


**BULGARIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS**

Bulgaria, Sofia 1111, Yavorov complex, block 71,  
entrance 4, floor 1 UIC 121244539;  
tel/fax: + 359 2 979 95 00, 979 95 01, [www.bspb.org](http://www.bspb.org)



Help us protect the birds and nature of Bulgaria!

TRAINING SEMINAR ON EGYPTIAN VULTURE FIELD SURVEY TECHNIQUES  
28.7.2013-03.08.2013 (7 DAYS), BULGARIA

PROGRAMME

DAY (DATE)	SCHEDULE
<b>Day 1</b> <b>ARRIVALS</b> <b>(28.7.2013)</b>	<b>Till 20:00</b> / <u>Arrival of participants</u> : welcome and transportation to the Eastern Rhodopes by BSPB staff ( <i>Accommodation in Gorno Pole</i> : <a href="http://www.divata-ferma.vibs.bg/divata-ferma.php">http://www.divata-ferma.vibs.bg/divata-ferma.php</a> ) <b>20:00-21:00</b> / <i>Welcome dinner</i>
<b>Day 2</b> <b>PRESENTATIONS</b> <b>(29.7.2013)</b>	<b>7:30 – 08:30</b> / <i>Breakfast</i> <b>8:30 – 09:00</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Introduction to the Training Seminar: the aim of the seminar and update on the results from the LIFE+ project “The Return of the Neophron” ( <i>by Stoyan Nikolov</i> ) <b>09:00 – 09:30</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Status of the Balkan population of the Egyptian vulture ( <i>by Vladimir Dobrev</i> ) <b>09:30 – 10:00</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Techniques for monitoring of the breeding territories and productivity ( <i>by Vladimir Dobrev</i> ) <b>10:00 – 10:30</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Nest-guarding and supplementary feeding of Egyptian vultures in Bulgaria ( <i>by Vladimir Dobrev</i> ) <b>10:30 – 11:00</b> / <i>Coffee break</i> <b>11:00 – 11:30</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Raising awareness of local people on the conservation of Egyptian vultures in Bulgaria ( <i>by Nikolai Terziev</i> ) <b>11:30 – 12:00</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Anti-poison work in Greece ( <i>by Thanos Kastritis</i> ) <b>12:00 – 12:30</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Collecting blood samples and samples for pathogens from Egyptian vultures ( <i>by Vladimir Dobrev</i> ) <b>12:30 – 13:00</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Telemetry of Egyptian vultures ( <i>by Volen Arkumarev</i> ) <b>13:00 – 14:00</b> / <i>Lunch break</i> <b>14:00 – 19:00</b> / <u>Fieldwork</u> : Practical demonstration on the techniques for monitoring of the breeding territories and productivity <b>19:30 – 20:30</b> / <i>Dinner</i>
<b>Day 3</b> <b>OPEN</b> <b>DISCUSSIONS</b> <b>(30.7. 2013)</b>	<b>06:30 – 7:30</b> / <i>Breakfast</i> <b>07:30 – 13:00</b> / <u>Fieldwork</u> : Practical demonstrations on the field techniques for nest guarding, supplementary feeding, tagging and sampling of Egyptian vultures. <b>13:00 – 14:00</b> / <i>Lunch break</i> <b>14:00 – 14:30</b> / <u>Presentation</u> : Importance of trans-continental collaboration in relation to the conservation of the globally threatened migratory birds: the case with the Social Lapwing ( <i>by Rob</i>

Project “Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of Migratory Egyptian Vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*) from the Western Palearctic on their Wintering Grounds in Ethiopia, Sudan and Chad”

SSFA/CMSAD/2012/004



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	<p><i>Sheldon)</i></p> <p><b>14:30 – 15:00</b> / <u>Presentation</u>: Networking and future international collaboration in relation to the Egyptian vulture research and conservation (<i>by Stoyan Nikolov</i>)</p> <p><b>15:00 – 18:00</b> / <u>Open discussion</u>: Conservation of the Egyptian vulture along the Eastern Mediterranean Flyway (<i>Moderated by Stoyan Nikolov</i>)</p> <p><b>19:30 – 20:30</b> / <i>Social Dinner: Practical exercise with Cheverme</i></p>
<b>Day 4-6</b> <b>FIELDWORK</b> <b>(31.7-01.8.2013)</b>	<p><b>06:30 – 7:30</b> / <i>Breakfast</i></p> <p><b>07:30 – 19:30</b> / <u>Fieldwork</u>: Practical demonstrations on the field techniques for nest guarding, supplementary feeding, tagging and sampling of Egyptian vultures.</p> <p><i>(Lunch break – during the fieldwork)</i></p> <p><b>19:30 – 20:30</b> / <i>Dinner</i></p>
<b>Day 7</b> <b>DEPARTURES</b> <b>(03.8.2013)</b>	<p><b>06:30 – 7:30</b> / <i>Breakfast</i></p> <p><u>Departure of participants</u>: transportation to Sofia airport by BSPB staff.</p>



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### TRAINING SEMINAR ON EGYPTIAN VULTURE FIELD SURVEY TECHNIQUES 28.7.2013-03.08.2013 (7 DAYS), BULGARIA

#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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 "The Return of the Neophron" LIFE+ project:   
What we have achieved so far?

TSB 2013: 28.7-3.8.2013, Gorno Pole, BG  
Presenting author: Dr. Stoyan Nikolov

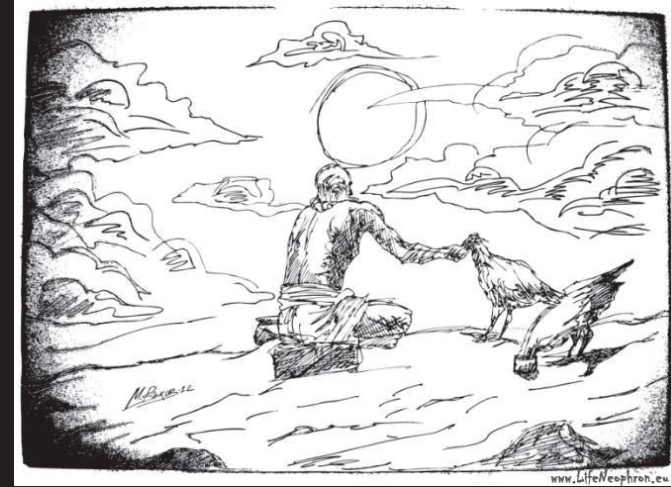


[www.LifeNeophron.eu](http://www.LifeNeophron.eu)

Photo: F. Robiller



Widespread and highly respected in the past



### Welcome to the Egyptian Vulture Training Seminar in Bulgaria 2013



**Currently Endangered (IUCN Red listed species)**  
Global population: 21,900 – 30,000 mature ind.  
In Europe, decreased by 50% in the last 50 years





## Why is it in danger?

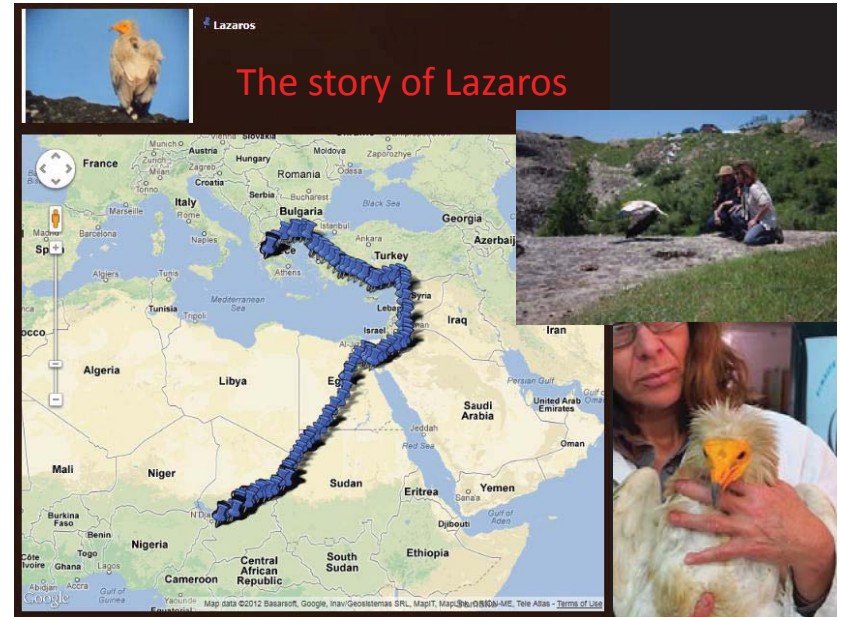
**DIRECT TREATS:** Non-intentional poisoning



## Poison bites



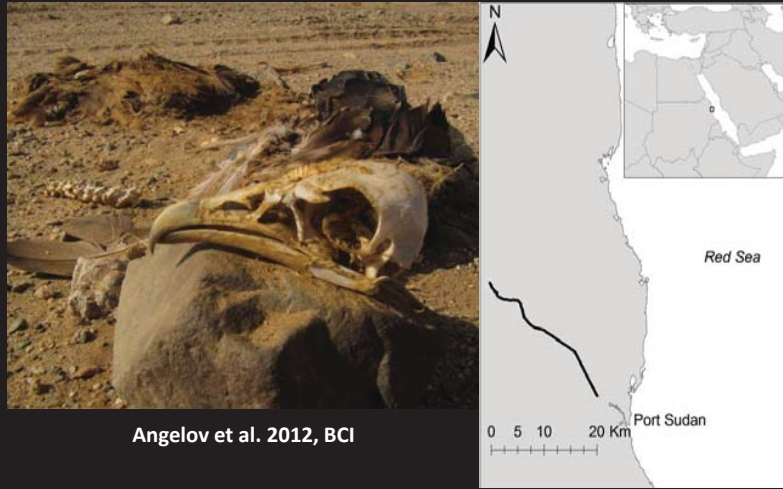
## The story of Lazaros



## Electrocution



**E.g. Port Sudan dangerous power line**



**Persecution because of transmitters:**

What the story of Spartacus and a recent report from Sudan say?



**Direct persecution**  
Taxidermy and egg collection



**INDIRECT TREATS: Disturbance**



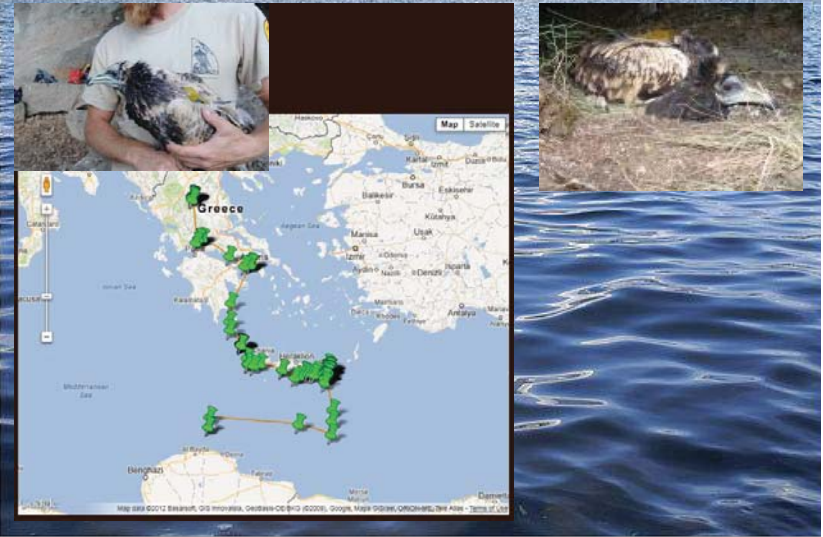


## Changing the rubbish dump system

Photo: T. Prohl



## Native barriers: the story of Ikaros and a Macedonian chick



## Habitats destruction

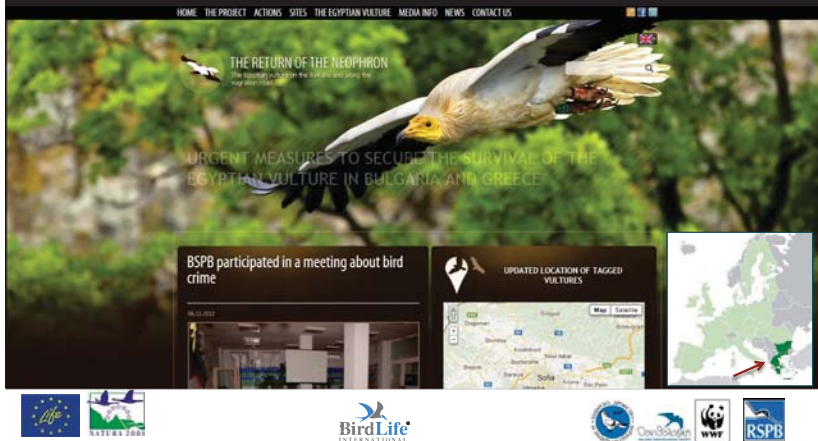


## What we do to save them?



## LIFE+ project on the Egyptian Vulture

### Urgent measures to secure survival of the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) in Bulgaria and Greece

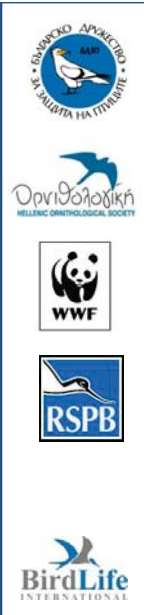


## Aim:

Prevent extinction of the species from the Balkans



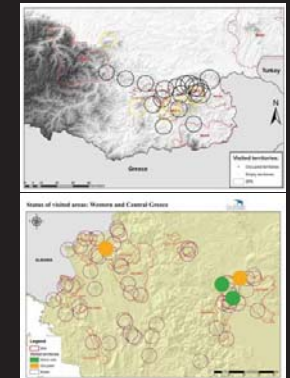
Photo: K. Hristov



## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Monitoring of the breeding population:

- Monitor territory occupancy
- Monitor breeding success



### Investigating the health status (Toxicological and DNA analysis)



Sampling 70% of the Egyptian vultures chicks in Bulgaria and Greece in 2012 and 2013



Analysis is going to be conducted in 2013



## Study on the diet



- Food remnants are collected from all accessible nests out of the breeding season
- 4 trail cameras were installed (2 in Bulgaria and 2 in Greece)
- CCTV camera installed in Bulgaria



## Satellite tagging



- 9 birds were tagged with AGRUS transmitters in 2012
- It is foreseen that 13 more birds will be tagged in 2013

## DIRECT CONSERVATION ACTIONS



### Nest guarding



At least 10 nests in Bulgaria and 2 nests in Greece are guarded yearly

Save juveniles felt down from the nests



## Supplementary feeding

- Wooden platforms (without success)

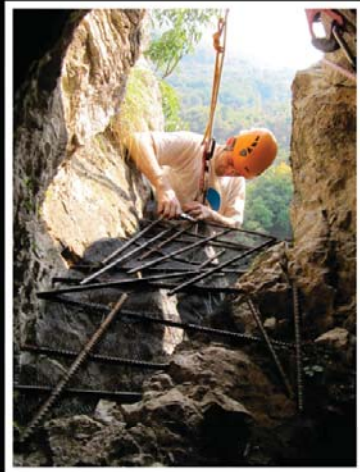


- Vulture restaurants



- Individual supplementary feeding

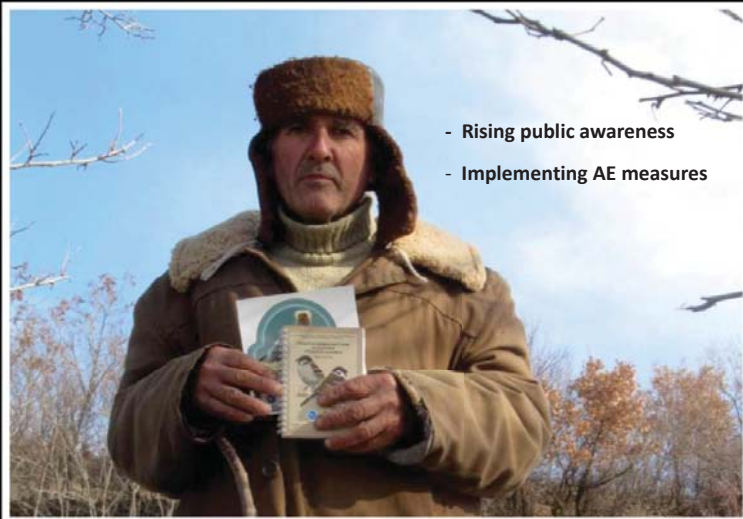
## Insulation and niche improvement



## Anti-poison network



## INDIRECT CONSERVATION ACTIONS



- Rising public awareness
- Implementing AE measures

## UNEP funded SSFA for capacity building in Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia for research and conservation of the wintering Balkan population



- **Period:** September 2012 – August 2013

### • **Action steps:**

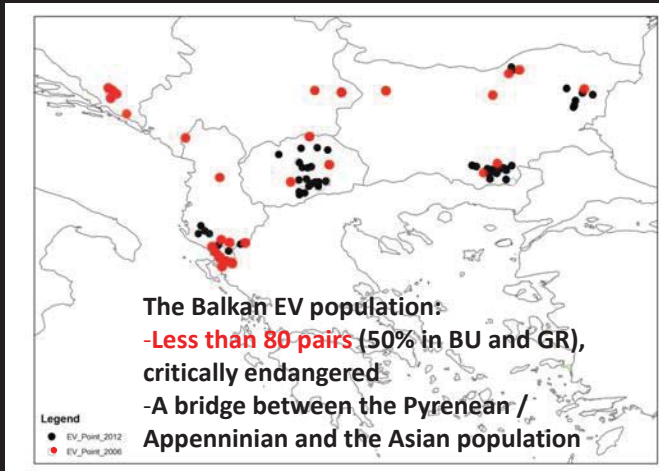
1. Training seminar in Ethiopia (09.01.2013 – 19.01.2013)
2. Small granted research projects in Chad and Soudan
3. Training seminar in Bulgaria (August 2013)





## Status of the Egyptian Vulture in the Balkans

> 50% decrease over the last 10 years



Velevski et al. (under preparation)

## Status of the Egyptian Vulture in Bulgaria

> 50% decrease over the last 10 years



## Results for 2012

### Breeding territories occupancy

- In Greece the number of pairs is 50% less than expected:
  - 15 occupied territories;
  - 8 active nests (2 failed)
- In Bulgaria, there is 3 territories less than in 2010 (32)
  - 29 occupied territories;
  - 26 active nests (1 failed)



### Breeding performance

- In Greece :
  - 6 chicks out of 8 active nests
- In Bulgaria:
  - 25 chicks out of 26 active nests



## Mortality

- In Greece , **we lost:**
  - 1 adult;
  - 4 juveniles (2 tagged)
- In Bulgaria, **we lost:**
  - 4 adults
  - 1 immature
  - 3 juveniles (2 rescued)

Results from IPM showed **high adult mortality!**

**Lack of data about reasons of the death.**



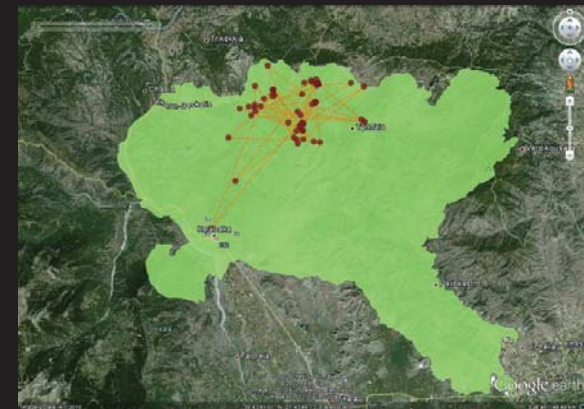
## Migration



## Nest guarding and supplementary feeding conservation efficiency

- Nest guarding (14 guarded vs 15 non-guarded nests)
  - 3 vs 1 replacements
  - 0,86 vs 0,87 chicks per nest
  - 0,79 vs 0,80 chicks flew from the nest
- Supplementary feeding (12 fed vs 17 non-fed nests)
  - 3 vs 1 replacements
  - 0,75 vs 0,94 chicks per nest
  - 0,67 vs 0,88 chicks flew from the nest

## Breeding territory use





## Challenges in a short time period:

How to integrate the results from research actions into conservation?

Efficiency of our conservation work - do we dig in the right place/?

What compromises we can do?



Photo: D. Fajardo

## Thank you for your attention!




Photo: T. Prohl

## Acknowledgements



[www.LifeNeophon.eu](http://www.LifeNeophon.eu)

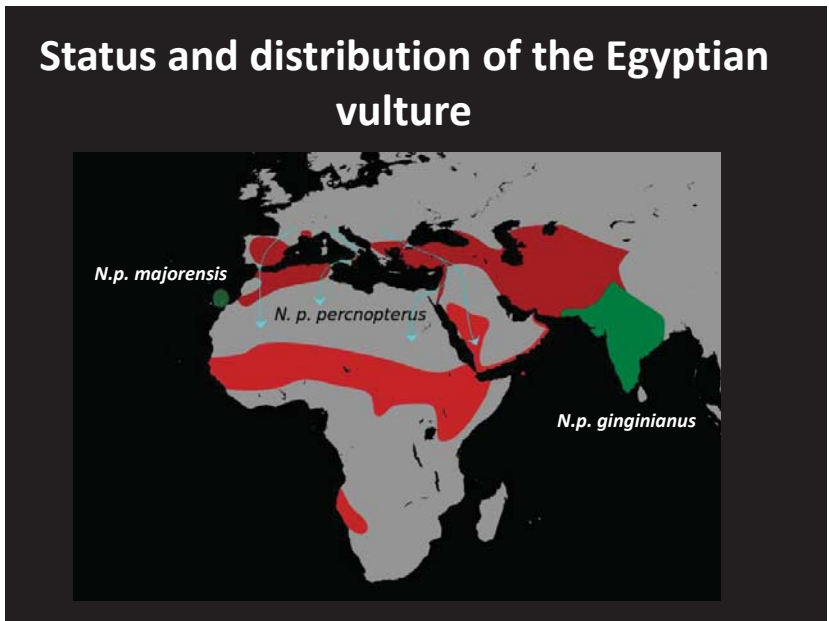
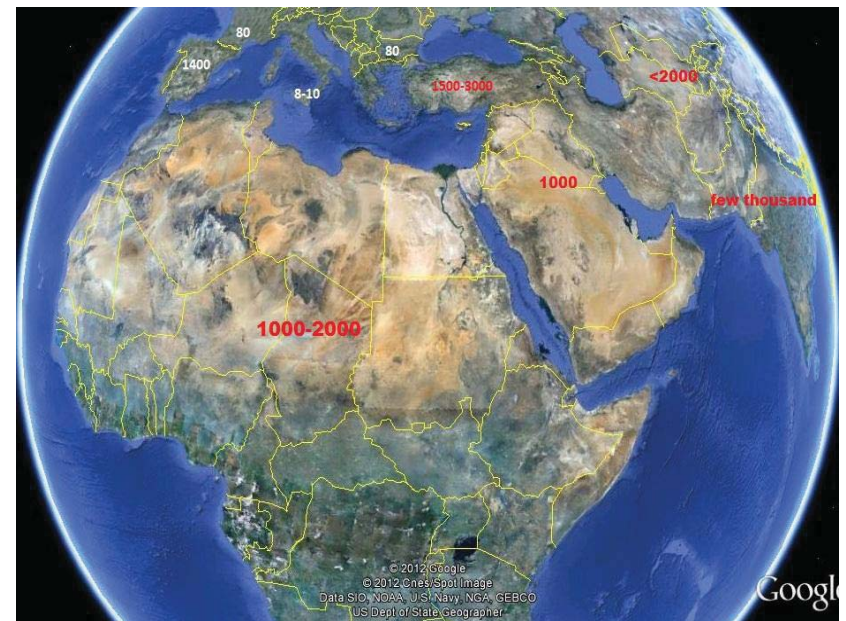


## Status of the Egyptian vulture on the Balkans






Volen Arkumarev  
 BSPB/Birdlife Bulgaria  
 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2013, Gorno pole, Bulgaria  
[www.LifeNeophron.eu](http://www.LifeNeophron.eu)

## Status of the Egyptian vulture on the Balkans

- In the XIX-th century at Bosphorus, Turkey, Egyptian Vultures were described as migrating in flocks of thousands (Alleon & Vian 1869, 1870)
- Probably at least several thousand Egyptian Vulture pairs were breeding on the Balkans at that time!





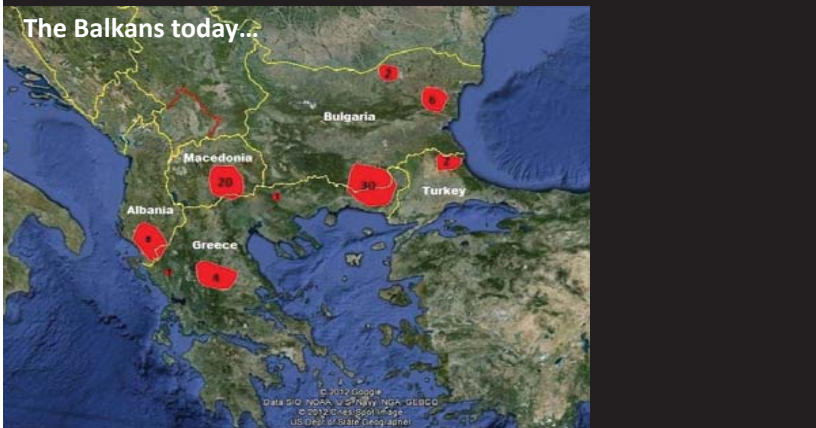
After a dramatic decline EV has disappeared from :

- Slovenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Romania
- Serbia

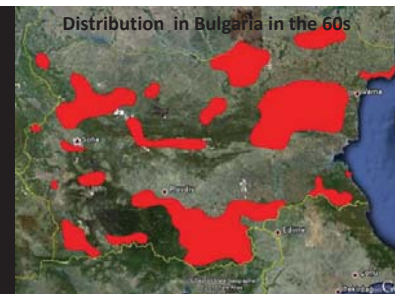


	Bulgaria	Macedonia	Greece	Albania
90-s	120-140	97	100-200	?
2000s	57 <b>49,2%</b> ↓	40 <b>47,5%</b> ↓	70 <b>80%</b> ↓	16 <b>50%</b> ↓
2012	29	21	14	8

- 80 pairs in 5 countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Albania and Turkey)
- 50% decline for the last 10 years
- Extinction expected in 30-50 years



**49% decline in the period 2003-2012**

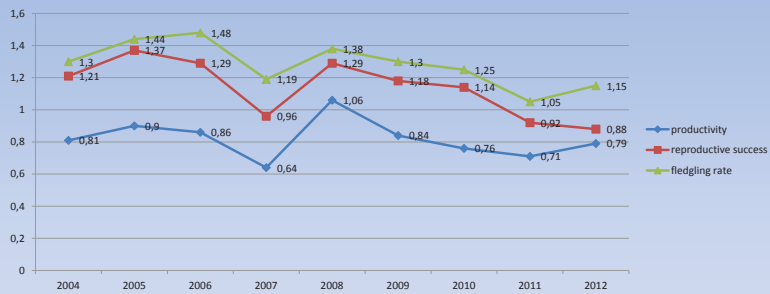




*The decline could only be explained by high mortality of adults and immatures and NOT by low breeding success*



### Breeding performance 2004 – 2012



- ✓ Productivity (fledged juveniles/monitored pairs): **0,83**
- ✓ Reproductive success (fledged juveniles/laying pairs): **1,2**
- ✓ Fledging rate (fledged juveniles/successful pairs): **1,33**

### Threats

- poisoning
- shooting
- electrocution
- disturbance
- habitat loss
- changes in food availability





## Poisoning

In September 1994 more than 60 Egyptian Vultures were poisoned in a single day at rubbish dump in Negotino, Macedonia



## Direct persecution



## Electrocution



## Habitats destruction



Thank you for your attention



Photo: Kaloyan Hristov

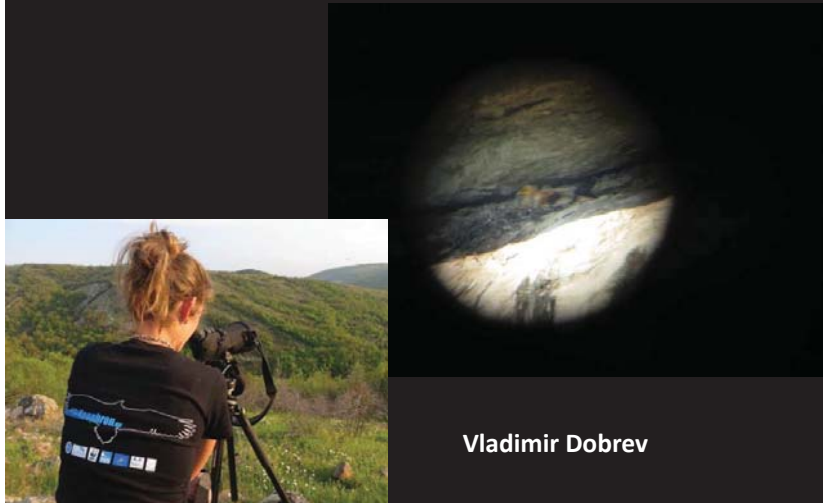
## Acknowledgements



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Techniques for monitoring of the breeding territories and productivity



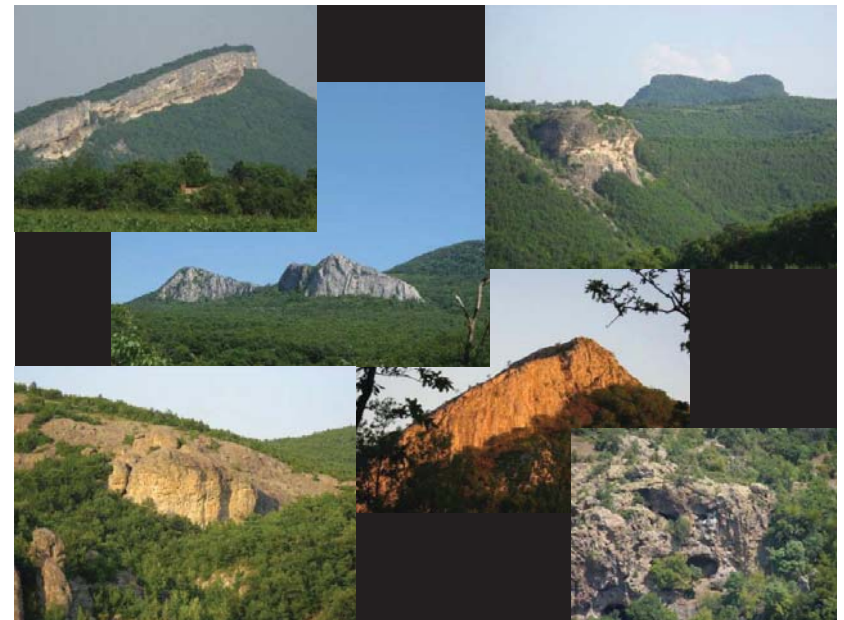
Some basic questions:

- How often?
- When?
- How?



The aim:

- to find changes in the status of the pairs
- to register the number of the chicks
- other...







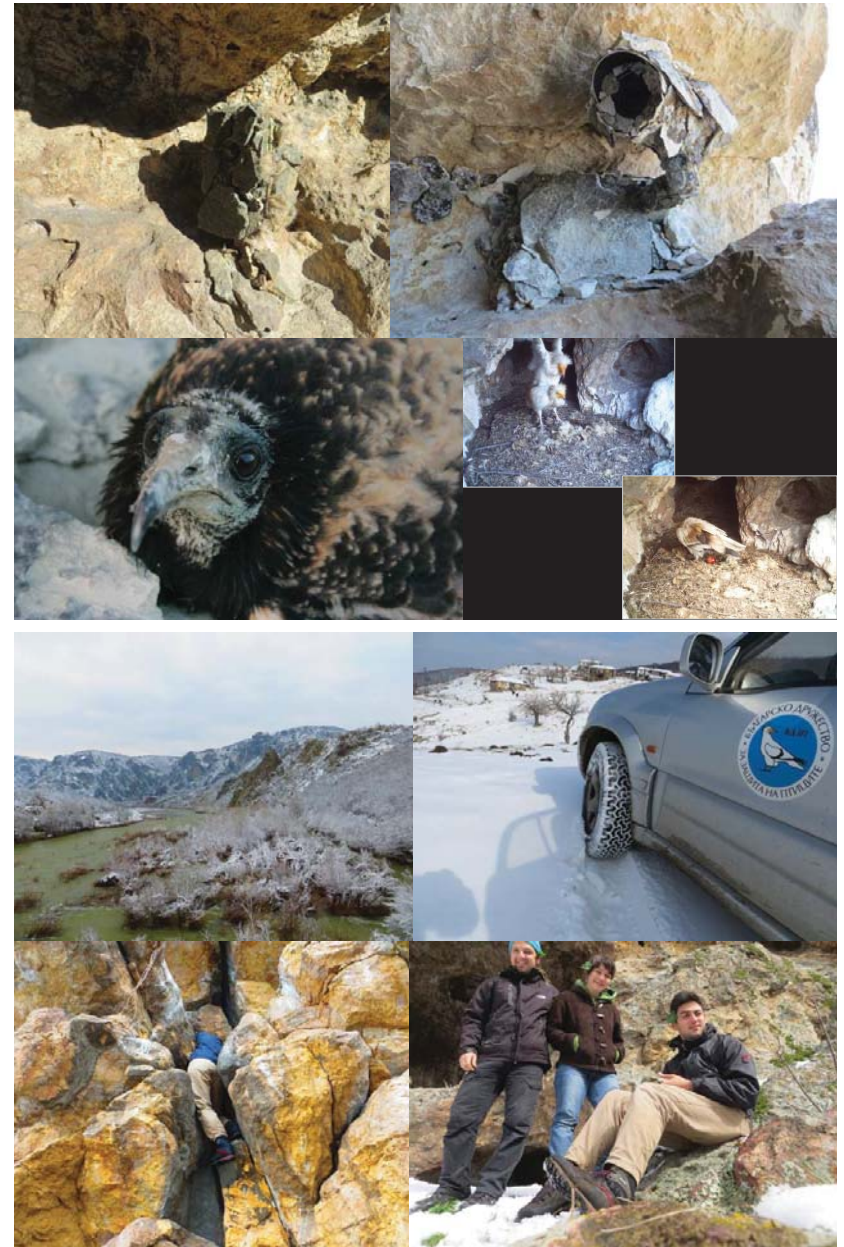
How to do it???



Different ways to reach an observation point...



And some innovations...

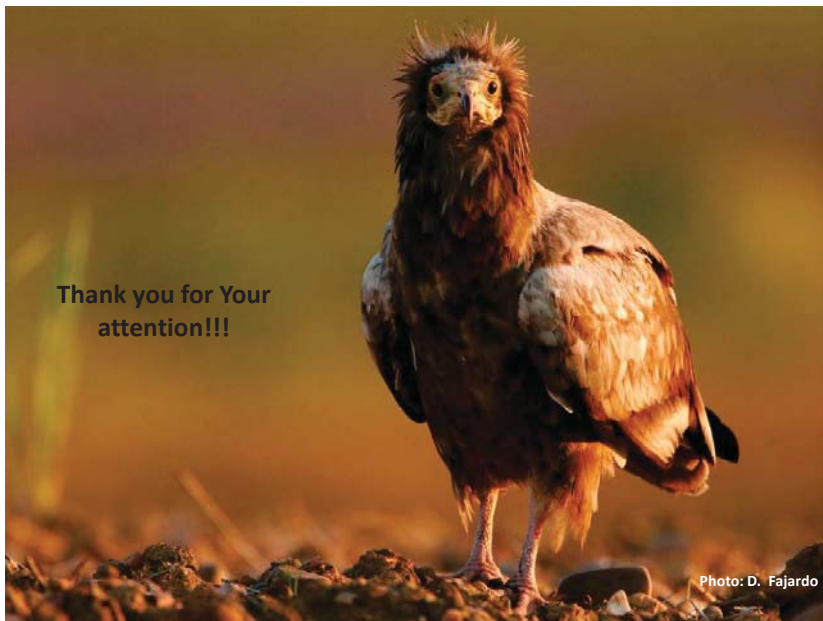




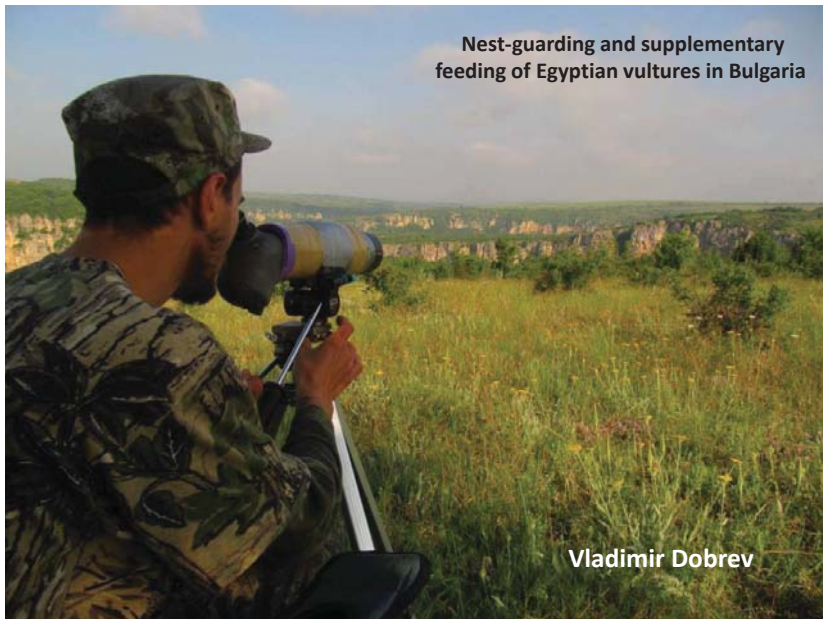
## Acknowledgements

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[www.LifeNeophron.eu](http://www.LifeNeophron.eu)







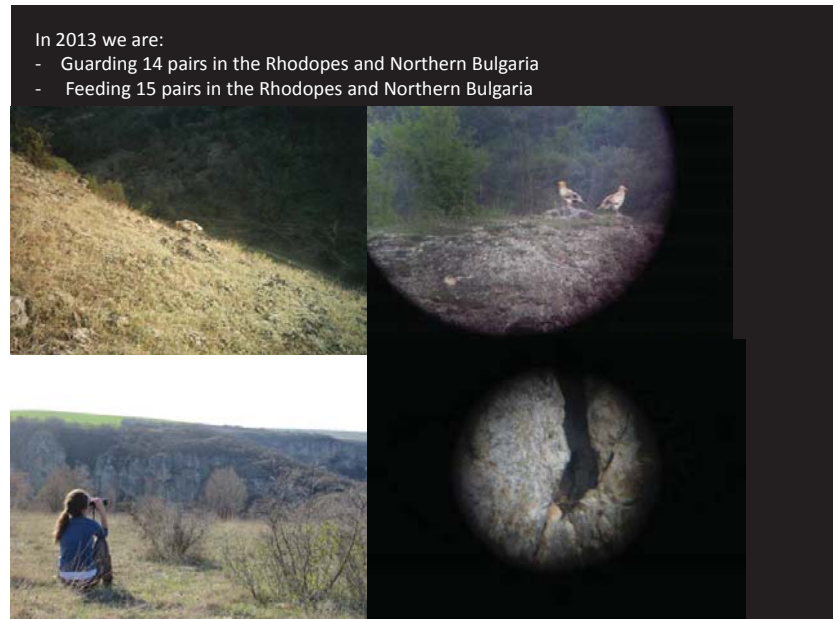
The aim:

**1. Supplementary feeding**

- to provide birds with safe food
- to increase the nest success
- ...

**2. Nest guarding:**

- to prevent pairs failing during incubation
- to save chicks fallen from the nests





What people imagine guarding is...





How we imagine the nest gusrding should be...



How the real situation looks like...



With some exceptions...



## Acknowledgements

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## “TAKE THE BULL BY ITS HORNS”: work with people



Stoyan Nikolov (BSPB)  
30<sup>th</sup> July 2013, Gorno Pole, TSB 2013



## Intellectual metamorphosis



- *I am not a sociologist (but this does not stop me to think and feel);*
- *In this presentation I will mostly ask questions than give answers...*

## In the target



- Where the main problems come from?

**People**

- Where are the keys for solving them?

**People**



## BSPB as a citizen's organization

### BSPB is

*"... representative of the community, expressing its interests regarding the nature conservation"*

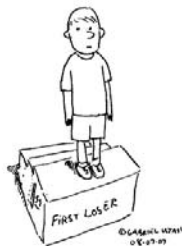
### Where we classify people?

- In our mission
- In our achievements
- In our work



## Mission "By the way"

"The BSPB works for the conservation of wild birds, the important bird areas and habitats, as well as for the conservation of biodiversity as a whole. By this the BSPB contribute to the sustainable use of the natural resources and the well-being of the people."



## Priority №18

- For the last 20 years, the BSPB involved more than 35,000 persons in the nature conservation activities.



## "Black" experience from Africa



Kevin Carter, 1993, Sudan

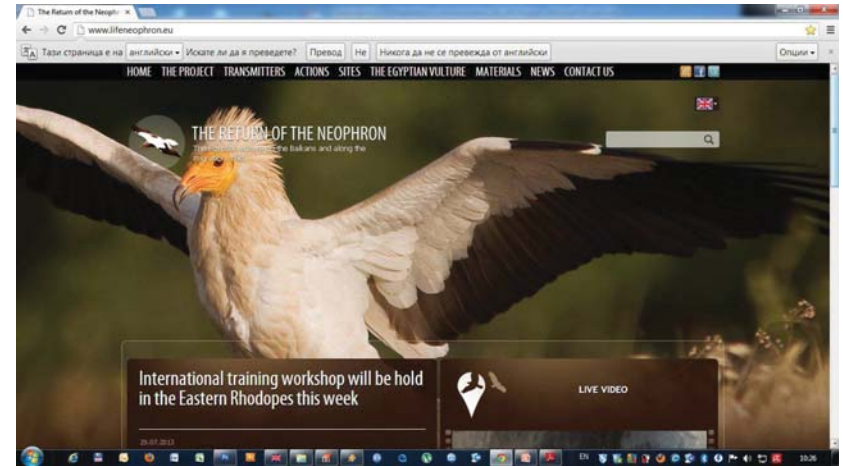


VOODOO PEOPLE



What we know and how we communicate it?

## Communication work of “The Return of the Neophron” LIFE+ project



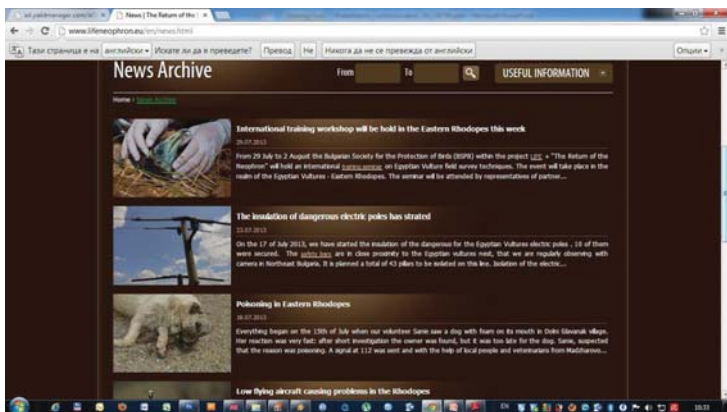
## Look through the eyes of the others



## Website coverage



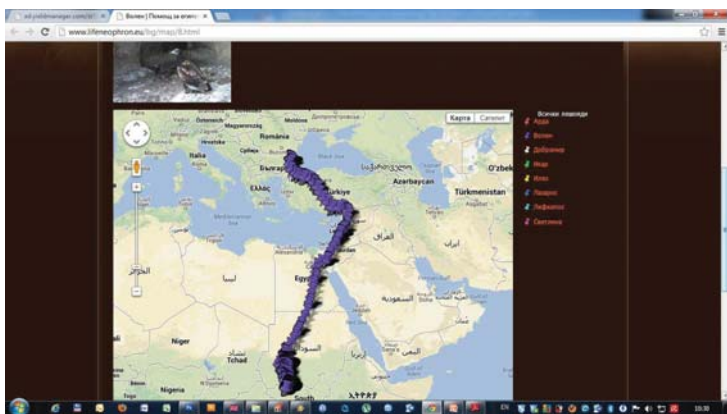
## Information on the project



## Fun for kids



## Satellite tracking



## Printed materials





## Face-to-face work with people



## What the reports are showing?

### We mark significant progress in the field of:

- Nature-oriented business(inl. AE)
- Educational activities
- Media presence
- Collaborations



## Benefits from the EV



100yan

## Bad cases

- **Stne-pit in the Natura 2000 SPA "Ponor":**



- **What the social study says?**

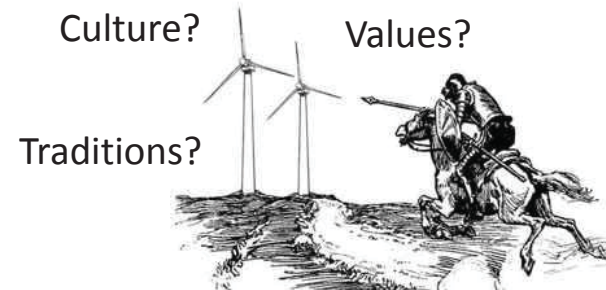
- ✓ The problems on biodiversity are with shallow cover amongst the local stakeholders;
- ✓ The interesting topic amongst stakeholders is not the biodiversity, but the EU money;
- ✓ The “idealistic approach” is strange and suspicious for the local people;



**ACCENTS:**

- ✓ What is the “wild nature” for the local people?
- ✓ Are the birds more important than people?
- ✓ There is a need of direct involvement of local communities in the decision making process and conservation activities;
- ✓ There is a need of stronger messages and presence amongst the locals .

## What are we changing?



## Our approach?

- Do we know what we want and how to achieve it?

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=eMwaA4batDc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=eMwaA4batDc)

- **Decision making:**  
Bottom-up process?
- **Estimation of the effectiveness** of our work





Thanks for your attention!



## Acknowledgements



[www.LifeNeophron.eu](http://www.LifeNeophron.eu)



## Anti-poison work in Greece

**Thanos Kastritis**

**Conservation Manager  
Hellenic Ornithological Society**

### The motives

- › Persecution of “harmful” mammals (wolf, fox, bear, marten, stray dogs etc) which cause damage to livestock, bee-keeping and farming
- › Fox population control (predation on game species, hunting dogs training problems, rabies control)
- › Conflicts between shepherds and hunters

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### The problem

- › Since the 50's poison baits were a common practice in Greece
- › In the past decades, the Forestry authorities were using poison baits for the control of “harmful” mammals, like foxes and wolves
- › For more than 20 years, the use of poison baits is illegal
- › Poison baits are still a widespread practice in Greece
- › A major threat for wildlife (carrion eating birds, mammals)
- › Losses of shepherd and hunting dogs

### The reasons

- › Inefficient institutional framework for the protection of livestock
- › Inefficient compensation system for losses/damages
- › Lack of effective wardening
- › Minimum control of pesticides trade and use
- › Inefficient mechanism for conflict resolution between hunters and shepherds/farmers
- › Lack of game species management tools
- › Poor implementation of stray dogs legislation
- › Use of untrained shepherd dogs (inefficient against wolf attacks, attacks to hunting dogs)

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## The extent

› 2000-2012: More than 500 poison incidents – high underestimation

In the last two years:

- › 2 Egyptian Vultures in Meteora (2012)
- › Extinction of the largest Griffon Vulture colony in Greece + 4 Golden Eagles (2012) in Nestos gorge
- › 2 Egyptian Vultures in Macedonia (2013)
- › 2 Great Spotted Eagles + 1 jackal in Nestos Delta (2013)
- › 3 Bears (Pindos, Prespes) + 1 wolf (2012)

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## The efforts

### Central administration

Lobbying  
Legislation enforcement  
Proposal of measures  
Collaboration with BirdLife International & other NGOs  
Public awareness

HOS fights against poisons at two levels

### Local authorities and stakeholders

Collaboration with management bodies, forestry services, etc

Support & public awareness of key stakeholders

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## "The Return of the Neophron" LIFE project: anti-poison actions

Pilot creation of Key Stakeholders Network against the use of poison

National Anti-poison Working Group





## Local Anti-poison Network

› Creation of Key Stakeholders Network with the participation of local people and authorities, which will be applied as tools to tackle the underlying reasons for the use of poison and also to facilitate law enforcement

› Implementation in 3 SPAs in the Epirus Region (Western Greece):  
Mt Tymfi (GR2130011)  
Central Zagori (GR2130009)  
Mt Paramythias (GR2120008)



## Local Anti-poison Network

› Key stakeholders are separated in two distinct groups: 'Field' and 'Administrative' Stakeholders

› *Field Stakeholders*: individuals (mainly local people) who are always - or very often- in the country, mostly close to important sites for the Egyptian vulture - livestock owners, shepherds, farmers, hunters, naturalists, hikers, other individuals

› *Administrative Stakeholders*: authorities and organizations which have a connection with land, nature or wild life management - municipalities, national park management bodies, hunting associations, livestock keepers associations, bee-keeper associations, environmental local NGOs, hikers and mountaineers clubs, etc.

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## Local Anti-poison Network - Field Stakeholders

The project to the stakeholders:

› *advice on legal and practical predator control methods*

› *legal advice and practical support if poison baits or poisoned birds/animals are encountered*

› *advice on possible compensation payments in case of losses due to natural predators*

› *provision of electric fences and shepherd dogs*

› *provision of binoculars, identification leaflet and "anti-poison" hats*

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## Local Anti-poison Network - Field Stakeholders

The stakeholders to the project:

› *abstain from using poison baits*

› *report poison baits incidents*

› *report predator damages*

› *cooperate with other project actions*



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## Local Anti-poison Network - Field Stakeholders

The creation of the Anti- Poison Network step by step (April 2012- June 2013):

- › Meetings with individuals either on the field or at their own homes (>150 individuals)
- › "Informal" meetings in a "friendly environment" with individuals at the cafes of the villages (>20 meetings)
- › Two "official" presentations targeting high school teachers and local community



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## Local Anti-poison Network - Field Stakeholders

- › Provision of electric fences, shepherd dogs, binoculars and information material



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## Local Anti-poison Network - Field Stakeholders

- › Provision of electric fences, shepherd dogs, binoculars and information material



## Local Anti-poison Network - Administrative Stakeholders

The project to the stakeholders:

- › "Poison Kit" for sample collection of poisoned animals
- › special training seminars related to poison and predator conflict for public authorities' staff
- › seminars about the ecology, life history, conservation and cultural importance of Egyptian vultures
- › all information material produced by the project

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## Local Anti-poison Network - Administrative Stakeholders

The stakeholders to the project:

- › use the poison kit provided, and send the collected samples to the Local Vet Service
- › cooperate with other project actions
- › promote the project among the local community, making use of their relevant or influential position
- › expressing opposition to the use of poison, or prosecuting people using poisons

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## Local Anti-poison Network - Administrative Stakeholders

The creation of the Anti- Poison Network step by step (April 2012- June 2013):

- › Meetings with certain key persons in relevant state offices and other agencies (Municipalities, Management Bodies, Hunting clubs and Association, Forest Service, Regional Directorate of Environment, Veterinary Services, Environmental NGOs, mountaineering clubs, local village councils, cultural clubs etc). (>30 meetings)
- › Official letters to various institutions/ organizations/ municipalities with a request to join the Anti-Poison network

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## Local Anti-poison Network – Results

- › 17 persons have joined the “Field” Stakeholders Anti-poison Network formally, while many more collaborate informally. It is expected that more than 30 individuals will be part of the network by the end of 2013.
- › 4 bodies (2 municipalities, 1 local NGO, 1 municipal association) have formally joined the “Administrative” Stakeholders Anti-poison Network and several others have already expressed positive interest. It is expected that about 15 different bodies will be part of the network by the end of 2013.



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## National Anti-poison Working Group

- › Common initiative of the “Return of the Neophron” and the “Life Against Poison” (LIFE09 NAT/ES/000533) LIFE+ projects
- › 7 national environmental NGOs/institutions (~ 20 experts)
- › Contribution from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, University of Thessaloniki



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Collecting blood samples and samples for pathogens from Egyptian vultures



Vladimir Dobrev



A story in pictures...







A study for pathogens



Biometry



Toxicology and DNA study









## Telemetry of Egyptian vultures

29<sup>th</sup> July 2013  
Gorno pole, Bulgaria





Volen Arkumarev  
Bulgarian Society for the  
Protection of Birds/Birdlife  
Bulgaria  
[www.LifeNeophron.eu](http://www.LifeNeophron.eu)



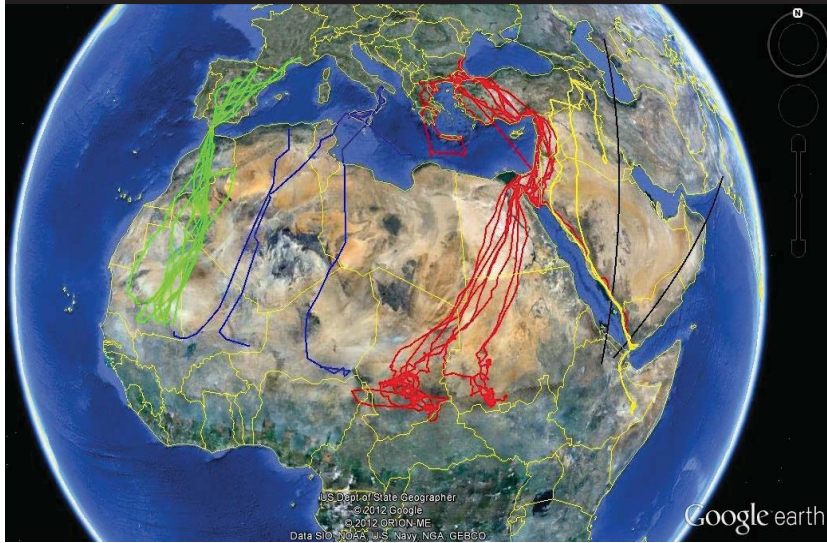

## Tagged Egyptian vultures on the Balkans

Country	Adult	Subadult	Juvenile	Total	Transmitting
Bulgaria	1	1	8	10	4
Greece	1		3	4	1
Macedonia			1	1	0
Balkans(total)	2	1	12	15	5



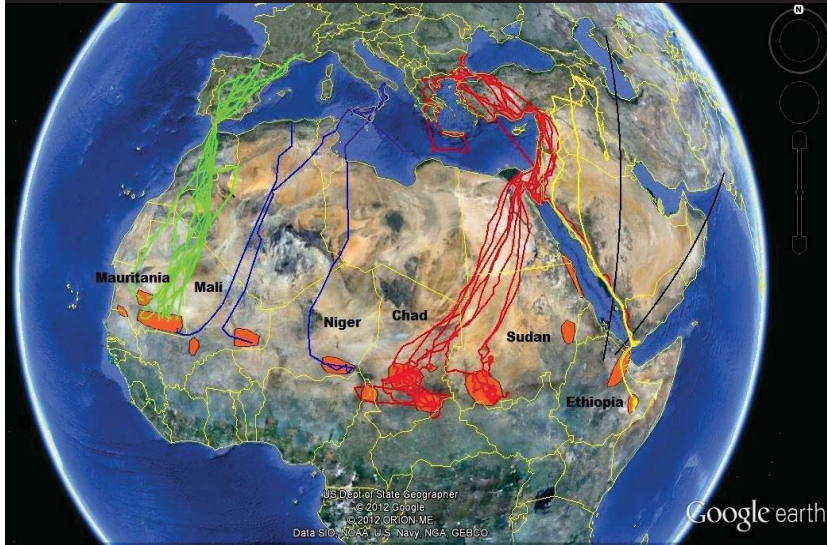

# Migration







# What do we know about the threats



# Winter quarters

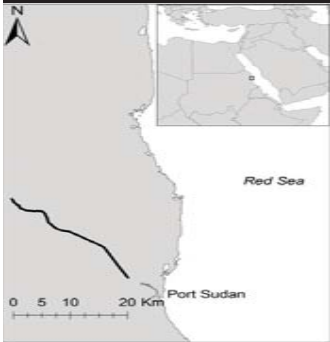


# Threats along the flyway

<b>Electrocution</b> 	<b>Poisoning</b> 
<b>Water barriers</b> 	<b>Poaching</b> 



## Electrocution



This powerline has caused the death of hundreds, perhaps thousands EV over the last 50 years (Angelov & Hashim 2012 )



## Poisoning



## Poaching



## Use of vultures in traditional medicine or for magic



# The sad story of Spartacus...



Birds killed because of transmitters



Thank you for your attention!



[www.LifeNeophron.eu](http://www.LifeNeophron.eu)  
[www.bspb.org](http://www.bspb.org)



## Saving a Globally Threatened Species across international boundaries: A case study of the Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*

Rob Sheldon:  
 Head of International Species Recovery, RSPB  
 Co-ordinator of the Sociable Lapwing International Working Group, AEWA

Funded by



Project partners



First AEWA SAP published in 2004:

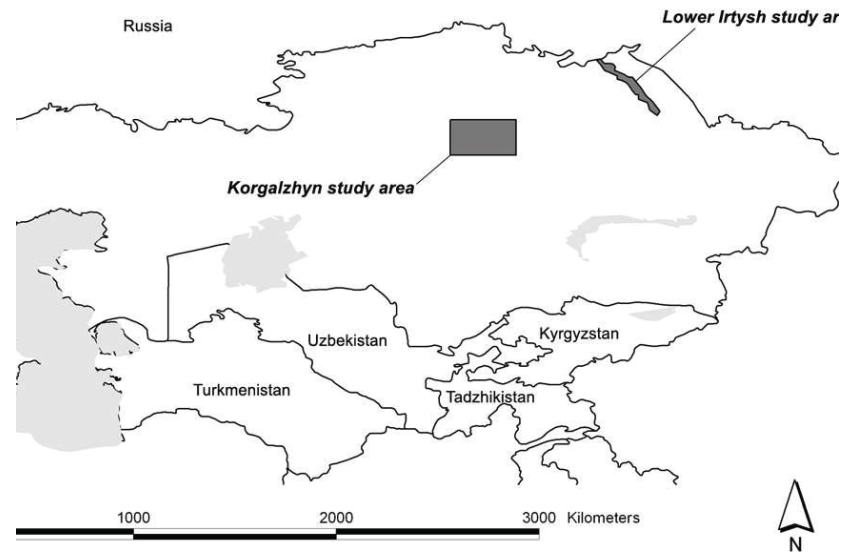
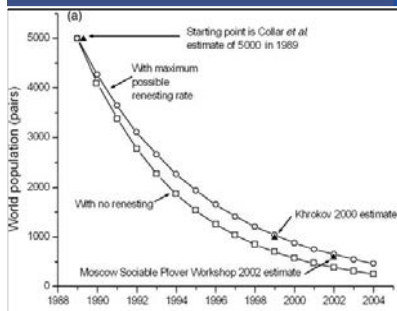
Problems on breeding grounds

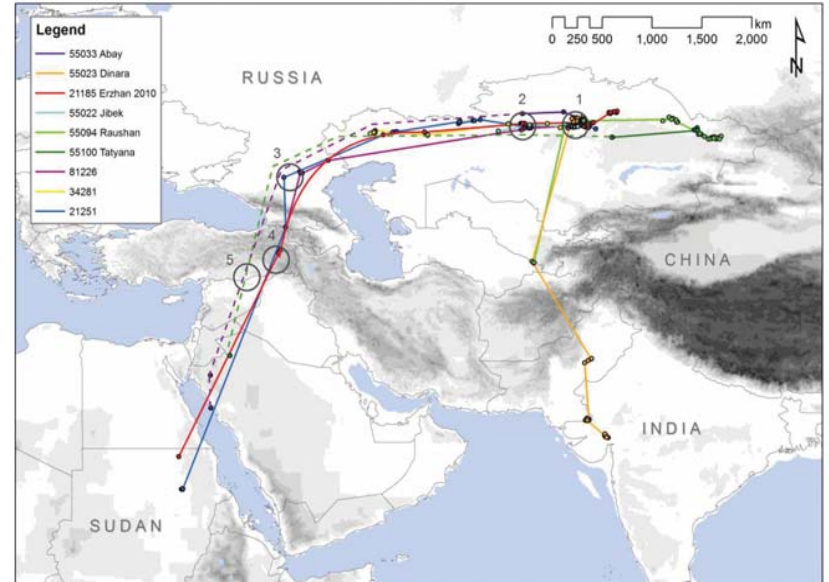
TECHNICAL SERIES  
 No. 28 (CMS)  
 No. 47 (AEWA)



International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sociable Lapwing

*Vanellus gregarius*





Data analysis shows the decline due to low adult survival.

Problems away from the breeding grounds:

13 Principal Range States

- Middle East
- North Africa
- NW India/Pakistan

TECHNICAL SERIES  
No. 28 (CMS)  
No. 47 (AEWA)



International Single Species Action Plan  
for the Conservation of the  
Sociable Lapwing

*Vanellus gregarius*





Revise the Species Action Plan.

Most up to date knowledge.

Include NGO & Government representative from each of the 13 Principal Range States.

Adopted by AEWA & CMS (internationally recognised).

TECHNICAL SERIES  
No. 28 (CMS)  
No. 47 (AEWA)



International Single Species Action Plan  
for the Conservation of the  
Sociable Lapwing

*Vanellus gregarius*



## Framework for Action:

- Goal:
  - To restore the Sociable Lapwing to favourable condition status and remove it from the threatened categories of the IUCN red-list and column A of AEWA Table 1
- Objective:
  - To reverse the recent negative population trend leading to a population size of 8-10,000 breeding pairs by 2022

SAP acts as a framework for conservation delivery

Key is **IMPLEMENTATION**

AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group (finalised the SAP)



## Result & actions:

- Result 1: baseline annual survival rate is increased by 2022
- Action 1.1: Minimise the loss of SoLa by hunting along the flyways through creation & efficient enforcement of legislation



Hunting mitigation work:

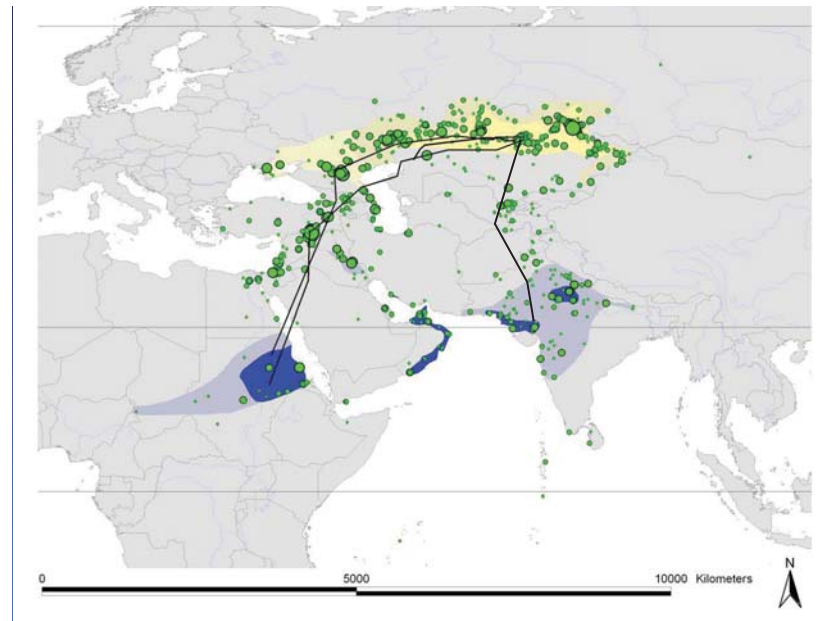


## SAP Implementation:

- Long-term funding and support from Swarovski Optik
- AEWA Sociable Lapwing International Working Group
- SLIWG co-ordinator (co-ordinates activities, funding & reviews progress)



Legal mechanisms – AEWA IRP





Sociable Lapwing is an excellent example of international collaboration

Relatively 'simple' conservation problem

Relatively few range states

Agreed goals across range states

NGO & Government

AEWA acts as a legal framework

Dedicated co-ordination for SAP implementation

TECHNICAL SERIES

No. 28 (CMS)  
No. 47 (AEWA)



International Single Species Action Plan  
for the Conservation of the  
Sociable Lapwing

*Vanellus gregarius*



## Networking and future international collaboration in relation to the Egyptian vulture research and conservation

TSB 2013: 30.7.2013, Gorno Pole, BG

Stoyan Nikolov



[www.LifeNeophron.eu](http://www.LifeNeophron.eu)



### Research and conservation of the Egyptian Vulture along the Eastern Mediterranean migration flyway: challenges at trans-continental level

- What we need?
  - Urgent measures to secure the species
- How we can achieve that?
  - More research – scientifically based evidences about the problems
  - Close communication and collaboration between all involved organizations, institutions and authorities at trans-continental level
  - Good will in decision makers to build and implement such measures
  - Human and financial capacity to apply the measures

## Research and conservation of the Egyptian vulture along the Eastern Mediterranean migration flyway

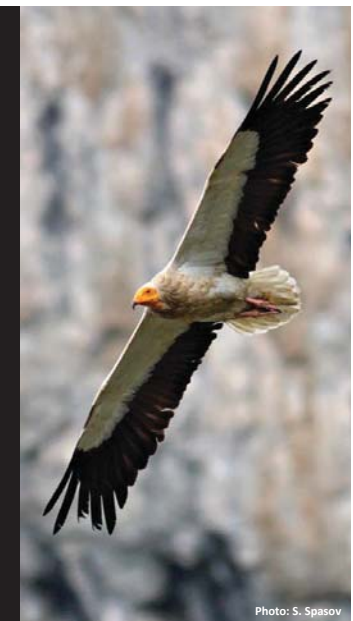
### 1. Research – gaps in our knowledge:

- Migration flyway
- Habitat use
- Numbers and dynamics of migrating and wintering birds
- Physiological condition
- Threats analysis at local level



### 2. Opportunities for decision making on species conservation:

- National working groups
- Egyptian vulture experts e-mail group  
*(launched till the end of 2012)*
- International Egyptian vulture conference  
*(2015, country will be defined?)*
- Species Flyway Action Plan  
*(with the contribution of MoU)*





### 3. Collaboration and capacity building:

- **Collaboration at regional level**
  - Common research and conservation projects between countries
- **Collaboration at continental level**
  - e.g. EU programmes (LIFE+)
- **Collaboration at trans-continental level**
  - Europe
  - Middle East
  - Africa /Egypt, Ethiopia, Chad, Sudan/  
*MoU or OSME could support this!*



Photo: V. Konstantinova

Thank you for your attention!



## Acknowledgements



[www.LifeNeophron.eu](http://www.LifeNeophron.eu)





## BULGARIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

Bulgaria, Sofia 1111, Yavorov complex, block 71,  
entrance 4, floor 1UIC 121244539;  
tel/fax: + 359 2 979 95 00, 979 95 01, www.bspb.org



Help us protect the birds and nature of Bulgaria!

### TRAINING SEMINAR ON EGYPTIAN VULTURE FIELD SURVEY TECHNIQUES 28.7.2013-03.08.2013 (7 DAYS), BULGARIA

#### NOTES FROM THE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE MEETING

##### I. Prioritization of gaps in our knowledge for the EV population on the Balkans

Participants on the seminar listed 17 gaps in our knowledge for the EV population on the Balkans. Questionnaire with the full list of identified gaps was distributed to the participants to rank the top 5 priority issues. The results from the ranking are presented below (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Results from the prioritization of the top 5 gaps (marked in bold) in our knowledge for the EV population on the Balkans (based on 17 questionnaires).

No	Priority gaps in our knowledge for the EV population on the Balkans	Total scores
1	<b>Mortality factors (one major factor or a complex of factors)</b>	<b>67</b>
2	<b>Sinks (hot spots areas in terms of threats) and save areas</b>	<b>35</b>
3	<b>Actual risk on tagging and ringing</b>	<b>20</b>
4	<b>Age specific mortality</b>	<b>18</b>
5	<b>Distribution, number and trends in Albania, European and W Turkey</b>	<b>17</b>
6	Where are the floaters	16
7	Migration flyway	11
8	Rate of replacements	7
9	Impact of contaminants on the breeding success and mortality (solutions of the problem)	7
10	Real effects from the conservation actions	6
11	Alternatives for methods which are not applicable for investigation of the Balkan EV population	5
12	May we extrapolate the knowledge from other countries	5
13	Parameters of the viable population (is data from other populations relevant)	4
14	Home range of the adults	3
15	How the pairs are formed	2
16	Is there a role of the captive breeding in saving the Balkan EV population	2
17	Where the juvenile EVs recruit (on the Balkans only or elsewhere)	0





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Help us protect the birds and nature of Bulgaria!

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### II. What we can do to have better communication/coordination about the EV

1. E-mail group
2. Get in touch with more countries from the flyway
3. Key range states for the FAP
4. Network of supporters
5. Collaboration with other institutional level collaborators (also VCF)
6. Education activities (mainly for Africa)
7. Balkan working group / Thematic groups / Global working group (eg. IUCN vulture working group)
  - Concept
  - Coordinator
  - Focal points (1-2 persons; 1 official & one from NGO)
  - Regular e-mail contact
  - Closed intranet site
  - Meetings (when needed)

### III. Mortality factors (and age-specific mortality) : important questions

1. What is killing birds, where and when?
2. Poisoning (with focus on Greece and FYROM)
3. What priority actions to do in the next 3 years to understand the mortality factors better?
  - Satellite tagging (and alternative methods: face control, marking feathers, networking and distribution of questionnaires in the wintering grounds)
  - EV monitoring in breeding and wintering grounds
  - Cooperation between countries along the migration flyway
  - DB on poisoning events (*there could be a bias effect!*)
  - Migration counts
  - Immediate actions on specific (hot spot) places
  - Analyze data from tagging/marking and transmitters
  - DNA analyses (samples from Turkey compared to the Balkans)