



Balkan Anti-Poisoning Project Small Grant Programme

As part of the [Balkan Anti-Poisoning Project](#) funded by the MAVA Foundation the Vulture Conservation Foundation is launching a Small Grants Programme. This programme will support governmental authorities and wildlife conservation non-governmental organisations from six states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia) from Balkan Peninsula in detection and persecution of poisoning incidents through implementation of National Roadmaps and Strategies.

Goal and Objectives of the Small Grants Programme

Goal: Reinforce national capacities within relevant governmental authorities and conservation NGOs from the Balkan Peninsula (AL, BH, HR, MK, GR and RS) in detection and persecution of poisoning incidents through implementation of National Roadmaps and Strategies.

- Secure implementation of priority anti-poisoning actions listed in the National Anti-Poisoning Road-maps/Strategies.
- Strengthen the capacities of relevant national governmental institutions in combating the illegal use of poison baits and enforcement of relevant legislation.
- Attract other funding opportunities for implementation of large-scale anti-poisoning projects in the region.

Small Grants Programme Details

Eligibility Guidelines

- The geographical scope of this grant programme is the Balkan Peninsula including the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.
- Submitted project proposals must clearly address priority issues related to wildlife poisoning as defined in the National Anti-Poisoning Road Map of the target country.
- This call for proposals is open for Civil Society Organisations situated in the respective target countries.
- Applicants are allowed to submit only one project proposal, multiple applications from the same organisation will not be considered for funding.
- Joint applications from two or more CSOs are eligible for funding.
- Total amount of funds available per project is 10 000€, with a maximum of two projects per target country being eligible to receive funds.

Project Duration

- Duration of the project should not be less than 6 months and should not exceed 18 months.
- Projects under consideration for funding must start at the earliest on the 1st of May 2019 and should be fully implemented by 31st of October 2020.



Ineligible costs

- Purchasing of cars and land is not eligible.
- Staff costs for employees of governmental institutions are not eligible.

Funding criteria

- ✓ Project proposals have to include priority actions already listed in the draft National Anti-Poisoning Roadmaps/Strategies.
- ✓ Project proposals should be coherent towards implementation of International Species Action Plans: Vulture MsAP, Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan, Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan, EU Bearded Vulture Action Plan, EU Cinereous Vulture Action Plan and EU Egyptian Vulture Action Plan.
- ✓ We strongly encourage submission of proposals which include active cooperation with relevant governmental institutions and other relevant CSOs.
- ✓ Costs from governmental institution can be included in the budget proposals, not more than 30 % of the overall project budget.
- ✓ All submitted proposals should be accompanied by supporting letters from relevant governmental institutions.
- ✓ Project proposals can be used for co-funding and combined with larger projects.
- ✓ Personal costs (salaries) should not exceed more than 40% of the total budget

Submission of proposals

The project proposal and respective budget must be based on the templates provided with this call and must to be **submitted until 17h CET on the 25th of March 2019** via e-mail to bapp@4vultures.org. VCF will confirm the receipt of the proposal and will notify whether it is complete or whether additional information is required. Positive results can be expected from the 15th April.

Selection process

A committee comprised of VCF staff and VCF advisory board members will evaluate each project proposal based on their feasibility, impact, adherence to national priorities and cost-effectiveness ratio, after which the outcome and results of this call of proposals will be made available on VCF website and applicants will be contacted directly.

Co-funding from other sources is considered an added value and any co-funding that has been or can potentially be secured for the proposed project should hence be mentioned in the proposal and clearly stated in the budget.

Contact

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Background

The vulture populations of the Balkan Peninsula and surrounding regions reached a critical conservation status at the end of the 20th century mainly because of the use of poisonous substances in the environment. Of the four species, the Bearded and Cinereous Vultures are now on the edge of regional extinction, with the first one virtually gone. The last Bearded Vulture population in the region remains in Crete island, that hosts around 6-8 breeding pairs whilst the last Cinereous Vulture colony is in the Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park (NE Greece) has 21-35 pairs. The Egyptian Vulture has declined by more than 50 % in the last ten years, and continues to decline. This species is still present in Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Greece and Albania, totalling around 60 breeding pairs. The Griffon Vulture has disappeared from many countries like Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro, whilst isolated and small and highly threatened populations still exist in continental Greece and Macedonia). Griffon vulture is still present in Serbia, numbering up to 200 breeding pairs, and Croatia (nearly 100 pairs). In Bulgaria and Crete the species show signs of increase in the last years. The overall population in the Balkans and its surroundings reaches around 700 pairs.

The use of poison baits in the countryside is one of the most widely used predator eradication methods worldwide, and is a significant threat to biodiversity. The Illegal use of poison in the environment is considered one of the most important threats regarding illegal killing of birds, it supposes a serious conservation impact in many species, especially those which primarily feed on carrion such as vultures. Poison is recognized as the single most important threat to vultures in the Balkans, and has contributed to their regional extinction or severe depletion in the region. Over the course of the last 20 years 465 vultures were documented to have died as a result of being poisoned in the whole Balkan Peninsula, while the VCF estimated that the potential number of poisoned vultures exceeds 2.300 individuals. This practice is illegal in Europe, including the Balkans, but it is still in use as a quick and affordable “solution” for resolving the conflicts with predators and other wildlife and domestic animals.

[The Balkan Anti-poisoning Project \(BAPP\)](#), which represents an integral part of the Mediterranean Anti-Poisoning Project (MAPP) spearheaded by VCF, was launched in early 2018. Its aim is to secure real and continued engagement of the relevant national governmental authorities in the Balkan region against illegal wildlife poisoning; also, to increase their capacity to counteract it. The BAAP project is directly contributing to the implementation of the [Vulture Multi-species Action Plan \(MsAP\)](#), a crucial strategic document for conservation of Old World vultures, by implementing anti-poisoning actions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia. One of the main objectives of this project is to establish national anti-poison working groups, comprised of representatives from relevant governmental institutions and conservation NGOs, and to



develop national anti-poison road maps in these five selected countries which will set a baseline for future work on combating wildlife poisoning.

The outstanding efforts and dedication of all the BAPP partners have led to some remarkable results in the first project year:

Albania

- [National Anti-Poisoning Working Group established.](#)
- New National Law on Fauna amended towards inclusion of wildlife poisoning as an illegal activity, punishable under relevant national legislation.
- [National Anti-Poisoning Road Map drafted.](#)
- [Promotional material \(leaflets, stickers\) distributed to relevant stakeholders and general public.](#)

Bosnia&Herzegovina

- [National Anti-Poisoning Working Group established and pending for official formalisation under the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations.](#)
- [National Anti-Poisoning Road Map drafted.](#)
- [Promotional material \(leaflets, stickers\) distributed to relevant stakeholders and general public.](#)

Croatia

- [National Anti-Poisoning Working Group established.](#)
- [National Anti-Poisoning Road Map drafted.](#)
- [Promotional material \(leaflets, stickers\) distributed to relevant stakeholders and general public.](#)

Greece

- National Anti-Poisoning Strategy adapted into English and made available to other project partners and the wider conservation community.
- [Promotional material \(leaflets, stickers\) distributed to relevant stakeholders and general public.](#)

North Macedonia

- [National Anti-Poisoning Working Group established and officially formalised under the the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning.](#)
- [National Anti-Poisoning Road Map drafted.](#)
- [Promotional material \(leaflets, stickers\) distributed to relevant stakeholders and general public.](#)

