

The start of the Life+ project on the conservation of the Egyptian vulture in Bulgaria and Greece...

Aim:

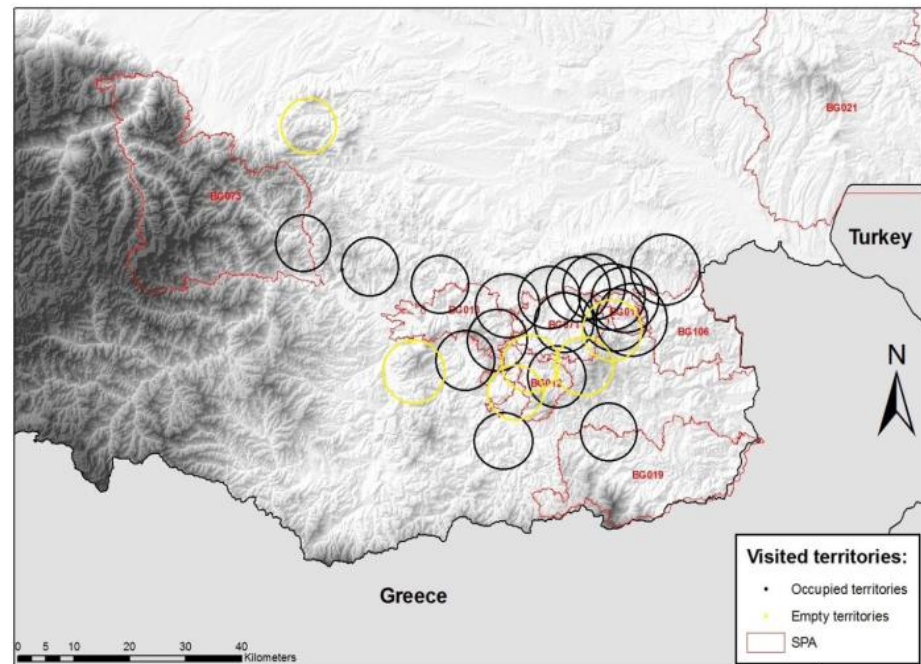
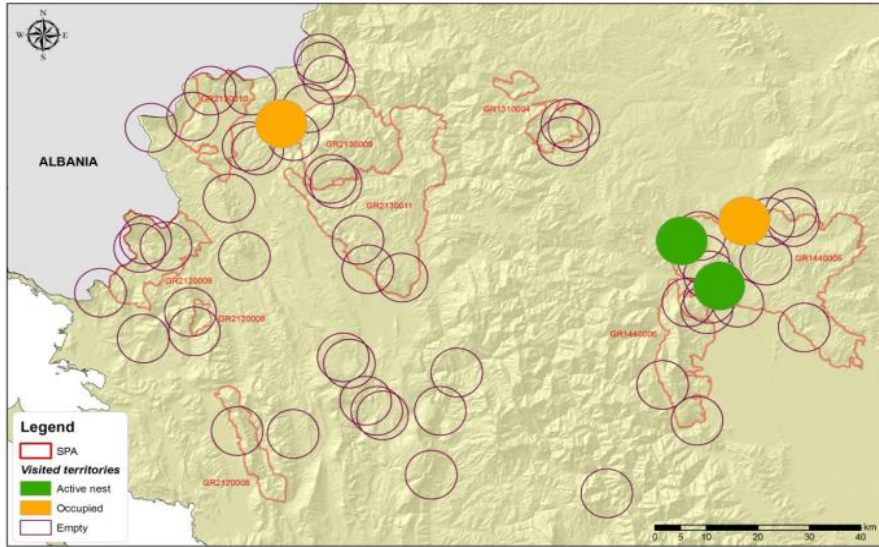
**Prevent extinction of the
species from the Balkans**



Photo: K. Hristov

Monitoring of active and recently abandoned nesting territories

Status of visited areas: Western and Central Greece





Monitoring results:

1. *Bulgaria:*

- more than 50 territories were checked and monitored
- 29 of them occupied;
- 26 active nests (1 failed);
- 25 chicks were raised;
- Population decline with 9% in comparison with 2011 (32 occupied territories) and with 51% in comparison with 2003 (57 occupied territories)



Monitoring results:

1. Greece:

- more than 60 territories were checked and monitored
- 15 of them occupied;
- 8 active nests;
- 6 chicks were raised;
- Number of pairs is 50% less than expected;

Toxicological and DNA analysis

Every year we took samples from at least 70% of the Egyptian vultures chicks in Bulgaria and Greece



2012:

- 19 chicks (76%) in Bulgaria were sampled
- 4 chicks (67%) in Greece were sampled

Study of the diet



- Food remnants are collected from all accessible nests out of the breeding season;
- 4 trail cameras were installed in nests (2 in Bulgaria and 2 in Greece);
- 2 trail cameras were used on the feeding stations;
- 1 HD camera was installed in a nest;

Satellite tagging



- 9 birds were tagged with AGRUS transmitters in 2012
- It is foreseen that 30 more birds will be tagged in 2013

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Nest guarding



- 10 nests in Bulgaria and 2 nests in Greece are guarded yearly;
- > 13 men with more than 900 men days for 2012 spent on the field

Results:

- All guarded nests were successful except one;
- Two juveniles felt down from the nests were saved (1 in Bulgaria and 1 in Greece);
- we collect a very useful information about threats and biology of the specie;

Supplementary feeding

- **Wooden platforms (without success)**



- **Vulture restaurants**

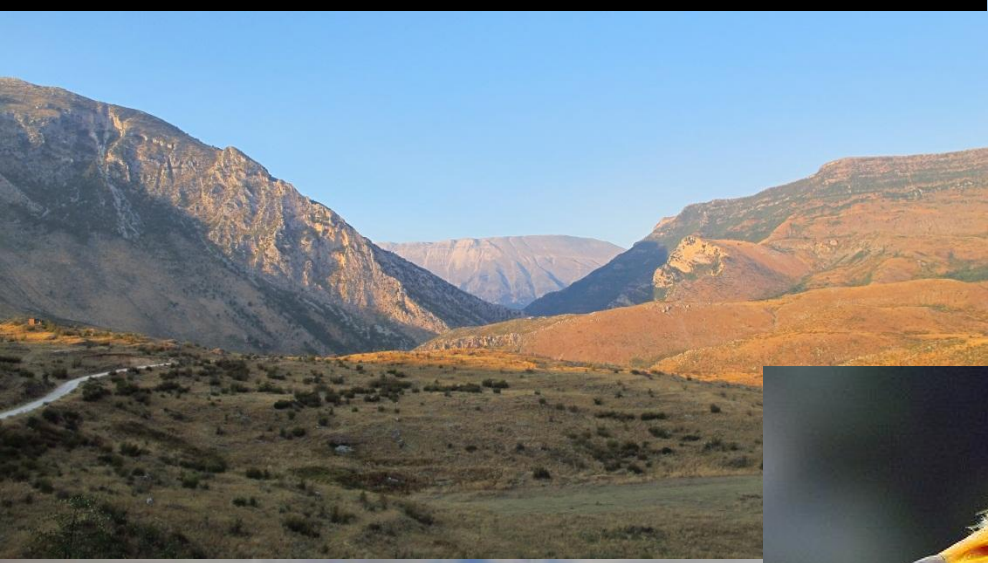
- **Individual supplementary feeding**

Results of the Supplementary feeding

- 10 pairs benefit from the supplementary feeding;
- a scheme for individual supplementary feeding was developed;
- 1 adult was found dead near a place for artificial feeding;



Expeditions in Turkey, Albania, West Greece



The Egyptian vulture on the Balkans < 80 occupied territories



The main conclusion :
We need **URGENT**
measures!!!

3 main steps

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:

- Egyptian vulture experts e-mail group
(will be launched till the end of 2012)
- International Egyptian vulture conference
(August 2013, Bulgaria)
- Species Flyway Action Plan



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/



**Thank you for your
attention!!!**



Acknowledgements



www.LifeNeophron.eu

