



ROMANIA

REPORT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

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1. Scientific research and monitoring

- ✓ monitoring the raptors migration
- ✓ Compiling database about more than 1000 raptor nests
- ✓ Implementing the Red Footed Falcon conservation programme in the western plains of Romania
- ✓ Mounting of artificial nests in the Western part of Romania
- ✓ Implementing the LIFE+ project “Conservation of *Aquila pomarina* in Romania”, LIFE08NAT/RO/000501, 2010-2013
- ✓ Implementing the LIFE+ project “Conservation of *Falco cherrug* in North-East Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia” LIFE09NAT/HU/000384, 2011-2014.
- ✓ By SE Programme of EU financing DANUBEPARKS project: Danube Protected Areas Network – Development and Implementation of Transnational Strategies for the Preservation of Danube Natural Heritage. Among the objectives of this project is the improvement of emblematic species preservation in the protected Danube natural areas: mink, white – tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), considered endangered species. “Achievement services, installation and maintenance of artificial nests for the White-tailed Eagle on the territory of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve”, 2009-2011.
- ✓ “Monitoring services, by ringing, of the White-tailed Eagle’s distribution (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) within the territory of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve”, 2009-2011.

2. Education and public awareness

The governmental agencies and the NGOs responded to the call and organized events making the International Vulture Awareness Day a great success. These unique events varied from bird watching tours and educational workshops to dramas, exhibitions and film competitions and were held everywhere.

World Environment Day, World Migratory Bird Day celebration were organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Local Environmental Protection Agencies (LEPAs), NGOs, universities and schools.

The national environment awareness campaign was launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forests aims to create awareness on environmental issues, among a wide group of stakeholders. Several NGOs, educational institutions, professional organisations and the National Environment Protection Agency participated in the campaign.

- ❖ publishing a series of awareness raising leaflets and a technical guide for raptor protection;
- ❖ organizing several workshops on specific raptor conservation issues;
- ❖ Information materials disseminated in the border regions.

3. Capacity building

The objective of the UNDP project „Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas” is to secure the financial sustainability of Romania’s Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) as a model for replication to the entire Carpathian Network of Protected Areas. This objective will be realized through strengthening the supportive legislative framework and sustainable protected areas financing Strategy and strengthening the institutional and individual capacities of management authorities and other

local stakeholders. The implementation Agency is the National Forestry Administration ROMSILVA. The period for implementation is 2010-2013.

❖ Training on impact assessment in Natura 2000 sites.

4. International cooperation

- One of the most relevant cross border cooperation projects is the “Romanian-Hungarian corridor for the biodiversity conservation” financed through PHARE CBC Program. This corridor for biodiversity conservation was created between the Apuseni National Park the protected areas Radvani Forest and Cefa lake in Romania and Koros - Maros National Park in Hungary, having as objectives biodiversity conservation and development of ecotourism and educational cross border projects.
- The LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project aims to transfer the knowledge and experiences of Hungarian and Slovak partners to Bulgarian and Romanian partners and help them to implement the best practices of *F. cherrug* conservation. At the same time, the project also aims to eliminate some endangering threat in the core area.
- An assessment of the effects of current agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on *F. cherrug*'s habitat in Romania and Bulgaria applying the Hungarian – Slovak methods is ongoing. A GIS will be established containing map files of habitats incorporating up to date land cover and prey data.
- 1000 copies of Bulgarian leaflet & 2000 copies of Romanian/Hungarian leaflets will be prepared. Project staffs and specialists will be in close contacts annually with an estimated 100 farmers in Bulgaria and about 200 farmers in Romania on the sites during this action, provide information and advise.
- The methodology of *F. cherrug* habitat's study developed by the LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 project has been translated and adapted into Bulgarian and Romanian.

5. Protection of migratory species, conservation measures

- ❖ In the last two years, the employees of the Milvus Group working on the *Falco cherrug* conservation LIFE+ project expansively examined the suitable natural nests for Saker Falcons occurring in the Western part of Romania. The results clearly show that the lack of such nests is one of the most important limiting factors for Sakers to inhabit these regions.
- ❖ To raise the number of artificial nests to be mounted in Western Romania. The high voltage power line network from the western counties of Romania is managed by four different transmission operator, therefore the Milvus Group Association have to reach an agreement with each of them in order to cover with artificial nests all the relevant regions. As the power network operator companies work with subcontractors when it comes to the service and maintenance of the power lines, the inclusive costs of the artificial nest installing works fall upon the companies. However the managements of the companies seem to realize the importance of this issue and they are dedicated to support, even financially, the activities.
 - ❖ To ensure the long term survival and recovery of diurnal and nocturnal raptor populations in Romania
 - ❖ To develop national action plans for raptors threatened on global or European level
 - ❖ Designate nationally and internationally important sites as protected areas with management plans taking bird of prey conservation requirements into account
 - ❖ To develop country wide monitoring program for priority species
 - ❖ To change of negative attitude of different social groups towards raptors in general or towards certain species
 - ❖ To implement direct conservation programs for different species (ex. Lesser Spotted Eagle, Saker, Red Footed Falcon, Golden Eagle, Kestrel)

- ❖ Undertake Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) in accordance with the CBD guidelines

6. Administrative, legislative, institutional measures

Organizing a working group for improvement the legal protection of bird of prey species.

Regarding the implementation of “Nature 2000” Network, Romanian legislation transposed the provisions of the two Directives (Birds and Habitats) through Government Emergency Ordinance No. 57/2007 on the regime of protected natural habitats, conservation of natural habitats of flora and fauna approved with amendments by Law No. 49/2011, the Minister Order No. 2387/2011 on the establishment of protected natural area regime for the sites of community importance and by Decision No. 971/2011 regarding the declaration of Special protection areas as integrant parts of the European ecological network „Nature 2000” in Romania.

7. Activities planned for the next year

- ❖ Increasing the responsibility and commitment of each person to contribute on the conservation of biodiversity on both professional and voluntary, governmental and non-governmental level
- ❖ Raise awareness of problems faced by raptors and measure needed to conserve them
- ❖ Monitoring of raptor populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate remedial measures
- ❖ Inventory of sites important for migratory birds of prey
- ❖ Elaboration of the inventory of the current situation on raptors, on access to environmental information, on public participation in a trans-boundary context

- ❖ Strengthening the application of legal protection for birds of prey by ensuring appropriate penalties and raising public awareness to boost surveillance and reporting of illegal activities
- ❖ Developing the raptor's conservation projects
- ❖ Increase public participation in decision-making processes
- ❖ Support the cross-border exchanges between environmental NGOs experts in order to strengthen cooperation and partnership in biodiversity's monitoring, in terms of environmental performance and towards regional sustainable development.
- ❖ Review relevant legislation and take steps to make sure that it requires all new power lines to be designated to avoid bird of prey electrocution
- ❖ Preparing the National Raptor Conservation and Management Strategy.
- ❖ Preparing the raptors MoU Action Plan
- ❖ Taking into account the needs of birds of prey conservation in sectors and related policies such as agriculture, forestry, energy, pesticide and tourism.