



BALKAN ANTI-POISONING PROJECT (BAPP)

NATIONAL MEETING OF RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS (Republic of Macedonia) - MEETING REPORT-

Intro project: Balkan Anti-Poisoning Project,

Date: 17th May 2018

Location: Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Venue: Hotel Porta, Skopje

National partner (Organizer): Macedonian Ecological Society

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Background:

Balkan Anti-Poisoning Project is an integral part of the Mediterranean Anti-poison project funded by the Mava Foundation and coordinated by VCF. One of the objectives of the project is to develop national anti-poison road maps in 5 countries – Greece, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia.

On 17.05.2018 in Hotel Porta in Skopje, the Macedonian Ecological Society organized the first national meeting of relevant stakeholders to address poisoning incidents in the country within the Balkan Anti-Poisoning Project. This meeting was the first activity towards the implementation of the project which aims at combating the illegal use of poison, strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions, and enhance the procedures of investigating poisoning incidents. Since poisoning poses one of the main threats to the survival of the vultures in Macedonia and yet the use of poison baits is still a common practice, the need for this kind of project was essential.

Meeting Goal:

Development of a national scheme to address poisoning incidents according to national legislation and engage responsible institutions.

Meeting Objectives:

- Establishment of National Anti-Poison Working Groups (NAWG).
- Initiate the preparation of a National Action Plan to fight/combat poisoning.

1. Participants:

Name of participant	Institution	Position within the Institution	Contact information
Arsim Elezi	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Chief Inspector	arsim_elezi@moi.gov.mk
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2. Outcomes/Overall Conclusions of the National Meeting:

Outcome 1: Definition of poisoning and identification of the main reasons for poison use.

Outcome 2: Poisoning categorization and analysis.

Outcome 3: Definition of Actions.

Outcome 4: Through a long and proactive discussion, a long list of overall conclusions was defined.

Outcome 5: National Anti-Poison Working Group (NAWG) was created.

3. Next steps:



Throughout the following months, with active participation from the NAWG, the draft strategy for dealing with poisoning incidents is going to be created. Also, two more meetings are going to be held with synergy from the "Egyptian vulture New LIFE" project, where the working group will assemble again and discuss about the preparation of the strategy.

4. Proposed Actions for National Anti-Poisoning Plan:

Action 1: Education and capacity building. – identify target institutions.

Action 2: Secure funding for conduction of toxicological analysis and materials.

Action 3: Develop or modify existing regulations and protocols.

Action 4: Develop an Environmental Unit within the police to tackle wildlife poisoning.

Action 5: Capacity building, awareness raising and training for prosecutors and lawyers.

Action 6: Establishing Wildlife Recovery Center as a necropsy and recuperation center.

Action 7: Reactivation of National network of laboratories.

Action 8: Look of a legal format for formalization of National plan or strategy related to poisoning.

Action 9: Transform National Anti-poisoning Working group into Task force group (lead by environmental ministry or environmental inspectorate (to be checked)).

Action 10: Establish trans-boundary cooperation (regional and international) and use best practice experience and know-how.

Action 11: Implement strong public awareness campaign.

Action 12: Identification of toxic substances used (legally and illegally).