



## BALKAN ANTI-POISONING PROJECT (BAPP)

### NATIONAL MEETING OF RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS (CROATIA) - MEETING REPORT-

**Intro project:** Balkan Anti-Poisoning Project,  
**Date:** 29th May 2018  
**Location:** Zagreb, Croatia  
**Venue:** Forum Zagreb  
**National partner (Organizer):** Association Biom  
**Contact points:** Vedran Lucić (vedran.lucic@biom.hr)

#### 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 Action plans in 5 countries – Greece, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia.

On 29.05.18 in Forum Zagreb in Zagreb, the Association Biom 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 to combat the illegal use of poison, strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions, and raise the public awareness on this topic. Poisoning is recognized as one of the main threats for the survival of the vultures in Croatia, and potentially for other important birds and other animals, so the need for this kind of project was essential.

Association Biom is national BirdLife partner gathering several hundred members and running multiple wildlife conservation projects aiming to improve the status of species and habitats, advocating better legislation and regulation and mainstreaming biodiversity in Croatian public.

#### 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
Željka Rajković	Udruga Biom
Gligor Radečić	Udruga Biom
Jasna Jeremić	Hrvatska agencija za okoliš i prirodu



Ivana Jelenić	Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i energetike
Jasna Ribarić	Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i energetike
Katica Bezuh	Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i energetike
Ivanka Jelenić	Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i energetike
Lea Barić	Ministarstvo poljoprivrede
Vlatka Dumbović Mazal	Hrvatska agencija za okoliš i prirodu
Stjepan Brzica	Centar za forenzična ispitivanja, istraživanja i vještačenja Ivan Vučetić
Tomislav Anić	Centar za posjetitelje i oporavilište za bjeloglave supove Beli
Neška Vukšić	Hrvatski lovački savez
Elvis Vuleta	Javna ustanova Priroda
Tibor Mikuška	Hrvatsko društvo za zaštitu i pručavanje ptica
Marko Modrić	Javna ustanova Priroda
Vedran Lucić	Udruga Biom
Uroš Pantović	Vulture Conservation Foundation
Marina Tišljaj	Hrvatski veterinarski institut
Jovan Andevski	Vulture Conservation Foundation

## 2. Outcomes and Conclusions of the National Meeting:

**Outcome 1:** Formal Task Force under competent Ministry existed from 2002-2003 and was dismissed by Ministry.

**Outcome 2:** Representatives from the following institutions should be included if possible: HAOP, 112 service, Police, Veterinary Inspection, Croatian Veterinary Institute, Biom, DORH, Ministry of Agriculture, referent and responsible laboratories, Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers, National Hunting Association, Ministry of Justice, etc.

**Outcome 3:** There is low public awareness regarding wildlife poisoning and magnitude of the problem.

**Outcome 4:** Wildlife poisoning incidents are generally documented by several institutions; drivers and stakeholders are identified.

**Outcome 5:** Wildlife poisoning is clearly defined as a criminal activity in the national legislation.

**Outcome 6:** More efficient, clear-cut legal protocols for describing responsibilities in reporting, investigating and processing cases of wildlife poisoning need to be developed and distributed within all responsible institutions to precisely define jurisdiction of each one within national legislation and avoid overlaps.

**Outcome 7:** All representatives from governmental institutions present at the BAPP meeting agree that establishing a national anti-poisoning working group is a priority for tackling wildlife poisoning in the country, but official invitations have to be made.

**Outcome 8:** There is low awareness of decision makers and some responsible institutions. Wildlife poisoning not perceived in general as a hazard for human health and as a criminal activity and is low priority for institutions.

**Outcome 9:** Establishment centralized and unified database related to wildlife poisoning is crucial for analysis of the scope and severity of wildlife poisoning on a national level.

## 3. Next steps:

1. **Official formalization of NAWG – sending official invitations to ministries to be part of NAWG and including new important institutions that haven't attended first national meeting.**



2. Throughout the following months, with participation from the NAWG member, the draft strategy for dealing with poisoning incidents will be drafted.
3. Additional meeting will be held (in synergy with other projects within the Mediterranean Anti-poison 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:** Develop and implement large and intensive public awareness campaigns.

**Action 2:** Education and capacity building –priority is to identify target institutions in pre-investigation process and build their capacities

**Action 3:** Establish a clear scheme on division of processing poisoning incidents among police and Ministry of environment and energy (Nature conservation Inspectorate) and potential other stakeholders.

**Action 4:** Secure funding and suitable toxicological labs for conduction of toxicological analysis needed for cases processed by Nature Conservation Inspectorate.

**Action 5:** Improve or modify existing regulations and protocols.

**Action 6:** Capacity building, awareness raising and training for prosecutors and lawyers.

**Action 7:** Involve Wildlife Recovery Centers in Anti-poisoning work.

**Action 8:** Secure that anti-poisoning strategy in endorsed by relevant governmental institutions.

**Action 9:** Transform National Anti-poisoning Working group into Task force group led by governmental institution (Ministry of Environment and Energy or Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature).

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

**Action 11:** Identify toxic substances used (legally and illegally) in cases of deliberate poisoning of wildlife or which are cause to unintentional poisoning.

**Action 12:** Support research project related to effects of heavy metals, lead, veterinary products and substances used in agriculture.