em>(by Vladimir Dobrev)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>12:30 – 13:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Presentations: Telemetry of Egyptian vultures <em>(by Volen Arkumarev)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>13:00 – 14:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lunch break&lt;br&gt;<strong>14:00 – 19:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fieldwork: Practical demonstration on the techniques for monitoring of the breeding territories and productivity&lt;br&gt;<strong>19:30 – 20:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dinner</td>
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</table>
| **Day 3**<br>Open Discussions (30.7.2013) | **06:30 – 07:30**<br>Breakfast<br>**07:30 – 13:00**<br>Fieldwork: Practical demonstrations on the field techniques for nest guarding, supplementary feeding, tagging and sampling of Egyptian vultures.<br>**13:00 – 14:00**<br>Lunch break<br>**14:00 – 14:30**<br>Presentations: Importance of trans-continental collaboration in relation to the conservation of the globally threatened migratory birds: the case with the Social Lapwing *(by Rob*
SSFA/CMSAD/2012/004

Day 4–6
FIELDWORK (31.7–01.8.2013)

06:30 – 7:30 / Breakfast
07:30 – 19:30 / Fieldwork: Practical demonstrations on the field techniques for nest guarding, supplementary feeding, tagging and sampling of Egyptian vultures.
(Lunch break – during the fieldwork)
19:30 – 20:30 / Dinner

Day 7
DEPARTURES (03.8.2013)

06:30 – 7:30 / Breakfast
Departure of participants: transportation to Sofia airport by BSPB staff.
TRAINING SEMINAR ON EGYPTIAN VULTURE FIELD SURVEY TECHNIQUES
28.7.2013-03.08.2013 (7 DAYS), BULGARIA

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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<tr>
<th>№</th>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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The Return of the Neophron” LIFE+ project: What we have achieved so far?

TSB 2013: 28.7-3.8.2013, Gorno Pole, BG
Presenting author: Dr. Stoyan Nikolov

www.LifeNeophron.eu

Welcome to the Egyptian Vulture Training Seminar in Bulgaria 2013

Photo: K. Hristov

Widespread and highly respected in the past

Currently Endangered (IUCN Red listed species)
Global population: 21,900 – 30,000 mature ind.
In Europe, decreased by 50% in the last 50 years

Photo: K. Hristov
Why is it in danger?

DIRECT TREATS: Non-intentional poisoning

The vultures can’t read!

Poison bites

Electrocution

The story of Lazaros
E.g. Port Sudan dangerous power line

Persecution because of transmitters: What the story of Spartacus and a recent report from Sudan say?

Direct persecution
Taxidermy and egg collection

INDIRECT TREATS: Disturbance
Changing the rubbish dump system

Habitats destruction

Native barriers: the story of Ikaros and a Macedonian chick

What we do to save them?
LIFE+ project on the Egyptian Vulture
Urgent measures to secure survival of the Egyptian vulture (Neophron percnopterus) in Bulgaria and Greece

Aim:
Prevent extinction of the species from the Balkans

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
Monitoring of the breeding population:
- Monitor territory occupancy
- Monitor breeding success

Investigating the health status
(Toxicological and DNA analysis)

Sampling 70% of the Egyptian vultures chicks in Bulgaria and Greece in 2012 and 2013

Analysis is going to be conducted in 2013
Study on the diet
- Food remnants are collected from all accessible nests out of the breeding season
- 4 trail cameras were installed (2 in Bulgaria and 2 in Greece)
- CCTV camera installed in Bulgaria

Satellite tagging
- 9 birds were tagged with AGRUS transmitters in 2012
- It is foreseen that 13 more birds will be tagged in 2013

DIRECT CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Nest guarding
At least 10 nests in Bulgaria and 2 nests in Greece are guarded yearly
Save juveniles felt down from the nests

Supplementary feeding
- Wooden platforms (without success)
- Vulture restaurants
- Individual supplementary feeding
INDIRECT CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Rising public awareness
- Implementing AE measures

ANTI-POISON NETWORK

UNEP funded SSFA for capacity building in Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia for research and conservation of the wintering Balkan population

- Period: September 2012 – August 2013
- Action steps:
  1. Training seminar in Ethiopia (09.01.2013 – 19.01.2013)
  2. Small granted research projects in Chad and Soudan
  3. Training seminar in Bulgaria (August 2013)
Status of the Egyptian Vulture in the Balkans
> 50% decrease over the last 10 years

The Balkan EV population:
- Less than 80 pairs (50% in BU and GR), critically endangered
- A bridge between the Pyrenean/Appenninian and the Asian population

Status of the Egyptian Vulture in Bulgaria
> 50% decrease over the last 10 years

Results for 2012
Breeding territories occupancy
- In Greece the number of pairs is 50% less than expected:
  - 15 occupied territories;
  - 8 active nests (2 failed)
- In Bulgaria, there is 3 territories less than in 2010 (32)
  - 29 occupied territories;
  - 26 active nests (1 failed)

Breeding performance
- In Greece:
  - 6 chicks out of 8 active nests
- In Bulgaria:
  - 25 chicks out of 26 active nests
Mortality

- In Greece, we lost:
  - 1 adult;
  - 4 juveniles (2 tagged)
- In Bulgaria, we lost:
  - 4 adults
  - 1 immature
  - 3 juveniles (2 rescued)

Results from IPM showed high adult mortality!

Lack of data about reasons of the death.

Nest guarding and supplementary feeding conservation efficiency

- Nest guarding (14 guarded vs 15 non-guarded nests)
  - 3 vs 1 replacements
  - 0.86 vs 0.87 chicks per nest
  - 0.79 vs 0.80 chicks flew from the nest
- Supplementary feeding (12 fed vs 17 non-fed nests)
  - 3 vs 1 replacements
  - 0.75 vs 0.94 chicks per nest
  - 0.67 vs 0.88 chicks flew from the nest

Migration

Breeding territory use
Challenges in a short time period:

How to integrate the results from research actions into conservation?

Efficiency of our conservation work - do we dig in the right place?/

What compromises we can do?

Thank you for your attention!
Status and distribution of the Egyptian vulture

In the XIX-th century at Bosphorus, Turkey, Egyptian Vultures were described as migrating in flocks of thousands (Alleon & Vian 1869, 1870)

Probably at least several thousand Egyptian Vulture pairs were breeding on the Balkans at that time!
After a dramatic decline EV has disappeared from:
- Slovenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Romania
- Serbia

➢ 80 pairs in 5 countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Albania and Turkey)
➢ 50% decline for the last 10 years
➢ Extinction expected in 30-50 years

The Balkans today...

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bulgaria</th>
<th>Macedonia</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Albania</th>
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<td>90s</td>
<td>120-140</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>100-200</td>
<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000s</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>47,5%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
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49% decline in the period 2003-2012
Breeding performance 2004 – 2012

The decline could only be explained by high mortality of adults and immatures and NOT by low breeding success

Threats
- poisoning
- shooting
- electrocution
- disturbance
- habitat loss
- changes in food availability

- Productivity (fledged juveniles/monitored pairs): 0.83
- Reproductive success (fledged juveniles/laying pairs): 1.2
- Fledgling rate (fledged juveniles/successful pairs): 1.33
Poisoning

In September 1994 more than 60 Egyptian Vultures were poisoned in a single day at rubbish dump in Negotino, Macedonia

Electrocution

Direct persecution

Habitats destruction
Thank you for your attention

Acknowledgements

www.LifeNeophron.eu
Techniques for monitoring of the breeding territories and productivity

The aim:
- to find changes in the status of the pairs
- to register the number of the chicks
- other...

Some basic questions:
- How often?
- When?
- How?
All you need is just a little patience...

How to do it???
Different ways to reach an observation point...

And some innovations...
Acknowledgements

The LIFE+ project „The return of the Neophron“ (LIFE10 NAT/BG/000152) is funded by the European Commission and co-financed by the „A. G. Leventis“ foundation

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Thank you for Your attention!!!
Nest-guarding and supplementary feeding of Egyptian vultures in Bulgaria

Vladimir Dobrev

The aim:
1. Supplementary feeding
   - to provide birds with safe food
   - to increase the nest success
...
2. Nest guarding:
   - to prevent pairs failing during incubation
   - to save chicks fallen from the nests

In 2013 we are:
- Guarding 14 pairs in the Rhodopes and Northern Bulgaria
- Feeding 15 pairs in the Rhodopes and Northern Bulgaria
What people imagine guarding is...
How we imagine the nest guarding should be...

How the real situation looks like...
With some exceptions...

Thank you for Your attention!!!

Acknowledgements

The LIFE+ project „The return of the Neophron“ (LIFE10 NAT/BG/000152) is funded by the European Commission and co-financed by the „A. G. Leventis“ foundation

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“TAKE THE BULL BY ITS HORDS”: work with people

Stoyan Nikolov (BSPB)
30th July 2013, Gorno Pole, TSB 2013

Intellectual metamorphosis

- I am not a sociologist (but this does not stop me to think and feel);
- In this presentation I will mostly ask questions than give answers...

In the target

- Where the main problems come from?
  People
- Where are the keys for solving them?
  People
BSPB as a citizen’s organization

**BSPB is**

“... representative of the community, expressing its interests regarding the nature conservation”

**Where we classify people?**

- In our mission
- In our achievements
- In our work

Mission “By the way”

“The BSPB works for the conservation of wild birds, the important bird areas and habitats, as well as for the conservation of biodiversity as a whole. By this the BSPB contribute to the sustainable use of the natural resources and the well-being of the people.”

Priority №18

- For the last 20 years, the BSPB involved more than 35,000 persons in the nature conservation activities.

“Black” experience from Africa

Kevin Carter, 1993, Sudan
What we know and how we communicate it?

Look through the eyes of the others

Communication work of “The Return of the Neophron” LIFE+ project

Website coverage
Information on the project

Satellite tracking

Fun for kids

Printed materials
Face-to-face work with people

Benefits from the EV

What the reports are showing?

We mark significant progress in the field of:

- Nature-oriented business (incl. AE)
- Educational activities
- Media presence
- Collaborations

Bad cases

- Stone-pit in the Natura 2000 SPA “Ponor”:
• **What the social study says?**

✓ The problems on biodiversity are with shallow cover amongst the local stakeholders;

✓ The interesting topic amongst stakeholders is not the biodiversity, but the EU money;

✓ The “idealistic approach” is strange and suspicious for the local people;

**ACCENTS:**

✓ What is the “wild nature” for the local people?

✓ Are the birds more important than people?

✓ There is a need of direct involvement of local communities in the decision making process and conservation activities;

✓ There is a need of stronger messages and presence amongst the locals.

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**What are we changing?**

- Culture?
- Values?
- Traditions?

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**Our approach?**

- [Do we know what we want and how to achieve it?](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeVeMwaA4bqtDc)

- Decision making: Bottom-up process?

- Estimation of the effectiveness of our work
Thanks for your attention!

Acknowledgements

www.LifeNeophron.eu
Anti-poison work in Greece

Thanos Kastritis
Conservation Manager
Hellenic Ornithological Society

The problem

› Since the 50’s poison baits were a common practice in Greece
› In the past decades, the Forestry authorities were using poison baits for the control of “harmful” mammals, like foxes and wolves
› For more than 20 years, the use of poison baits is illegal
› Poison baits are still a widespread practice in Greece
› A major threat for wildlife (carrion eating birds, mammals)
› Losses of shepherd and hunting dogs

The motives

› Persecution of “harmful” mammals (wolf, fox, bear, marten, stray dogs etc) which cause damage to livestock, bee-keeping and farming
› Fox population control (predation on game species, hunting dogs training problems, rabies control)
› Conflicts between shepherds and hunters

The reasons

› Inefficient institutional framework for the protection of livestock
› Inefficient compensation system for losses/damages
› Lack of effective wardening
› Minimum control of pesticides trade and use
› Inefficient mechanism for conflict resolution between hunters and shepherds/farmers
› Lack of game species management tools
› Poor implementation of stray dogs legislation
› Use of untrained shepherd dogs (inefficient against wolf attacks, attacks to hunting dogs)
The extent

2000-2012: More than 500 poison incidents – high underestimation

In the last two years:

- 2 Egyptian Vultures in Meteora (2012)
- Extinction of the largest Griffon Vulture colony in Greece + 4 Golden Eagles (2012) in Nestos gorge
- 2 Egyptian Vultures in Macedonia (2013)
- 2 Great Spotted Eagles + 1 jackal in Nestos Delta (2013)
- 3 Bears (Pindos, Prespes) + 1 wolf (2012)
The extent of poisoning.

Central administration
Lobbying
Legislation enforcement
Proposal of measures
Collaboration with BirdLife International & other NGOs
Public awareness

HOS fights against poisons at two levels

Local authorities and stakeholders
Collaboration with management bodies, forestry services, etc
Support & public awareness of key stakeholders

“The Return of the Neophron” LIFE project: anti-poison actions

Pilot creation of Key Stakeholders Network against the use of poison

National Anti-poison Working Group

Local authorities and stakeholders
Collaboration with management bodies, forestry services, etc
Support & public awareness of key stakeholders
Local Anti-poison Network

- Creation of Key Stakeholders Network with the participation of local people and authorities, which will be applied as tools to tackle the underlying reasons for the use of poison and also to facilitate law enforcement

- Implementation in 3 SPAs in the Epirus Region (Western Greece):
  - Mt Tymfi (GR2130011)
  - Central Zagori (GR2130009)
  - Mt Paramythias (GR2120008)

Local Anti-poison Network - Field Stakeholders

The project to the stakeholders:

- advice on legal and practical predator control methods
- legal advice and practical support if poison baits or poisoned birds/animals are encountered
- advice on possible compensation payments in case of losses due to natural predators
- provision of electric fences and shepherd dogs
- provision of binoculars, identification leaflet and “anti-poison” hats

Local Anti-poison Network - Administrative Stakeholders

The stakeholders to the project:

- abstain from using poison baits
- report poison baits incidents
- report predator damages
- cooperate with other project actions

Key stakeholders are separated in two distinct groups: ‘Field’ and ‘Administrative’ Stakeholders

Field Stakeholders: individuals (mainly local people) who are always - or very often - in the country, mostly close to important sites for the Egyptian vulture - livestock owners, shepherds, farmers, hunters, naturalists, hikers, other individuals

Administrative Stakeholders: authorities and organizations which have a connection with land, nature or wild life management - municipalities, national park management bodies, hunting associations, livestock keepers associations, bee-keeper associations, environmental local NGOs, hikers and mountaineers clubs, etc.
**Local Anti-poison Network - Field Stakeholders**

The creation of the Anti-Poison Network step by step (April 2012-June 2013):

- Meetings with individuals either on the field or at their own homes (>150 individuals)
- "Informal" meetings in a "friendly environment" with individuals at the cafes of the villages (>20 meetings)
- Two "official" presentations targeting high school teachers and local community

**Local Anti-poison Network - Field Stakeholders**

- Provision of electric fences, shepherd dogs, binoculars and information material

**Local Anti-poison Network - Administrative Stakeholders**

The project to the stakeholders:

- "Poison Kit" for sample collection of poisoned animals
- Special training seminars related to poison and predator conflict for public authorities’ staff
- Seminars about the ecology, life history, conservation and cultural importance of Egyptian vultures
- All information material produced by the project
Local Anti-poison Network – Administrative Stakeholders

The stakeholders to the project:

› use the poison kit provided, and send the collected samples to the Local Vet Service

› cooperate with other project actions

› promote the project among the local community, making use of their relevant or influential position

› expressing opposition to the use of poison, or prosecuting people using poisons

Local Anti-poison Network – Results

› 17 persons have joined the “Field” Stakeholders Anti-poison Network formally, while many more collaborate informally.
It is expected that more than 30 individuals will be part of the network by the end of 2013.

› 4 bodies (2 municipalities, 1 local NGO, 1 municipal association) have formally joined the “Administrative” Stakeholders Anti-poison Network and several others have already expressed positive interest.
It is expected that about 15 different bodies will be part of the network by the end of 2013.

Local Anti-poison Network – Administrative Stakeholders

The creation of the Anti-Poison Network step by step (April 2012- June 2013):

› Meetings with certain key persons in relevant state offices and other agencies (Municipalities, Management Bodies, Hunting clubs and Association, Forest Service, Regional Directorate of Environment, Veterinary Services, Environmental NGOs, mountaineering clubs, local village councils, cultural clubs etc).
 (>30 meetings)

› Official letters to various institutions/organizations/ municipalities with a request to join the Anti-Poison network

National Anti-poison Working Group

› Common initiative of the “Return of the Neophron” and the “Life Against Poison” (LIFE09 NAT/ES/000533) LIFE+ projects

› 7 national environmental NGOs/institutions (~ 20 experts)

› Contribution from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, University of Thessaloniki
Main aims:
- Lobbying & supporting for the creation of an institutional structure dedicated to the fight against poison
- Creation & updating of Poison Data Base
- Improvement of legal framework
- Dissemination among target audiences

Main tasks:
- Gathering and analysis of the available data from different sources and creation of the database
- The first working document at national level with concrete proposals for the fight against poison

Future steps
- Reinforcement of the Anti-Poison Working Group with a fully dedicated coordinator.
- Creation of Anti-poison Dog Units working under the framework of the project. Aims:
  - Detection and removal of poison within the core areas of the Egyptian Vulture
  - Deterring effect on perpetrators
  - Active engagement of the Forestry Service and other relevant authorities
  - Building capacity of Greek dog trainers on this technique
Collecting blood samples and samples for pathogens from Egyptian vultures

Vladimir Dobrev

A story in pictures...
Biometry

A study for pathogens

Toxicology and DNA study
Thank you for Your attention!!!
Telemetry of Egyptian vultures

29th July 2013
Gorno pole, Bulgaria

Volen Arkumarev
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/Birdlife Bulgaria
www.LifeNeophron.eu

Tagged Egyptian vultures on the Balkans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Subadult</th>
<th>Juvenile</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Transmitting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkans(total)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Map showing Egyptian vulture movements across the Balkans](image.jpg)
Migration

Winter quarters

What do we know about the threats

Threats along the flyway

- Poaching
- Poisoning
- Water barriers
- Electrocution
Electrocution

This powerline has caused the death of hundreds, perhaps thousands EV over the last 50 years (Angelov & Hashim 2012).

Poaching

Use of vultures in traditional medicine or for magic

Poisoning
The sad story of Spartacus...

Birds killed because of transmitters

Thank you for your attention!

www.LifeNeophron.eu
www.bspb.org
Saving a Globally Threatened Species across international boundaries: A case study of the Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*

Rob Sheldon:
Head of International Species Recovery, RSPB
Co-ordinator of the Sociable Lapwing International Working Group, AEWA

First AEWA SAP published in 2004:
Problems on breeding grounds

![Map of the Korgalzhyn study area in Central Asia](image)
Data analysis shows the decline due to low adult survival.

Problems away from the breeding grounds:

13 Principal Range States
- Middle East
- North Africa
- NW India/Pakistan
Revise the Species Action Plan.

Most up to date knowledge.

Include NGO & Government representative from each of the 13 Principal Range States.

Adopted by AEWA & CMS (internationally recognised).

Framework for Action:

- Goal:
  - To restore the Sociable Lapwing to favourable condition status and remove it from the threatened categories of the IUCN red-list and column A of AEWA Table 1

- Objective:
  - To reverse the recent negative population trend leading to a population size of 8-10,000 breeding pairs by 2022

Result & actions:

- Result 1: baseline annual survival rate is increased by 2022

- Action 1.1: Minimise the loss of SoLa by hunting along the flyways through creation & efficient enforcement of legislation
Hunting mitigation work:

Legal mechanisms – AEWA IRP

SAP Implementation:
- Long-term funding and support from Swarovski Optik
- AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group
- SLIWG co-ordinator (co-ordinates activities, funding & reviews progress)
Sociable Lapwing is an excellent example of international collaboration.

Relatively 'simple' conservation problem

Relatively few range states

Agreed goals across range states

NGO & Government

AEWA acts as a legal framework

Dedicated co-ordination for SAP implementation
Networking and future international collaboration in relation to the Egyptian vulture research and conservation

TSB 2013: 30.7.2013, Gorno Pole, BG
Stoyan Nikolov

Research and conservation of the Egyptian Vulture along the Eastern Mediterranean migration flyway: challenges at trans-continental level

What we need?
- Urgent measures to secure the species

How we can achieve that?
- More research – scientifically based evidences about the problems
- Close communication and collaboration between all involved organizations, institutions and authorities at trans-continental level
- Good will in decision makers to build and implement such measures
- Human and financial capacity to apply the measures

Research and conservation of the Egyptian vulture along the Eastern Mediterranean migration flyway

1. Research – gaps in our knowledge:
   - Migration flyway
   - Habitat use
   - Numbers and dynamics of migrating and wintering birds
   - Physiological condition
   - Threats analysis at local level

2. Opportunities for decision making on species conservation:
   - National working groups
   - Egyptian vulture experts e-mail group (launched till the end of 2012)
   - International Egyptian vulture conference (2015, country will be defined?)
   - Species Flyway Action Plan (with the contribution of MoU)
3. Collaboration and capacity building:

- **Collaboration at regional level**
  - Common research and conservation projects between countries

- **Collaboration at continental level**
  - e.g. EU programmes (LIFE+)

- **Collaboration at trans-continental level**
  - Europe
  - Middle East
  - Africa /Egypt, Ethiopia, Chad, Sudan/
  - MoU or OSME could support this!

Thank you for your attention!

Acknowledgements

www.LifeNeophron.eu
TRAINING SEMINAR ON EGYPTIAN VULTURE FIELD SURVEY TECHNIQUES  
28.7.2013-03.08.2013 (7 DAYS), BULGARIA

NOTES FROM THE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE MEETING

I. Prioritization of gaps in our knowledge for the EV population on the Balkans

Participants on the seminar listed 17 gaps in our knowledge for the EV population on the Balkans. Questionnaire with the full list of identified gaps was distributed to the participants to rank the top 5 priority issues. The results from the ranking are presented below (Table 1).

Table 1. Results from the prioritization of the top 5 gaps (marked in bold) in our knowledge for the EV population on the Balkans (based on 17 questionnaires).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Priority gaps in our knowledge for the EV population on the Balkans</th>
<th>Total scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mortality factors (one major factor or a complex of factors)</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sinks (hot spots areas in terms of threats) and save areas</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Actual risk on tagging and ringing</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Age specific mortality</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Distribution, number and trends in Albania, European and W Turkey</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Where are the floaters</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Migration flyway</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rate of replacements</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Impact of contaminants on the breeding success and mortality (solutions of the problem)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Real effects from the conservation actions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Alternatives for methods which are not applicable for investigation of the Balkan EV population</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>May we extrapolate the knowledge from other countries</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Parameters of the viable population (is data from other populations relevant)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Home range of the adults</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>How the pairs are formed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Is there a role of the captive breeding in saving the Balkan EV population</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Where the juvenile EVs recruit (on the Balkans only or elsewhere)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. What we can do to have better communication/coordination about the EV

1. E-mail group
2. Get in touch with more countries from the flyway
3. Key range states for the FAP
4. Network of supporters
5. Collaboration with other institutional level collaborators (also VCF)
6. Education activities (mainly for Africa)
7. Balkan working group / Thematic groups / Global working group (eg. IUCN vulture working group)
   - Concept
   - Coordinator
   - Focal points (1-2 persons; 1 official & one from NGO)
   - Regular e-mail contact
   - Closed intranet site
   - Meetings (when needed)

III. Mortality factors (and age-specific mortality) : important questions

1. What is killing birds, where and when?
2. Poisoning (with focus on Greece and FYROM)
3. What priority actions to do in the next 3 years to understand the mortality factors better?
   - Satellite tagging (and alternative methods: face control, marking feathers, networking and distribution of questionnaires in the wintering grounds)
   - EV monitoring in breeding and wintering grounds
   - Cooperation between countries along the migration flyway
   - DB on poisoning events (there could be a bias effect!)
   - Migration counts
   - Immediate actions on specific (hot spot) places
   - Analyze data from tagging/markings and transmitters
   - DNA analyses (samples from Turkey compared to the Balkans)