BALKAN VULTURE ACTION PLAN - FIGHTING POISON IN THE BALKANS

Poisoning and Vultures, Ronda  8 - 14/4/2014
Start: 2002

Funding: Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)

Management and coordination:
Black Vulture Conservation Foundation (BVCF)

Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF)
COOPERATION and COORDINATION
Fact finding;
Anti-poison campaign;
Natural food availability;
Supplementary feeding programme;
Monitoring
Restocking and reintroduction;
Habitat conservation;
Public awareness & participation;
Socio-economic development;
Project administration & fundraising.
Balkan Vulture Action Plan

Countries:

Albania
Bulgaria
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Croatia
Macedonia
Greece
THREATS

Poaching
THREATS

Electrocution, Collision
THREATS

Wind-farms
THREATS

Habitat loss, Disturbance, Nest robbery
Monitoring

Reproduction

Feeding places

Ringing
Feeding sites
THREATS

Food availability and food quality
THREATS

Illegal/Legal use of poison in the nature
Reasons for use of poison baits in natural

- Combat against carnivores (notably *wolf*, bear, jackal, fox) when conflicting with livestock breeders and game keepers;
- Feral and homeless dogs, that are unwanted in the area of the villages or towns;
- Shepherd dogs unwanted by hunters because kill their dogs;
- Hunting dogs as an action against the hunter owning the dog;
- Aggressive dogs in the villages or the towns, no matter if they are homeless or not;
- Feral and homeless cats are killed within the villages and the towns sometimes non-deliberately;
- Wild boar to avoid crop fields or vegetable gardens damage;
- Free ranging livestock (e.g. horses) to avoid crop fields or vegetable gardens damage;
- Birds of prey that hunt on domestic doves.
Poisons used

1940 - 1985

Carbamates and Organophosphates

Methomyl

Etilen glycol (antifreeze)
There is strong overlap among jurisdiction of the legal bodies regarding prevention, control and investigation of poison use.

Bern convention 1990 - 1995

The Biodiversity Law and the Hunting Law forbid the use of poison baits to kill hunting species and protected species.
CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

BALKAN ANTI POISON CAMPAIGN

**Seminars for stakeholders**

- **Formation**
- **Production of info materials**
- **Systematic collection and analysis of dead animals and bait**
Training seminar on toxicological and pathological analysis of presumably poisoned animals

24-25 February 2012
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius"
Skopje, Macedonia

The event is organized by VCF in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Skopje, Macedonia (FVMS), and the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES), organizational board: Jovan Andevski (VCF), Trpe Ristoski DVM, MSc, PhD (FVMS) and Metodija Velevski (MES).

The seminar is financially supported by the World Wildlife Fund the Netherlands, Frankfurt Zoological Society and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Skopje, Macedonia.
Prevention of livestock damages
Balkan Anti-poison Campaign

Anti-poisoning protocols and road-maps in the Balkans

- Balkan Anti-Poison Technical Protocols
- National Anti-poison Working Groups
- National Anti-Poison Road Map
- Development of government to government and trans-boundary collaboration in the Balkans
- Public Awareness PA
Albania

Egyptian Vulture
10-15 pair

- Last colony of Griffon vulture
- Last presence of Bearded Vulture
- Area of breeding territories of Egyptian Vulture
Bosnia & Herzegovina

- Special Nature Reserve “Popovo Polje” - Griffon Vulture reintroduction area (former breeding site of Griffon Vultures)
- Info centre Blagaj (former breeding site of Griffon Vultures)
- Last breeding areas of Griffon Vulture
- Last breeding areas of Egyptian Vulture
- Last breeding site of Bearded Vulture
- Last breeding site of Black Vulture
Bulgaria

- Egyptian vulture monitoring – Life project
- Griffon vulture reintroduction – Life project
Vultures Return in Bulgaria

Releases: total of 140 Griffon vultures

- Vrachanski Balkan site:
- Central Balkan site:
- Sinite kamani site:
- Kotel site:
Vulture transports

- 2010 - 2014: 180
- Spanish recovery centers
- French recovery centers
- EEP Griffon Vulture (European zoos)
Croatia

- Present breeding areas of Griffon Vulture
- Historical distribution (during the first half of 20th Century) of breeding colonies of Griffon vultures in Croatia
Last observation of Bearded Vulture in continental Greece (year 2004)

Breeding area of Bearded Vulture
Distribution in early 1990s
78 PARTICIPANTS
8 COUNTRIES
25 ORGANIZATIONS
ASSESSMENT (2006-10)
PRIORITY NEXT 4 YEARS

HIGHLITED THREATS
- POISONING
- WIND-FARMS

TOPICS DISCUSSED
- FUNDRAISING
- MONITORING SCREAM

WORKING GROUPS
- POISON
- MARKING/RINGING
- EGYPTION VULTURE
- FEEDING PLACES NET
Bearded vulture

EXTINCT:
MACEDONIA
BULGARIA
SERBIA
ALBANIA
(CONTINENTAL GREECE)

CRETE: 6 BREEDING PAIRS
Black vulture

EXTINCT:
MACEDONIA
BULGARIA
SERBIA

GREECE: 26 BREEDING PAIRS
Griffon vulture

EXTINCT:
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
ALBANIA

AROUND 600 BREEDING PAIRS
Egyptian vulture

EXTINCT:

BOSNIA&HERZEGOVINA
SERBIA
CROATIA

80 BREEDING PAIR
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- Elena Kmetova
- Ivelin Ivanov
- Theodora Skartsi
- Rigas Tsiakiris
- Lavrentis Sidoropulus
- Dushan Kotroshan

...and many others!
Thank you for your attention!

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