

3. Jahresbericht Bericht April 2007 - März 2008 Und Schlußbericht

Projekt:

Schutz der vier europäischen Geierarten (Bartgeier – *Gypaetus barbatus*, Gänsegeier – *Gyps fulvus*, Mönchsgeier – *Aegypius monachus* und Schmutzgeier – *Neophron percnopterus*) in Bulgarien

Aktenzeichen DBU: AZ 23161-33/2 vom 4.3. 2005

Aktenzeichen ZGF: ZGF 1324/04

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Kooperationspartner:

- Environmental Partnership Program Central and Eastern Europe – Sektion Bulgarien BEPF
Black Vulture Conservation Foundation (BVCF)
- Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds (Birdlife Bulgaria)
- Green Balkans Federation
- Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds of Prey BPPS
- Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna FWFF.
- Alpine Klub Edelweiss
- Ministerium für Umwelt und Wasser Republik Bulgarien
- Minister für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Republik Bulgarien

Berichtszeitraum: April 2008 bis März 2008

Laufzeit des Projektes: 4.3.2005 bis 1.3. 2008

Frankfurt/Sofia Juni 2008

Projektkennblatt
der
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Az	23161	Referat	33/2	Fördersumme	124.850
Antragstitel	Schutz der vier europäischen Geierarten (Bartgeier - Gypaetus barbatus, Gänsegeier - Gyps fulvus, Mönchsgeier - Aegypius monachus, Schmutzgeier - Neophron percnopterus) in Bulgarien				
Stichworte	Naturschutz Arten- / Biotopschutz				
Laufzeit	Projektbeginn	Projektende	Projektphase(n)		
3 Jahre	04.03.2005	1.3.2008			
Zwischenberichte					
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Zielsetzung und Anlaß des Vorhabens

Ziel des Programms mit seinen Komponenten ist es, in Bulgarien stabile Populationen aller vier Geierarten aufzubauen und die äußeren Bedingungen so günstig zu gestalten, dass diese sich dauerhaft selbst erhalten können.

Darstellung der Arbeitsschritte und der angewandten Methoden

Ein Rahmenaktionsplan zum Schutz der vier europäischen Geierarten im Balkanraum wurde entwickelt und durch ein logisches Rahmenkonzept in einzelne Umsetzungsschritte umgebrochen. Die Maßnahmen unterteilen sich in direkte und indirekte Hilfsmaßnahmen, die eine Sofortwirkung zeigen und in solche, die dem langfristigen Schutz der Geierarten dienen.

Folgende Komponenten fügen sich zu einem sinnvollen Ganzen und wurden im Rahmen des Aktionsplanes zum Schutz der Balkangeier (ASBG/BVAP) mit den Experten aus sieben Ländern herausgearbeitet.

Komponente A: **Direkter Bestandsschutz** durch:

1. Einrichtung von temporären Futterplätzen;
2. Bewachung von Horstplätzen, insbesondere während der Brutzeit;
3. Aufbau eines Beobachternetzwerkes im Balkanraum;
4. Förderung der natürlichen Nahrungsgrundlagen

Komponente B: **Antigift-Kampagne** zur zukünftigen Vermeidung von Vergiftungsfällen durch

1. Einrichtung einer Task-Force bestehend aus Veterinären, Naturschutzbeauftragten der Regierung, Polizeibediensteten, Verbandsvertretern, Landwirtschafts-, Forst- und Jagdbehördenvertretern;
2. Allgemeine Aufklärungs- und Bewusstseinsbildungsmaßnahmen durch TV-Magazin-Beiträge, Rundfunkfeatures, Printmedienartikel, zielgruppengerechte Broschüren und Faltblätter, Plakate;
3. Aus- und Fortbildungsmaßnahmen für Veterinäre, Polizeidienste, Naturschutz- und Umweltverwaltung, Forst- und Jagdverwaltung sowie Verbandsvertreter;

Komponente C: **Bewusstseinsbildung und Kapazitätserweiterung**

1. Internetplattform zur Kommunikation unter den Gruppen und zur Information aller zu Beteiligten;
2. Ausstellung zum Thema Geierschutz für verschiedene bulgarische Infozentren und Veranstaltungen;
3. Infomaterialien für verschiedene Zielgruppen (Schäfer, Jäger, Förster, Veterinäre, Touristen);
4. Ausrüstungsgegenstände (Ferngläser, Beobachtungs-Spektive, Transporter);
5. Aus- und Fortbildungskurse für NGOs, und verschiedene Beteiligtegruppen.

Die Komponenten werden in folgenden Einzelmaßnahmen in Trägerschaft bulgarischer Naturschutzorganisationen umgesetzt:

Komponente A:

1. Schutz der Geier in den Ostrhodopen; *Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds (BSPB)*
2. Notmaßnahmen für die bestehende Schmutzgeierpopulation in Bulgarien *Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds (BSPB)*
3. Wiederansiedlung von Gänsegeiern im Zentral Balkan Gebirge; *Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds of Prey (BPPS)*
4. Wiederbesiedlung des Vrachnaski Massivs mit Gänsegeiern; *Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds of Prey (BPPS)*
5. Programm zur Wiederansiedlung des Bartgeiers in Bulgarien, *Green Balkans Federation*

Komponente B:

1. Kampagne gegen die Giftnutzung in Bulgarien; *Fund for Protection of Wild Flora and Fauna FWFF-Blagoevgrad*
2. *Anti-dot Programm Bulgarien; Fund for Protection of Wild Flora and Fauna FWFF-Sofia*

Komponente C:

1. *Öffentlichkeitsarbeit zum Geierschutz in Bulgarien; Alpiner Club Edelweiss Bulgarien*

Zusammenfassung

Das Projekt wurde über die gesamte Laufzeit in Bulgarien durch die bulgarische Umweltpartnerschaftsstiftung (BEPF) koordiniert. Diese betreut die 8 einzelnen Vorhaben zum Geierschutz, die bereits im Jahr 2005 begonnen und bis zum Ende der Laufzeit fortgesetzt wurden. Die BEPF erstellt die Verträge mit den Partnerorganisationen für die Teilvorhaben und nimmt die bulgarischen Abrechnungen entgegen, sammelt die Teilberichte und erstellt die Jahresabrechnung für ZGF und DBU. Fachlich und inhaltlich wird das Projekt von der Mönchsgeier-Stiftung (BVCF) begleitet und die Einzelvorhaben in Bulgarien hinsichtlich ihres Beitrages zum Balkan Geier-Aktionsplan überprüft. Die Bewilligung wurde nach der fachlichen Überprüfung durch BVCF und ZGF gegenüber den bulgarischen Bewilligungsempfängern durch BEPF in Absprache mit der ZGF erteilt.

Im Förderzeitraum 2006-2008 wurden folgende Einzelmaßnahmen gefördert:

Titel	bulgarische Empfängerorganisation
1. Geierschutz in den Ostrhodopen, Madjarovo	Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds (BSPB)
2. Notmaßnahmen zum Schutz der Schmutzgeier, Russenski Lom (Donauzufluß)	BSPB
3. Giftbekämpfungskampagne und Schaffung günstiger Erhaltungsbedingungen für Geier in West Bulgarien.	Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna (FWFF)
4. Bartgeier Wiederansiedlung – Rückkehr des bulgarischen Naturschutzsymbols	Green Balkans Federation
5. Öffentlichkeitsarbeit zur Schaffung positiver Bedingungen zur Rückkehr der Geier nach BG	Alpiner Klub Edelweiss
6. Wiederansiedlung des Gänsegeiers in Nationalpark Zentraler Balkan	Birds of Prey Protection Society (BPPS)
7. Wiederansiedlung von Brutpaaren des Gänsegeiers im Naturpark Vrachanski Balkan	BPPS
8. Giftbekämpfungskampagne durch Einbindung staatlicher Institutionen wie Veterinärbehörden, Polizeikräfte und Regionale Umweltinspektorate durch Information und Trainingsworkshops	FWFF

Das im Jahr 2005 mit dem bulgarischen Ministerium für Umwelt und Wasser unterzeichnete Memorandum of Understanding und den Nichtregierungsinstitutionen wurde durch die im Rahmen des vorliegenden Projektes geförderten Einzelmaßnahmen wirksam umgesetzt. Damit wird die Zusammenarbeit zwischen staatlichen und nichtstaatlichen Akteuren beim Geierschutz in Bulgarien mit Leben erfüllt.

Die im Frühjahr 2006 durchgeführte Expertenmission zur Evaluation möglicher Wiederansiedlungsorte von Gänsegeiern (*Gyps fulvus*) im Balkanraum, hatte eine klare Fokussierung auf das Balkangebirge ergeben. Die Expertenkommission kam zur Empfehlung eine aktive Wiederansiedlung in Ost-Serbien im Grenzgebiet zu Bulgarien, in West-Bulgarien im Vrachanski Naturpark, im Bereich des Zentralen Balkan Gebirges im Naturpark Sinite Kameni sowie im strengen Schutzreservat bei Kotel im Ost-Balkanmassiv mit Gänsegeiern zu wagen. In diesen Gebieten erscheint die Situation günstig. Die an der zukünftigen Wiederansiedlung beteiligten Organisationen, wurden in Trainingseinheiten auf die Aufgaben bei der geplanten Wiederansiedlung vorbereitet. In Workshops, durchgeführt in Frankreich, in einem erfolgreichen Wiederansiedlungsvorhaben in den Cevennen wurden erfolgreiche Techniken vermittelt und Details der Wiederansiedlungen besprochen. Ferner wurden durch die bulgarischen Partner in der Zwischenzeit umfangreiche Machbarkeitsstudien für die ausgewählten Orte erarbeitet. Die Wiederansiedlungskommission hat nun aufgrund der geleisteten Vorarbeit grünes Licht für die aktive Wiederansiedlung von Gänsegeiern gegeben. Die Vögel stammen aus Auffangstationen und Zoos überwiegend aus Spanien, da dort eine starke Gänsegeierpopulation mit über 22.000 Brutpaaren besteht und somit einer Abgabe von Einzeltieren

aus diesem Bestand nichts entgegensteht.

Die Arbeiten im Berichtszeitraum widmeten sich zum größten Teil der Vorbereitung der aktiven Wiederansiedlung. Hierzu war es notwendig die Öffentlichkeit und vor allem die Landnutzer und Tierhalter hierauf vorzubereiten. Wichtige flankierende Maßnahmen gelten der Vermeidung des Einsatzes von Gift durch Tierhalter (Schafzüchter) oder auch durch die Jägerschaft. Daher wurden entsprechende Aktivitäten zielgerichtet auf diese Zielgruppen durchgeführt. Ferner wurden Workshops mit den Veterinärbehörden und den Umweltinspektoraten des Ministeriums für Umwelt und Wasser vorbereitet und teilweise auch durchgeführt.

Wichtig bei den Maßnahmen im Berichtszeitraum jedoch war auch, die Problemlage bei den noch vorhandenen wildlebenden Geierpopulationen in Bulgarien nicht aus den Augen zu verlieren. Im Sommer 2007 wurden dann experimentell im östlichen Gebiet des Balkangebirges im Schutzgebiet Kotel vier Geier in die Freiheit entlassen. Ihr Verbleib wurde sorgfältig registriert. Im Frühjahr 2008 konnte dann die Rückkehr zunächst einer der vier frei gelassenen Tiere zum Freilassungsort in Kotel verzeichnet werden. Abzuwarten bleibt zunächst wie sich die anderen Tiere verhalten werden. Jedoch kann die Rückkehr eines der Tiere als sehr positives Zeichen gewertet werden, so dass die mit diesem Experiment überprüfte Methodik der Freisetzung auch funktionieren dürfte. Damit steht der aktiven Wiederansiedlung von Gänsegeiern im Balkangebirge nichts entgegen und somit ist ein wichtiges Projektziel erreicht worden.

Besorgniserregend bleibt indes ist die Populationsentwicklung des Schmutzgeiers (*Neophron percnopterus*). Allerdings ist die gesamte im Mittelmeerraum brütende Population des Schmutzgeiers am Rückgang, so dass davon ausgegangen werden muss, dass die Ursachen für den globalen Rückgang dieser Geierart nicht ausschließlich im Brutgebiet, sondern möglicherweise in den afrikanischen Überwinterungsgebieten oder auf den Wegen zu und von diesen zu suchen sein könnten. Diesbezügliche Untersuchungen werden derzeit in Angriff genommen. Ergebnisse liegen bei Abfassung dieses Berichtes noch nicht vor.

Bis zur Klärung dieser Problemlage aber, muss den vorhandenen Brutpopulationen erhöhte Aufmerksamkeit gewidmet werden. Die Bulgarische Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Vögel (BSPB BirdLife Bulgaria), hat sich dieser Aufgabe schwerpunktmäßig gewidmet. Wichtig hierbei sind auch die von der DBU über den WWF-Deutschland geförderten Maßnahmen zur Vergrößerung des Naturparks Russenski Lom im Rahmen des Donau-Auenprojektes. Der Naturpark Russenski Lom beherbergt im Augenblick die größte Schmutzgeierkolonie in Bulgarien und bedarf daher größtmöglicher Schutzanstrengungen.

Eine Internetpräsentation der Geieraktivitäten im Balkanraum wurde erstellt und ist über die URL Adresse: <http://www.balkanvultures.net> zugänglich gemacht.

Ergebnisse und Diskussion

Der Bestand an Gänsegeiern in Bulgarien konnte über die Projektlaufzeit weiterhin stabilisiert werden. Der bisher positive Trend beim Gänsegeier hat sich bestätigt. Die bisher eingeleiteten Maßnahmen scheinen Wirkung zu zeigen. Beim Mönchsgeier ist nach wie vor nur ein Brutpaar sicher nachgewiesen, der Bartgeier kommt nach wie vor derzeit in Bulgarien nicht vor. Besorgnis erregend bleibt der Bestand des Schmutzgeiers, jedoch ist deren Erhaltungszustand nicht nur in Bulgarien prekär, sondern auch in anderen Bereichen seines Vorkommens, wie etwa in Spanien. Die Ursachen hierfür sind noch nicht klar. Der Schmutzgeier ist der einzige Zugvogel unter den europäischen Geiern. Er überwintert in Afrika und ernährt sich während des Zuges auch von Insekten.

Im Rahmen des Projektes wurden flankierende Maßnahmen in Bulgarien realisiert. Hierzu zählt die Wiedereinrichtung des traditionellen Schaftriebes. Die Organisationen Semperviva und FWFF betreiben mittlerweile Wanderschäfereien. Im Frühjahr werden Schafe von ihren Winter-Stallungen beispielsweise im Nationalpark Pirin in die alpinen Sommerweiden getrieben und im Herbst wieder ins Winterquartier. Hierbei verunglücken Schafe und werden somit zur Nahrungsquelle für Aasfresser. Ein ähnliches Projekt wird von der Organisation FWFF in Kotel betrieben. Hier werden auch Schafe gehalten, die anderen Schäfer den Verlust durch Wölfe ersetzen sollen. Damit soll das Problem der Giftauslegung zur Tötung von Wölfen vermieden werden. Semperviva und FWFF züchten auch Schutzhunde, die an Schäfer abgegeben werden und die innerhalb einer Schafherde einen wirksamen Schutz gegen Wölfe aufrecht erhalten sollen. Auch diese Maßnahmen zeigen bis jetzt rundherum Erfolge, da in keiner der Schafherden, in der Schutzhunde eingesetzt wurden, es zu Verluste von Schafen durch Wolf- oder Bärattacken kam.

Im Jahr 2006 wurden in Südwestbulgarien 340 Schafe und Ziegen sowie 11 Esel, 9 Pferde und 21 Kälber offenbar von Wölfen gerissen. In allen Fällen zeigte sich, dass es Fehler der Tierhalter waren, die die Wolfsübergriffe ermöglichten. Daher wird nun intensiver mit Tierhaltern zusammen gearbeitet. Aufklärung wie die Tiere gegen Wolfsattacken geschützt werden können sind nun sehr wichtig. Kompensationsmaßnahmen sollen helfen Giftaktionen gegen Wölfe zu verhindern. Betroffenen Tierhaltern werden ferner Schutzhunde angeboten. Dies sind wichtige Maßnahmen, die den willkürlichen Einsatz von Gift zur Wolfsbekämpfung vermeiden helfen. So konnten die gemeldeten Giffunde im Jahr 2006 deutlich zurückgedrängt werden und beschränken sich auf wenige Fälle im südlichen Bulgarien.

Damit ist die wichtigste Voraussetzung geschaffen worden, die Gänsegeier aus Spanien aktiv im Balkangebirge wieder anzusiedeln.

Eine weitere flankierende Maßnahme ist die Wiederansiedlung der Balkangämse in Gebirgslagen Bulgarien, in denen sie ausgerottet wurde. So findet derzeit eine aktive Wiederansiedlung im Naturpark Vitosha statt. Die bis jetzt frei gelassenen Gämsen-Herden entwickeln sich in Freiheit gut. Einzelne Tiere wurden mit Halsbandsendern ausgestattet und unterliegen somit einer dauerhaften Überwachung.

Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und Präsentation

In Bulgarien wurde durch die Alpinen Klub Edelweiß ein professioneller Fernsehbeitrag erstellt, der im bulgarischen Fernsehen einem breiten Publikum zugänglich gemacht wurde. Insgesamt stößt das Geiervorhaben im Land auf ein breites Interesse und eine große Akzeptanz. Jede beteiligte Organisation hat für sein jeweiliges Teilprojekt umfangreiche Öffentlichkeitsarbeiten durchgeführt. In den zukünftigen Wiederansiedlungsgebieten Naturpark Vratschanski, Naturpark Sinite Kamani, Strenges Reservat Kotel und auch in dem Nationalpark Zentraler Balkan wird in eigens eingerichteten Dauerausstellungen in den jeweiligen Besucherzentren umfassenden über die Projekte und den Schutz und die Gefährdung der Geier informiert. Die vom Klub Edelweiß erstellten Filmbeiträge informieren dort Besucher über die Vorhaben.

Fazit

Das Projekt mit seinen Umsetzungskomponenten reiht sich in den Aktionsplan zur Erhaltung der Geierpopulationen im Balkanraum ein und trägt erheblich zu dessen Erfolg durch die erzielten positiven Teilergebnisse der Einzelmaßnahmen bei.

Mit Beendigung der DBU-Förderung ist das Projekt jedoch nicht abgeschlossen. Die beteiligten Organisationen in Bulgarien sind in der Lage die bis jetzt durchgeführten Maßnahmen weiter zu führen. Die bis jetzt erreichten Ziele werden fernerhin in dem weiterführenden Projektansatz des gemeinsam von DBU und ZGF geförderten Vorhabens zum „Biodiversitätsschutz im bulgarischen Balkan Gebirge“ AZ 26175 gefestigt und mit neuer Schwerpunktsetzung fortgeführt. Die Laufzeit des neuen Vorhabens ist fünf Jahre, so dass bis dahin eine Gänsegeierpopulation im Balkangebirge etabliert sein dürfte.

Daher kann man sagen, dass das Projekt auf einem sehr erfolgreichen Weg sich befindet. Die wichtigsten Vorbereitungen zur aktiven Wiederansiedlung von Gänsegeiern im Balkangebirge sind getroffen. Eine breite Akzeptanz in der Bevölkerung, aber besonders bei den betroffenen Zielgruppen der Tierhalter und Jäger konnte erreicht werden.

Allerdings brachte der Beitritt Bulgariens zur Europäischen Union neue Probleme, die von der innerhalb der EU geltenden Hygiene-Verordnung EU-VO 1774-2002 zur Bekämpfung des Rinder-Wahnsinns ausgehen. Danach dürfen offene Tierkörperbeseitigungsstellen, wie sie die Geierfutterplätze darstellen, nicht mehr betrieben werden.

Im Zuge intensiven Lobbying in Brüssel konnte erreicht werden, dass die örtlichen Veterinärbehörden Ausnahmegenehmigungen von dem allgemeinen Verbot der offenen Tierkörperbeseitigung erteilen dürfen. Diese kommen in erster Linie den sogenannten ‚Mulladores‘ in Spanien und in Südfrankreich zu Gute, sind aber auch für die bereits eingerichteten Geierfutterplätze in Bulgarien von großer Bedeutung.

Dennoch bedarf es nun weiterer Informations- und Aufklärungsarbeit gerade bei den Veterinärbehörden in Bulgarien, die derzeit eher verunsichert sind.

ANHANG:

1. Einzelberichte zu nachfolgend aufgeführten Teilprojekten
2. Viability-Studien zur Wiederansiedlung der Gänsegeier im Balkangebirge
3. Fortgeschriebener logframe des Balkan-Geieraktionsplanes



Project name:	Vultures in the Balkan Region 2007
FZS project number:	ZGF-1287/02
Country of implementation:	Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia & Croatia
Implementing organisation:	Black Vulture Conservation Foundation (BVCF)
Author(s) of report, contact:	Evelyn Tewes, evelyn.tewes@bvcf.org
Reporting period:	2007
Date of submission:	29.2.2008



Goal of Project (Component):

Recovery and Conservation of Vultures and their ecosystems in the Balkan region

Contents:

- 1.** Vulture Monitoring in Albania and Greek Epiros 2007 (Ben Hallmann)
- 2.** Action plan for exploration and conservation of the vultures in the central, eastern and southern region of the Republic of Macedonia (FWFF-Macedonia)
- 3.** Vulture Conservation Project in Macedonia – Vulture conservation in Macedonia through implementation of antidote and educational activities - (MES)
- 4.** Eco-development in the rural areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia (Institute for Nature Protection)
- 5.** Vulture Conservation Project Macedonia - Survey and monitoring of the status, breeding and threats to the Egyptian Vulture in Macedonia, with implementation of urgent conservation activities 2007 (MES)
- 6.** Integral protection of Eurasian Griffons in Croatia (Caput Insule)
- 7.** Trans-boundary monitoring and public awareness actions of 4 Vulture species and their habitats in the mountain range of Aridea (Greece) and Kavadarzi (F.Y.R.O.M.). (Chrysaetos, FWFF-Macedonia)
- 8.** “Bearded Vulture – Let’s return the symbol of Bulgarian nature conservation” Activities for the restoration of the Black and Bearded vulture populations as a first step for the reintroduction of the Bearded vulture in Bulgaria. (Green Balkans Federation)
- 9.** Against poison (Antidote) activities of FWFF – Sofia
- 10.** Against Poison Activities in SW Bulgaria, Development of the Compensation Program for Livestock Losses Due to Predator Attacks, and Reintroduction of Griffon Vulture in Kotel Mountain (FWFF - Blagoevgrad)
- 11.** Recovery of the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) as a Breeding Species in Vrachanski Planina Mountain. Reintroduction – following steps – measures, Bulgaria (BPPS)
- 12.** Recovery through reintroduction of the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in the Central Balkan National Park (BPPS)
- 13.** Following the Vultures III- film from Bulgaria (Edelweiss)
- 14.** Conservation of the Large Vultures in the Eastern Rhodopes 2007 (BSPB)
- 15.** Urgent Conservation Measures for the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) in Bulgaria (BSPB)

Objective 1: Subproject: Promotion of Vulture Conservation in Albania 2007 (Ben Hallmann)

Specific objectives/actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
1.1. Monitoring surveys for located EV sites in Albania, collecting data on breeding success, and searches for additional EV localities	<p>23 recent Albanian EV sites have been checked in 2007, of which activity has been recorded at 13 sites. This includes the 2 new couples found active and successful in 2007, but excludes the new finding (by German ornithologists) of an adult couple in the very Nord of Albania at the border with Montenegro. New information (from Germany as well) of possible active presence in the Mat gorge (site 10, located in 2003) could not be confirmed, but is equally very interesting.</p> <p>The southern EV stronghold in Albania produced at least 6 offspring, a satisfactory success, that could be stated by checking the nestsites in the end of August and beginning of September. By then, the youngsters have fledged but are still around their nests, which were often not exactly located (not visible or approachable) in the previous years. This is an important lesson for the follow-up surveying.</p> <p>3 Pairs (two of them neighbouring pairs) did not show up at all on their sites located in previous years.</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD

1.2. Verifications of former EV and GV sites in zones of Greece adjacent to the south of Albania	<p>In Greek Epiros close to the Albanian border, so far only two nestsites were found likely active: at an old site (gorge near Dolos, Delvinaki district) an adult showed up, while a likely fledged young EV was briefly seen (from far and not confirmed) in the Kalamas gorge, together with 3 Griffon Vultures.</p> <p>At the dumpsite of Kalambaka (Trikala prefecture), two new youngsters were sighted, that likely fledged from nests in the vicinity.</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
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Objective 2: Subproject: Action plan for exploration and conservation of the vultures in the central, eastern and southern region of the Republic of Macedonia (FWFF-Macedonia)

Specific objectives/actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
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<p>2.1. Operation of feeding places for the vultures</p>	<p>The vultures accepted the feeding places and the food. All four feeding places are visited by vultures shortly after charging.</p> <p>Concretely in 2007 we have brought supplementary food in:</p> <p><u>Vitacevo</u>: 66 supplementary food, whit total amount of 27.780 kg</p> <p><u>St.Nikole</u>: 55 supplementary food, with total amount of 17.400 kg</p> <p><u>Demir Kapija</u>:5 supplementary food with total amount of 2.0 tons</p> <p><u>Mariovo</u>: 9 supplementary food with total amount of 4 tons.</p> <p>Monitoring on the feeding place was performed regularly after every food delivering.</p>	<p>See more details in complete report on report CD</p>
<p>2.2. Monitoring of all Griffon Vulture colonies of the project area and monitoring of the four feeding places</p>	<p>Monitoring was performed almost regularly as much as it's necessary. Presence of Griffon Vultures and Egyptian vultures were noted. 13 couple starts breeding in 2007. All 13 youngsters, fortunately, were successfully raised and they started flying.</p> <p>Youngsters are raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 youngsters in the colony in Krastavec • 5 youngsters in the colony in Tikves but what's very strange, it is not in the colony in Kosturski Dol, but in a new locality called Pravednicka stena • 5 youngsters in the colony in Mariovo, in fact 1 in Buturica and 4 in Beluce. <p>In the middle of November and December all of them had visit the feeding place in Vitacevo</p> <p>This year 2007 we haven't observation of Black and Bearded vulture.</p>	<p>See more details in complete report on report CD</p>
<p>2.3. Advertisement, appearance in public, alerting and informing the public and administrators.</p>	<p>In the beginning of 2007, the interest of the public was engrossed and a great publicity was given by the part of all mediums (written and electronic) on local and national level, the case of the enormous poisoning on Griffon vultures on the territory of Mariovo. This event, even if unwanted and very negative, unexpectedly attracted a lot of attention and increases the interest of the public with the problems of the survival of the vultures in Macedonia.</p> <p>In organization of FDFP, BVCF, FZS and the Ministry for Environment of the Republic of Macedonia, the monument of the nature and</p>	<p>See more details in complete report on report CD</p>

	<p>the educational pane, were placed on the coast of the protected zone and the ornithological reservation “ Tikvesh Lake”.</p> <p>In September we organized a massive Bird watching, on which participated around 60 participants from 3 municipalities.</p>	
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Conclusions:

From the conducted monitoring missions throughout the whole year, we come to the conclusion that this 2007 is a successful year concerning the increasing of the nesting couples and rising of the youngsters. Beside the concern at the beginning of the year, the poisoning that happened in Mariovo territory, that could endanger the growing up of the youngsters, nevertheless this year the nests, thanks to the feeding places and the intensive feeding, stayed safe and 13 youngsters were raised. The nesting success is 100 % full because 13 couples manage to make and raised one youngster each.

The often contacts with the public from whatever reason (good or bad) have a great meaning for involving of bigger number of people that will help in protecting the vultures in Macedonia and further, or will help to the general public to understand the nature and the actions in it, with what maybe even unconsciously will contribute to decreasing of the danger for survival of the living world in it, and with that the survival of the vultures as unchained part of the nature.

Objective 3: Subproject: Vulture Conservation Project in Macedonia – Vulture conservation in Macedonia trough implementation of antidote and educational activities - (MES)

Specific objectives/actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
3.1. Supplementary feeding and monitoring of the Egyptian Vultures at Matka	Supplementary feeding was not realised as it was considered to be very expensive to perform. Monitoring showed that the Egyptian Vulture pair at Matka did excellent without the feeding, fledging 2 juveniles. The pair of Griffon Vultures was seen on their territory during two days in August, but not after that.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.2. Survey of Treska River Valley	Survey was focused in the region closer to Matka, but without any results (no vultures observed). Information was gathered for probable presence of so far unknown pair of Egyptian vulture, but the search for them was unsuccessful. The search will continue in 2008.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.3. Finishing of the study for reintroduction of Vultures at Matka.	No progress was done in this direction, as no progress was made in the contacts with the management of “Jasen” forest reserve.	See more details in complete report on report CD

3.4. Producing poster for the Griffon Vultures on the Balkan Peninsula.	The poster was designed and is ready for print.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.5. Production of booklet on vultures in Macedonia.	This action was postponed for 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.6. Dissemination of questionnaire for poison distribution, availability and use.	Ca. 150 questionnaires were disseminated, only 16 of which returned. This low return rate was expected, and returned questionnaires showed that the highest demand for poisonous chemicals comes from agriculture workers.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.7. Visit of veterinary stations	Veterinary stations were visited as planned. Most of the talks confirmed regular use of poison for elimination of dogs and cats in the villages and cities, but no exact case for wildlife poisoning was known.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.8. Workshops for state inspectors concerning the illegal use of poison.	This action was postponed for 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.9. Leaflet on poison use consequences	The leaflet is designed and ready to print. It includes most up-to date information on poisoning of vultures.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.10. Lectures for targeted groups	Lectures were performed in 10 hunting associations and 19 villages. Representatives of livestock breeders' associations also participated on some lectures. Information were gathered for presence of two possibly new pairs of EVs	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.11. Survey for vultures on Osogovo MT.	This action was done during 19 field days. Except the regular monitoring of the known EV pair, no other vultures were noticed.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.12. Media campaign	This activity was performed regularly, especially intensive after the poisoning incident in Mariovo.	See more details in complete report on report CD
3.13. Unexpected activities	In April 2007 20 Griffon vultures were found dead (poisoned) in Mariovo region. All necessary activities were taken and all	See more details in complete report on report CD

	necessary activities were taken and all inspectorates alerted. Unfortunately, “due to lack of technical possibilities”, no toxicological analyses were done.	
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Conclusions:

The year 2007 was undoubtedly marked by the large poisoning incident in Mariovo region, where 20 Griffon vultures were found dead. Although possibility remains that the poisoning actually took place in Greece (R. Tsiakiris, pers. comm), we must note that this region remains one with the highest risk of poisoning, due to numerous wolf damage to the livestock. The reaction following this incident, both from MES and from the state inspectors (forestry and hunt, environment, veterinary and the police) showed that the EC project in 2006 was of high importance. However, the need for educating of toxicologists and judges became evident after the toxicological analyses were not done.

The pair of Griffon vultures was again observed at Matka on 10th and 11th August, but never before or after that. No other vultures were seen in the region.

The Egyptian vulture pair at Matka successfully raised two juvenile.

The education activities and direct contacts provided some interesting information on presence of vultures, and should be strongly continues (as a result of the lectures in 2006, two phone calls were received in MES for problems with birds – the poisoning incident in Mariovo and a case of nest robbery of Golden Eagle in Kumanovo region).

In addition, for the 3rd Congress of Ecologists of Macedonia, a paper (with noted presentation) was prepared analysing the historical status, trend and threats for the Griffon vulture in Macedonia, as well as assessment of the conservation activities. The book of proceedings is not yet published.

Objective 4: Subproject: Eco-development in the rural areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
4.1. A study on the reactivation of ecotourism in Nova Varos, Uvac Gorge, Serbia	Draft of the study on the reactivation of ecotourism at Uvac Gorge and Mileševka Gorge, Serbia, done by ECOTONO in cooperation with Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and consultations with local stakeholders.	See more details in complete report on report CD
4.2. Measures for conservation of the Griffon Vulture colony in Nova Varos.	1. All the monitoring activities planned for the period until December 31 st , 2007 have been completed. Monitoring was performed three times in each colony during the breeding season of 2007, yielding very precise results collected by methods of census and following each known nest/pair. Monitoring of activities of the feeding places and potential threats was also performed	See more details in complete report on report CD

<p>4.2.1. Monitoring of breeding colonies and threats to Griffon vultures</p>	<p>also performed. Results of monitoring show a significant increase in number of birds present in breeding colonies of Griffon Vultures in 2007 (104-107 total pairs, 91 breeding pairs and 70 fledged young) and breeding success (0.76 young/bp/year), while bird mortality was small (only 1 dead and 1 injured in 2007).</p>	
<p>4.2.2. Activities of four feeding places for vultures</p>	<p>2. The activities of the feeding places included bringing food at least three times a month to each of the four feeding places. At the two main feeding places (gorges of Uvac and Trešnjica) food was brought on more occasions than planned, due to additional activities of caretakers (project partners) and improved organization that used all available commodities. All participants reached a high degree of organization and work quality, which should be maintained in the following period. Activities of the third feeding place were in the planned limits, while the activities of the fourth feeding place were slightly reduced due to certain problems in acquiring and transport of food. Results of activities of four feeding places are directly manifested through constant presence of birds at the feeding sites (about 230 Griffon vultures etc), expected increase of number of birds in colonies in the future period and the increased breeding success (0.76 y/bp/y).</p>	
<p>4.2.3. Education:</p>	<p>3. The education activities included printing and distribution of a leaflet on vulture conservation. It was printed in 9000 copies and distributed to local focus groups and public in Serbia (6500 copies), Bosnia-Herzegovina (2000 copies) and Montenegro (500 copies). It represents an important contribution to education on vulture conservation in the broader area of central Balkans. The activities connected with lectures in the main towns in areas of conservation and the meetings on suppressing the negative occurrences will be performed in the following period, January-March 2008.</p>	
<p>4.2.3.1. Printing the leaflet on vulture conservation</p>		
<p>4.2.3.2. Lectures – power-point presentations</p>		

Conclusions:

During the realization of all activities within the Study on ecotourism, both BVCF and AECEI were very visible. The role of both organizations was clearly presented during each activity, and especially during the promotion of the project. Logos of both organizations were included in all materials and documents connected to implementation of the Project. Presence of AECEI and BVCF was on high level as representatives of both organizations were present during the realization of the stakeholder meeting. Representatives of BVCF were participating at the meeting in Nova Varoš on May 5th, 2007, while representatives of both BVCF and AECEI were participating at the meeting in Prijepolje on July 27th, 2007. Their participation in these meetings has significantly influenced the motivation of stakeholders to support and participate in the activities on preparing the Study on development of ecotourism.

The permanent close cooperation on all aspects of the Projects was maintained by frequent consultations through e-mail and phone, so all questions were solved quickly and in due time.

The planned activities for the period March 1st, 2007 – December 31st, 2007 were fulfilled without any modifications. The remaining activities will be realized in the following period in 2008. That mainly includes the remaining activities in presentations of Project of ecotourism development and vulture conservation, activity in awareness increase through lectures and the support to local inspection services in order to suppress poisoning.

Objective 5: Subproject: Vulture Conservation Project Macedonia - Survey and monitoring of the status, breeding and threats to the Egyptian Vulture in Macedonia with implementation of urgent conservation activities 2007 (MES)

Specific objectives/actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
5.1. Survey for the presence and incubation of the known breeding pairs	All known pairs were surveyed for presence and start of incubation. Only presence of one pair (“Bohula”) was not confirmed, and probably this pair was lost in possible poisoning incident in April at Vitacevo.	See more details in complete report on report CD
5.2. Survey for new breeding pairs	Two new pairs were found (Vitoliste and Drenovo Gorge). They have been present there for more years; there fore this is not increase of the population. At least one more pair was located near Stip, but its breeding territory is unknown.	See more details in complete report on report CD
5.3. Monitoring of the hatching success of the incubating pairs	This action was performed for the firs time, with great success. It was found that only one of the pairs that started the incubation did not hatched juveniles.	See more details in complete report on report CD
5.4. Monitoring of the breeding success of the	Again, this action was done with great success. It was found that at least 4 juveniles	See more details in complete report on

breeding success of the breeding pairs	success. It was found that at least 4 juveniles were lost, at least 2 of which as a result of depredation in the nest (one by raven, another by fox/marten).	report CD
5.5. Close monitoring and nest guarding of specific pairs	No risk of nest robbery for the EVs was noticed. It seems that this threat has become negligible in Macedonia for this species, although it is present for other (eagles, falcons).	See more details in complete report on report CD
5.6. Ringing of juveniles	4 juveniles from 3 nests were ringed with plastic rings. Three of them also have their primaries bleached.	See more details in complete report on report CD
5.7. Reanalysis of the old data	Detailed analysis of the old data for the presence and breeding success was done, and used for analysing the impact of feeding places on the species.	See more details in complete report on report CD
5.8. Identification of IBAs	Based of the new conservation status of the EV (endangered), several new IBAs in Macedonia were proposed.	See more details in complete report on report CD

Conclusions:

During 2006 presence of 29 pairs of Egyptian vultures was confirmed.

Comparison with the situation in 2006 shows that 1 bird was lost, and two (possibly three) new pairs were discovered).

Population estimation. On the basis of the results, the population size of the Egyptian vulture can be estimated around 35 pairs.

Breeding success: 85,7% (24 out of 30) of all pairs started the incubation. Their hatchling success was very high (95,8%). The breeding success in 2007 was 0,79 juveniles per pair, or 1,22 juveniles per successful pair. Total number of raised juveniles was 22, from 18 pairs.

Threats and conservation problems. Predation in the nest was identified as a most serious problem for the breeding success. Use of poison was probably reason for lost of at least one adult bird.

Objective 6: **Subproject: Integral protection of Eurasian Griffons in Croatia (Caput Insule)**

Note: The project is co-financed with MAVA, the project was approved in autumn, the final report for 2007 is still missing

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
6.1. Education to stop illegal poisoning		

6.2. Increase the number of Eurasian Griffons by establishing new feeding place - on the mainland – Velebit Mtn.		
6.3. Healing, rehabilitation, eventually release of rehabilitated birds, estimation of the success or failure of rehabilitation		

Objective 7: Subproject: Transboundary monitoring and public awareness actions of 4 Vulture species and their habitats in the mountain range of Aridea (Greece) and Kavadarzi (F.Y.R.O.M.). (Chrysaetos, FWFF-Macedonia)

Specific objectives/actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
7.1.1. Organisation of Information Events	Successful, more work than foreseen completed, all PA development of the project, especially regarding poisoning was wrapped around this action.	See more details in complete report on report CD
7.1.2. Organisation of Voluntary Camp	Successful, Camp completed and enjoyed by all volunteers and participants throughout. Local authorities embraced the event at least in statement	See more details in complete report on report CD
7.2.1. Supplementary feeding schemes in Mariovo and Pinovo Mt	90% completed, GV and EV breeding success 100 % in Mariovo, unknown outcome for EV in Pinovo.	See more details in complete report on report CD
7.2.2. Monitoring of the Transborder Mt Range	Partially implemented (73% completed), as far as results concerned, similar to previous years. Poisoning investigations allocated in the action as well as research on the status of chamois on Tzena Mt	See more details in complete report on report CD

Conclusions:

It is possible to continue and enhance the project in the same general lines. Supplementary feeding and Public Awareness will constitute the main actions. These have proved insofar successful and are feasible under the current resources and organisation structure of the two teams. A few days of trans-border monitoring should be maintained and the action should be tailored according to any extraordinary events and in Greece, at least partly around the camp.

Objective 8: Subproject: “Bearded Vulture – Let’s return the symbol of Bulgarian nature conservation” Activities for the restoration of the Black and Bearded vulture populations as a first step for the reintroduction of the Bearded vulture in Bulgaria. (Green Balkans Federation)

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
8.1.1. Feeding and monitoring at the feeding station near the Byala Reka river:	<p>The regular feedings taking place on the artificial feeding site near the Byala Reka River continued throughout the year.</p> <p>Mainly carcasses of deceased cattle from the area were used for the feedings thanks to the already established and operational system for carcass collection. Slaughter waste from the Slaughter house of the town of Momchilovgrad was used in the cases when there were no deceased animals for longer periods of time. A total of 49 feedings were carried out during the year, an average of 4 feedings per month. A total of 9880 kg of carcass was provided, together with 69 days of further monitoring of the feeding site.</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
8.1.2. Monitoring in the area of the Byala Reka river (radio telemetry, monitoring of raptors):	<p>The tracking of Black vultures tagged with radio-transmitters continued in 2007. The radio-monitoring was carried out together with WWF Greece/Daida and the BSPB. The Green Balkans team covered a particular area in the Southern part of the Eastern Rhodopi Mountains in Bulgaria, close to the artificial vulture feeding site, established and maintained by the organization at the village of Pelevun, Ivailovgrad. 10 vultures were tagged in 2007, 3 more than those tagged in the previous year. 6 tracking sessions were carried out, covering more than 15 hours in total. The field teams implemented a total of 273 tracking attempts, obtaining 44 relatively precise locations, tracked from two or three stations at the same time.</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
8.2.1. Feeding and monitoring in the Eastern Balkan Mountains and Royak-Provadia Plateau	<p>The results show that during this year a total of two pairs of Egyptian Vultures bred. Another, third pair was also observed in the region of the Royak-Provadia Plateau; however it did not start breeding. Each of the</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD

	<p>two pairs raised successfully one chick. The pair that existed until two years ago at the Rishky Passage did not reappear, and most probably it has been irretrievably lost for this region. There is a similar situation with the Sinite Kamani, where this year there was one sighting of a single bird during migration. The data related to the Egyptian Vulture were discussed and proved to be coinciding with the monitoring carried out by BSPB!</p> <p>The happy news this year is the Imperial Eagle pair that started breeding in the immediate vicinity of the Sinite Kamani Park. The pair is young and did not manage to raise offspring.</p>	
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<p>8.2.2. Constructing an adaptation aviary:</p>	<p>The non-realized arrival of the first group of Griffon Vultures envisaged for reintroduction from Spain delayed the construction of the aviary. Also, the funds allocated for the building of the aviary turned out to be insufficient, and this was another obstacle to its timely construction. In addition, the delay resulted from the lack of reply from the Reintroduction Committee regarding the suitability of the location and construction type of the aviary we had chosen. However, during Green Balkans' visit to Farensee (Austria) we managed to discuss details related to the aviary with Dr. Hans Frey, as well as to select the most appropriate option. Almost all materials needed for the aviary were purchased and its construction is scheduled for 2008. Therefore, the first group of Griffon Vultures has to be placed in the aviary in 2008. Otherwise, being abandoned, it could leave the impression of dereliction, thus provoke vandalism and plundering of materials!</p>	
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<p>8.2.3. Activities related to the anti-poison program and information campaigns:</p>	<p>We can give a positive evaluation of the anti-poison activities. Of course, this threat might still occur, even by accident, so the preventive efforts should continue!</p> <p>The activities related to the monitoring of the region were implemented well, too, and were significantly increased compared to previous years. Unfortunately, the trend of decline of the Egyptian Vulture population remains unchanged. The populations of the other birds breeding on rocks are relatively stable. The</p>	<p>See more details in complete report on report CD</p>
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	<p>absence of vultures during feedings and follow-up monitoring makes the motivation of volunteers and park officers difficult. The sooner the aviary birds are brought, the better motivation and encouragement will be achieved.</p> <p>We can give a negative evaluation of the delayed construction of the acclimatization aviary, but this delay will not result in a delay in the process of reintroduction of Griffon Vultures!</p>	
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8.3.1. Feeding and monitoring in the Western Rhodopes	<p>The reduced financial and human resources for working in the region are insufficient and cannot result in lasting attraction of wandering Griffon Vultures and formation of a new breeding colony. However, although minimal, these activities should continue, so that the region could be “kept ready” for the future “inevitable” settling of birds from the colonies of the Eastern Rhodopes and the regions envisaged for reintroduction in the Balkan Mountains!</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
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8.4.1. Activities related to the implementation of the anti-poison campaign (the activity of the WRBC)	<p>The very fact that ten different vultures were received at the Rehabilitation Center for a year illustrates the excellent results achieved in the WRBC’s work! Undoubtedly, the Center plays a crucial role as a coordination unit between the organizations working with vultures. Another important role of the WRBC is the formation of positive public attitude towards the conservation of vultures. Obviously, with the planned breeding programs, the involvement in the anti-poison activities, and the launch of the reintroduction programs, WRBC will play an increasingly important role in the Balkan Vulture Action Plan!</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
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8.5.1. Communication Strategy on Vultures	<p>For the objective reasons described project report, the results of this action are unsatisfactory!</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
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Conclusions:

Eastern Rhodopes:

The population of the Black vulture in the Eastern Rhodopes (including the Greek part as well) continues to be stable, but does not increase significantly. The most probable reasons for this are: lack of potential birds; loss of birds as a result of poisoning (most probably in the central part of the Greek Rhodope Mountains); lack of new suitable breeding habitats in the

Eastern Rhodopes. The Griffon Vulture population is slowly increasing both in the Bulgarian colonies and the Greek part of the Eastern Rhodopes. The question is whether in the region between Dadia and the Nestos River in Greece the level of poison use is not too high as well as whether many of the birds get lost there. The population of the Egyptian Vulture continues to decrease (although insignificantly). The role of the artificial feeding site at Byala Reka and also the rest of the conservation measures undertaken in the region are significant for all vulture populations and the activity should continue.

Eastern Balkan Mountains

The implemented monitoring and the recorded level of potential threats show that the region of the Eastern Balkan Mountains is ready and the reintroduction of Griffon Vultures should start as soon as possible. The Egyptian Vulture population remains at the level of the previous year.

Western Rhodopes

If the increase of the Griffon Vulture colonies in the Eastern Rhodopes continues and becomes faster, it will be a question of time when the historical places inhabited by the species will be re-occupied. The main limiting factor is food. In this regard, the efforts made in the region for the past years are insufficient and cannot result in the formation of new colonies. However, these efforts should continue, in order to keep the positive attitude toward vultures stirred in the local people for the past years, as well as to keep the region “ready” to harbor birds. The reintroductions planned to be carried out in the Balkan Mountains will speed up this process. Referring to the food availability, there is slight increase throughout the country in general. The Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Center plays an increasingly important role in the development of the Balkan Vulture Action Plan. The established network of veterinary supporters throughout the country plays an important role in the prevention of poison baits.

Objective 9: Subproject: Against poison (Antidote) activities of FWFF – Sofia

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
9.1. Collection and analyses of poisoned animals and baits	The collection and toxicological analyzes of samples become routine and continues as normal as usual. Unfortunately still it is not possible to organize wide enough network for samples collection to cover the entire country. An important success is the collaboration with a laboratory for heavy metals contamination analyzes and the first results in investigation of Egyptian Vultures and Imperial Eagles.	See more details in complete report on report CD
9.2. Seminar for regional environmental inspectors, park administrations,	Three seminars took place for forestry and park rangers in the NP Central Balkan and NP Vrachanski Balkan. We consider the seminars were important and successful.	See more details in complete report on report CD

veterinarians and forestry service in Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park and Central Balkan National Park and Kotel Mountain		
9.3. Distribution of Karakachan Shepherd Dogs	There were provided three dogs on a farmer in Vrachanski Balkan and 3 more on two farmers in Kotel Mountain.	See more details in complete report on report CD
9.4. Antidote Program workshops	The meeting that has taken place in Madjarovo was usefull not only for the traditionally participating BVAP NGOs, but also for the rangers of the National Park Central Balkan that participated in it.	See more details in complete report on report CD
9.5. Data base of poisoning incidents and map actualisation	Continues the updating and the actualization of the data base and the map. There is enough information already to follow the tendencies of poison baits use in Bulgaria. The expected inflow of information from the inquiries through the hunters has failed.	See more details in complete report on report CD
9.6. Involvement of state institutions in solving the problem of poisoning	The collaboration with the state institutions is going well. The seminars and the common meetings helped in the process.	See more details in complete report on report CD

Conclusions:

The last year was quite successful. The biggest problems were the high number of poisoned adult Egyptian Vultures and the unsuccessful information collection campaign through the hunters.

In 2007 started the creation of compensation program for livestock loses due to predators in Central Balkan. It is expected this project to help the improvement of the environment in Central Balkan for re-introduction of Griffon Vultures.

Also the starting of analyzes of heavy metals contamination in birds of prey could help our work in future.

More people and institutions should be involved in collection of information and samples for toxicological and heavy metals analyzes in future.

Objective 10: Subproject: Against Poison Activities in SW Bulgaria, Development of the Compensation Program for Livestock Losses Due to Predator Attacks, and Reintroduction of Griffon Vulture in Kotel Mountain (FWFF-Blagoevgrad)

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
10.1. Compensation of livestock losses caused by predators	<p>During 2007 FWFF directly supported about 120 farmers, and indirectly about 1000 have received support from the compensation program. More than 40 sheep, 50 goats and 60 guarding dogs were given as compensation and as preventive measures 18 electric fences were established on sheep barns.</p> <p>Thanks to FWFF the “HDI” Insurance Company has sell over 140 insurance policies for livestock with total number of more than 800 animals and over 210 livestock owners insured</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
10.2. Transhumance study and implementation	<p>The FWFF sheep have moved from Studen Kladenets (Eastern Rodopi) to Kotel (Stara Mountain) in April 2007 and from Kotel to Kraynovo (Strandja Mountain) in late 2007. National action plan for restoration of the transhumance is now being drafted and the first draft will soon be distributed among interested parties for comments.</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
10.3. Helping the improvement of livestock breeders’ co-operations, insurance and defence of the livestock from predators	<p>Three bilateral cooperatives with FWFF participation are formed. 18 electric fences are installed in 18 villages of SW Bulgaria. More than 60 Karakachan Dogs were distributed among farmers. The insurance campaign is now permanent.</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
10.4. Feeding and monitoring of feeding places for carcass eaters	<p>In total 48 feedings have been made as 4 628 kilos of food have been disposed on two feeding places (1013 kg food on Ilindentsi and 3 615 kg food on Kotel).</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
10.5. Viability study for reintroduction of Griffon, Black and Bearded vultures in SW Bulgaria	<p>The second draft of the document is now available.</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD
10.6. Trans-border co-operation with Macedonia and Greece	<p>Meetings, conference participation and common project activities with MES in Macedonia. The NGOs Callisto, EPO, WWF and HOS from Greece participated in the</p>	See more details in complete report on report CD

	conference in Melnik and the Egyptian Vulture meeting. Permanent exchange of information through balkanvultures@yahoo.com	
10.7. Against poison actions and putting pressure on the local authorities to pay more attention to the problem	Representatives from five municipal administrations in SW Bulgaria were involved in every month meetings to discuss the problem of livestock losses caused by predators. Also the measures described in Action 1 and Action 3 corresponds very clearly to the action too.	See more details in complete report on report CD
10.8. Integration of the park administrations of Rila and Pirin National Parks and Rila Monastery Nature Park in creation of preconditions for recovery of the vultures in SW Bulgaria	Not much progress. Still only conversations. No need of words, all administrations should be involved in practical actions. One of these could be the vulture re-introduction.	See more details in complete report on report CD
10.9. Study on food availability for the vultures in Bulgaria.	The study is ready and the document issued.	See more details in complete report on report CD
10.10. Reintroduction of Griffon Vulture in Kotel Mountain	3 Griffon Vultures were experimentally released in Kotel Mountain. One of these birds showed an excellent attachment to the area and is still present there, succeeding to find food by it self in the area. The second bird was re-captured in Turkey, and released again after treatment. It also still has the chance to return to Kotel Mountain. The third bird destiny is not known. The experiment showed that re-introduction of a species listed as “ <i>least concern</i> ” in BirdLife International data base could be re-introduced with less effort and less money.	The FWFF is gaining more and more experience in Griffon vulture re-introduction techniques.

Conclusions:

The compensation of livestock should be related with complex of supporting activities e.g. insurance, dog providing of shepherds, actualization of the cooperatives in accordance with the new circumstances. Releasing of Griffon Vultures in SW Bulgaria will become a tool for involving the institutions and will be accomplish the FWFF and the BVAP efforts for establishing of a healthy environment for the vultures and other wildlife species in the region.

The releasing of Griffon Vultures in Kotel was carried out without approval of the BVAP reintroduction committee. FWFF came to the unrealistic conclusion: “it proved that the re-introduction could be made also with less money and lighter facilities.” The long

discussed release of the birds of Kotel show that it is necessary to sign specific agreements in order to be able to stick to a common coordination and methodology.

Objective 11: Subproject: Recovery of the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) as a breeding species in Vrachanska Planina Mountain. Reintroduction – following steps – measures, Bulgaria (BPPS)

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
11.1. Regular feeding	Regular feedings were done at the feeding place. Four additional feedings were provided near the Egyptian vultures nest. We used both livestock carcasses and slaughterhouse scraps. We registered feedings of Egyptian vulture, golden eagle, common buzzard etc.	See more details in complete report on report CD
11.2. Improving and expanding the dead meat supply system	The system continued to operate and was further maintained. However we registered drop in the dead livestock calls received from the region. That is why BPPS acquired permit for slaughterhouse scraps in August 07. Since that moment we feed also with scraps	See more details in complete report on report CD
11.3. Monitoring	Regular monitoring was held in all the important sites – the feeding place, the major cliffs, the Egyptian vulture nest, and the former breeding sites of the species. There are three positive observations of Griffon vultures in the area in 2007.	See more details in complete report on report CD
11.4. Information campaign	The information campaign covered different target groups. Special attention is paid to the regular local hunters and their leaders. Meetings with students and pupils were organized. Presentations were given. TV broadcasts and publications in newspapers were released.	See more details in complete report on report CD
11.5. Measures to reduce the threats to the Griffon vulture and Egyptian vulture	There are no registered cases of poison use or birds shot in 2007. Shepherd dogs provided by (FWFF- Sofia) were given to local shepherds. An anti poison seminar was organized.	See more details in complete report on report CD
11.6. Reintroduction activities.	No cages (release or educational) were constructed due to lack of funds. Fundraising efforts were attempted without success by now. Joint Life+ project was submitted in the end of 2007. Information regarding the griffon vulture reintroduction was disseminated.	See more details in complete report on report CD
11.7. Activities related to the protection of the Egyptian Vulture in Vrachanska Planina Mountain	It is promising that the species is nesting in Vrachanska Mt again this year. One bird has been recorded in an old breeding site in the Iskar Gorge. The standard activities on the conservation of the species in the area are	See more details in complete report on report CD

	running. A wide range monitoring was held in Vrachanska Mt and other regions in NW Bulgaria. In 2007 one nesting pair of Egyptian vultures was recorded. Single non breeding birds were registered in two former nesting sites. The monitoring activities were coordinated with BSPB. The pair was supported with additional feedings during the breeding season.	
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Conclusions:

During the period we consider as most successful the monitoring, \information campaign and Egyptian vulture conservation activities. We encountered difficulties with the dead meat collection system which reflected on the amount of carcasses at the feeding place. In August we found the solution obtaining permit to use slaughterhouse scraps. This compensated the lower number of carcasses available. The reintroduction activities are still limited because of insufficient funds needed for cages construction.

Objective 12: Subproject: Recovery through reintroduction of the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in the Central Balkan National Park (BPPS)

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
12.1. Finalization and submission of the viability study and fundraising campaign.	The viability study was finished and submitted to the reintroduction committee. Most of the fundraising efforts that were undertaken in 2007 did not succeed. A Life plus proposal was submitted but its result will become clear in the end of 2008. Contribution to the project (though minor) comes from the obtained spotting scope.	See more details in complete report on report CD
12.2. Improving the food base in the area.	The first five months of 2007 we succeeded to provide sufficient amount of food to the feeding place and developed system for collection of carcasses and slaughterhouse scraps (for which we obtained a special permit). In May we removed the feeding place and search for another gorge to construct it again. We obtained two more permits for its functioning and re-established it in the beginning of Oct. The system for collection was not resumed yet because lack of an appropriate vehicle for transport of carcasses.	See more details in complete report on report CD
12.3. Information campaign for the local	We kept informing local people, mayors, vets, hunters, park visitors, pupils etc.	See more details in complete report on

communities and park visitors	However there are still a lot of people to reach along the large territory of CBNP and the reintroduction cite. More information materials and meetings with the target groups are needed.	report CD
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12.4. Minimizing the threats and the negative factors	Despite our efforts to prevent it, two incidents occurred in the very end of 2007. One golden eagle was found shot and wounded in Klisura park section at about 75km east from Tazha village, and three dogs, two foxes and a wild boar were found together poisoned in Kalofer park section – only about 10 km west from Tazha.	See more details in complete report on report CD
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12.5. Monitoring of the vulture presence in the park	Regular monitoring was held but no Griffon vultures were recorded by BPPS in 2007. Egyptian vulture pair was observed in Sokolna reserve of the Park in the late Sept. The birds were most probably migrating south from north Bulgaria. Dead livestock was recorded and observed during monitoring. The scavenging birds common for the park were observed.	See more details in complete report on report CD
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Conclusions:

The year of 2007 started very optimistic but eventually turned to be a difficult one. The construction and running of the feeding place was the first material outcome of the project and provoked the first serious obstacles to appear. We believe we have solved the problem with the people from Tazha. Re-establishing the feeding place at a new much more quiet location and obtaining permits to from more institutions was a compromise with the local people which they seem to appreciate.

The two disturbing incidents from the end of 2007 show that the problems do not pass the CBNP even despite our efforts to prevent it. On one hand we realized that very serious actions are needed to prevent this to repeat and on another – you never have full guarantees. To react to this situation BPPS and CBNP had to work more together which improved our collaboration, helped us to learn lessons and I believe has become a base of a better future collaboration.

Objective 13: Subproject: Following the Vultures III - film from Bulgaria (Edelweiss)

Note: There is no available information for this project as the film has not yet been made.

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
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13.1. Film		
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Objective 14: Subproject: Multiplying the Success: How to Increase Sustainably the Populations of Large Vultures in the Eastern Rhodopes (BSPB)

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
<p>14.1. To prevent future cases of poisoning of sarcophagus birds and mitigate the underlying causes for the use of poisons.</p>	<p>No cases of poisoned Large Vultures were recorded. The project team worked with 132 big owners of livestock. Organized feeding to prevent potential impact on the Griffon vultures.</p>	<p>Census data and population parameters well known. Dispersion better understood. For Madjarovo region it is necessary to change the monitoring program for observations during the feedings.</p>
<p>14.2. To guarantee sufficient food availability for the existing vultures in the Eastern Rhodopes..</p>	<p>Improved local information network for collection of the carcasses. Totally 30,790 kg of food were provided at two feeding places which is an increase by 2.5 times in comparison to 2006. Reduced percentage of the food from slaughterhouses used by the vultures. High breeding success - 26 successfully fledged young. Stable vulture population -35 territorial pairs (16% increase according to 2006), 33 breeding pairs. Eliminated problem with the dogs in Madjarovo and double increased the food used by the vultures at the feeding station.</p>	<p>Big problem was the bad condition of the cars used providing food and monitoring. Established good basis for self-financing of the activities in future. Proposal for change in the law on supplementary feedings was made.</p>
<p>14.3. To provide regular up-to-date comprehensive information on the vulture populations in the Eastern Rhodopes for the need of planning and enforcement of adequate conservation measures.</p>	<p>The available information allows to plan conservation measures and to asses their effectiveness. Good tracking of the age structure of the Eastern Rhodope's population. Two simultaneous feedings were organized in collaboration with Green Balkans, WWF and EPO. The autumn-winter monitoring of the roosting places that started in 2004, was enlarged and enhanced through a partnerships with NGO "Green Balkans" and WWF Dadia experts.</p>	<p>Census data and population parameters well known. Dispersion better understood. For Madjarovo region it is necessary to change the monitoring program for observations during the feedings</p>

<p>14.4. To improve the public attitudes towards vultures and their role in ecosystems and to increase the awareness among key stakeholders about vulture conservation and the importance of these birds for the region.</p>	<p>10% increase in the number of visitors of the Vulture center in Madjarovo 170 volunteers took part in the camps – a guarantee for sustainability in terms of human capacity Evening slide shows and documentaries were attended by about 90% of the inhabitants of Madjarovo. Project team provided consultation on Nature 2000 issues to more than 50 local people.</p>	<p>It is difficult to evaluate the local support. A good sign is that Municipalities of Madjarovo and Krumovgrad invested in tourist infrastructure that was given to the Vulture Centre</p>
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Conclusions:

The activity was successful and supported by the politic of MAFS in relation to the agricultural producers and NATURA 2000. With the “big” farmers it is easier to work than with the “small” ones.

In E. Rhodopes there is no good result about the prevention of use of pesticides (poisons for rodents and dogs in the villages and towns; deratisation of Dump station.

An information system for carcasses-collecting established. Totally 30 790 kg. of food were provided at two feeding stations which is 2,5 times increase according to 2006. An addition to the staff nine volunteers took part. The feeding contributed significantly to the high breeding success of the Griffon vulture colonies. Monitoring at the feeding places is well organized. Breeding success of the Griffon vulture’s colonies is well monitored. According to 2006 reported 16% increase of the breeding pairs.

Objective 15: Subproject: Urgent Conservation Measures for the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) in Bulgaria (BSPB)

Specific objectives/ actions	Measurable indicators	Comments
<p>15.1.1. Participation in workshop with the park administration, to compose the budget of nature park “Russenski Lom” for the next year.</p>	<p>Three meetings were carried out with the Park Administration The Park co-financed with petrol and 4x4 vehicle the search for nests in the territory of the Park Feeding station was built and fenced in the Nature Park</p>	<p>The activities for conservation of the Egyptian Vulture in the Park were well planned and implemented.</p>
<p>15.2.1. Maintenance of Internet-based GIS database on the Egyptian Vulture.</p>	<p>All the information for the species have been summarized and included into an Excel database which is easy and well working in the data analyzing. Tens of important diagrams and graphs have been made through it, most of which are included in the species National action plan. Important discoveries on the species population ecology in Bulgaria have been made and visualized through it, amongst which the high importance of the inter-specific</p>	<p>See more details in complete report on report CD</p>

	competition in the Eastern Rhodopes, the high number of non breeding territorial pairs, the decline in the occupancy of low cliffs for breeding, the high significance of the breeding failure caused due to disturbance and etc.	
15.2.2. Implementation of the monitoring program.	The activity was highly successful and the breeding success and stages of failure of all known pairs were recorded. All the breeding territories in the country where the species have been observed in the last 3 years have been visited in 2007. Totally 43 breeding territories were occupied this year. 40 of them by pairs and 3 by territorial single adults. In 2 territories in the Eastern Rhodopes probable breeding is presumed. 21 pairs successfully fledged 25 juveniles and the other 19 were unsuccessful. The productivity (number of juveniles per monitored pairs) is 0,63 and the breeding success (number of juveniles per successful pairs) is 1,14.	See more details in complete report on report CD
15.2.3. Ringing of nestling Egyptian Vultures in the nests before fledging with color and aluminum rings.	Attempts for ringing in two nests were made. Only one juvenile was ringed on 15.VIII in a nest in Eastern Balkan Mountain. Attempt for ringing of another two juveniles in a nest in Eastern Rhodopes was made on 17.VIII, but the juveniles were found suffering from avian pox and were rescued for treatment.	We did not succeed to ring higher number of juveniles due to delay of the permission for ringing from the Ministry of Environment and Waters.
15.2.4. Identifying of the diet of the Egyptian Vulture through collecting and analyzing the food remains and pellets in all the successful nests after the end of the breeding season.	Entering with alpine equipment into 38 nests was done in 2007 in order to collect food remains and find data for the causes of breeding failure and abandonment of the territory. Initial data from the analysis of 19 nests used in 2006 is available. Executing this activity in 2007 we found two adult birds dead under the nests and remains from two other juveniles died before fledging. The entering into the nests informs us about otherwise unseen but very important threats like the treasure hunters or nest robbers activities near the nests and etc.	The activity was highly successful. It is necessary this activity to be carried out every year, because only by this way we can acquire quantitatively adequate data on the food base of the species.
15.2.5. Search for undiscovered nests of Egyptian vultures in areas where the species	The activity was highly successful. The nests of 5 pairs which were unknown were found. Three new pairs were also found and their nests were also found. Totally 8 nests of pairs	Now after we know the nests we can plan better the conservation

<p>have been observed in the breeding season in 2004, 2005 or 2006.</p>	<p>were discovered in 2007, 7 of them are in the Eastern Rhodopes and one in Roussenski Lom. After these discoveries in 2007 there were no surely known pairs with unknown nests.</p>	<p>measures for every pair and plan making of proposals for designation of protected territories around the nests.</p>
<p>15.3.1 Organizing of a workshop meeting with the organizations working in the conservation of the Egyptian vulture.</p>	<p>Representatives of 12 organizations and institutions from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece and Serbia, took part in the workshop. 11 presentations on the status and activities for the conservation of the Egyptian vulture were presented at the meeting. Important discussions were made on equalizing of the monitoring program, coordination of monitoring activities in the countries for 2008 and prioritization of the most urgent conservation measures for the species on the Balkans.</p>	<p>The development of the Balkan Egyptian Vulture Action plan was postponed due to the low number of participants of the Balkan Egyptian Vulture working Group. Generally the workshop was very useful in acquiring good information for the situation with the species in the neighboring countries and conducting of important discussions.</p>
<p>15.4.1. Feeding the pairs with low breeding success.</p>	<p>Ten feedings were done in the Eastern Rhodopes. Supplementary feeding program was planned to start in Roussenski Lom, organized mainly by the administration of the Nature Park but this activity finally did not realized since only one feeding was done. The most significant contribution to the feeding program was done by Marin Kurtev with the more than 100 feedings in the Eastern Rhodopes, which he made with the work on the BSPB project “Conservation of large vultures in the Eastern Rhodopes”. The lack of 4WD car, trailer and a salary budget for a person especially dedicated at this very hard and time consuming activity, were the most significant constraints in its implementation. In these conditions and taking into account the big effort put on finding the nests of all existing pairs and search for new pairs and monitoring of their breeding success, the inadequate result of the supplementary feeding program was expected from the very beginning of the year.</p>	<p>See more details in complete report on report CD</p>

<p>15.4.2. Organizing of education campaign in the villages where the Egyptian vultures breed.</p>	<p>Various activities in villages in the Eastern Rhodopes and Northeast Bulgaria were done. A poster for the Egyptian Vulture was printed and distributed in many parts of the species inhabitation in the country. 20 copies of stickers for cars with Egyptian vultures were also printed and distributed at the workshop in Madjarovo.</p>	<p>Generally during 2007 the efforts put on the education activities were not satisfactory. This was due to constraints of the budget and decrease of the available funds towards the end of the year, which predetermined the insufficient effort put in that activity.</p>
<p>15.4.3. Preventing of future possible disturbance through meetings with state and municipality administration (Forestry Services, Mayors, RIEW), clubs for extreme sports (delta and paraplanerism, rock-climbing) and real estate investors.</p>	<p>Meetings with local mayors and people living near nests of Egyptian Vultures have been made. The importance of the species conservation was promoted. Meetings with RIEW Varna and Haskovo, Biosphere Society, archaeologists, owner of a chalet near Egyptian Vulture nest and dedicated local people, were also made. The activity proved successful but much more efforts and time are necessary to be dedicated to it in the future.</p>	<p>More efforts and time are necessary to be dedicated to it. It should be permanent activity throughout all the year.</p>

Conclusions:

The joint work with the administration of Roussenski Lom Nature Park continued successfully.

In spite of the big difficulties with the Internet-based database, all the information was transformed into an Excel database and it is currently operating very well.

The monitoring program was implemented very successfully and the breeding success of all sure known pairs in the country is recorded. The reasons for failure of most of the unsuccessful pairs are known.

One juvenile was successfully color ringed in a nest for first time in Bulgaria. Entering into 38 nests was done in 2007 in order to collect food remains and find data for the causes of breeding failure and abandonment of the territory.

Totally 8 nests of pairs were discovered in 2007, 7 of them in the Eastern Rhodopes and one in Roussenski Lom. After these discoveries in 2007 there was no surely known pairs with unknown nests.

Workshop of the Balkan Egyptian Vulture Working Group, with more representatives of the Bulgarian Egyptian Vulture working Group, was carried out on 15-17.XI in the Nature Conservation Center Eastern Rhodopes. Important information exchange and discussions were done.

Ten feedings were done in the Eastern Rhodopes. More than 100 feedings have been made by the BSPB Large Vultures project at two feeding places in the Eastern Rhodopes.

Educational activities were implemented in the Eastern Rhodopes, Northeast Bulgaria and Roussenski Lom. A poster showing the limiting factors of the species was printed in 1000 copies and distributed in villages in the Eastern Rhodopes and Northeast Bulgaria.

Meetings with local mayors, RIEWs, stake-holders, local NGOs, archaeologists, and people living near nests of Egyptian Vultures have been made. The importance of the species conservation was promoted.

The conservation of the Egyptian Vulture in Bulgaria needs more efforts to stop the decline of the species. Nest guarding of the nests exposed at disturbance and robbery risk, stable supplementary feeding program, designation of protected territories around the nests and intensive work with the local people for promoting of the importance for the conservation of the species, are urgently needed.

Summary (1 page maximum)

Project Name: **Vultures in the Balkan Region 2007 ZGF-1287/02**

Goal of Project: Recovery and Conservation of Vultures and their ecosystems in the Balkan region

Objectives	Assessment
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vulture Monitoring in Albania and Greek Epiros 2007 2. Action plan for exploration and conservation of the vultures in the central, eastern and southern region of the Republic of Macedonia 3. Vulture Conservation Project in Macedonia – Vulture conservation in Macedonia trough implementation of antidote and educational activities 4. Eco-development in the rural areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia 5. Vulture Conservation Project Macedonia - Survey and monitoring of the status, breeding and threats to the Egyptian Vulture in Macedonia, with implementation of urgent conservation activities 2007 6. Integral protection of Eurasian Griffons in Croatia 7. Trans-boundary monitoring and public awareness actions of 4 Vulture species and their habitats in the mountain range of Aridea (Greece) and Kavadartzi (F.Y.R.O.M.). 8. “Bearded Vulture – Let’s return the symbol of Bulgarian nature conservation” Activities for the restoration of the Black and Bearded vulture populations as a first step for the reintroduction of the Bearded vulture in Bulgaria. 9. Against poison (Antidote) activities of FWFF – Sofia 10. Against Poison Activities in SW Bulgaria, Development of the Compensation Program for Livestock Losses Due to Predator Attacks, and Reintroduction of Griffon Vulture in Kotel Mountain (11. Recovery of the Griffon Vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>) as a breeding species in Vrachanska 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring of EV nests, population seems to be stable. First survey undertaken in Greece close to Albania. Funds needed for education activities. 2. Good continuation of monitoring, feeding education, good breeding result of the much weakened Griffon Vulture population, poisoning seems to be more important. 3. Griffon Vultures did not breed, but EV fledged two young. More attention spent to poisoning threat. 4. Continuation of the project in Serbia with AECI funding, new vehicle, all actions in Serbia increased and extended to Bosnia-Herzegovina. 2 Griffon Vultures send and kept in cage. 5. Very good monitoring, excellent results. Urgent actions for conservation need to be carried out. 6. Project carried out with MAVA support. 7. Good cooperation between NGOs of Greece and Macedonia, feeding, monitoring and education. 8. Good cooperation with all other NGOs, mainly feeding place and preparations for reintroduction. 9. Important part of the Bulgarian Antidote campaign. 10. Very good pilot project with actions against poisoning and at the same time improving food availability for vultures, supporting the shepherds. The action of the reintroduction in Kotel was suddenly improvised and the birds of the cage released without agreement of the BVAP reintroduction committee. This shows that it is necessary to sign specific agreements in order be able to stick to a common coordination and methodology. 11. Conditions prepared for Griffon Vulture reintroduction. Start postponed to 2008 due to lack of funds. 12. Conditions prepared for Griffon Vulture reintroduction. Approved after confirmation to be

<p>fulvus) as a breeding species in Vrachanska Planina Mountain. Reintroduction – following steps – measures, Bulgaria</p> <p>12. Recovery through reintroduction of the Griffon Vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>) in the Central Balkan National Park</p> <p>13. Following the Vultures III- film Bulgaria</p> <p>14. Conservation of the Large Vultures in the Eastern Rhodopes 2007</p> <p>15. Urgent Conservation Measures for the Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>) in Bulgaria</p>	<p>clean from poison.</p> <p>13. 3rd Video on the Bulgarian part of the BVAP, good cooperation with the other NGOs, whose projects are presented: not yet ready.</p> <p>14. Most important project for the conservation of Griffon in Bulgaria. Good monitoring, increasing reproduction results.</p> <p>15. Numerous initiatives to find the way to invert the negative trend of the species in Bulgaria and, in relation with this experience, in the surrounding countries.</p>
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**Overview about the results on activities in the framework of the
Action Plan for the Recovery of Vulture Species in the Balkans
BULGARIA**

Threat	Project Purpose: To protect the vultures of the Balkans		all	BeV	BIV	EV	GV
	Output 1:	Organisational framework in place					
	Activity 1.1:	Establish the South Eastern Europe Vulture Partnership	all				
	Activity 1.2:	Sign SEEVP MoU	all				
	Activity 1.3:	Publish Workshop Proceedings (October 2002)	BSPB				
	Activity 1.4:	Develop international action plan					
	Activity 1.5:	Develop national action plans		GB & Le Balkan	BSPB	BSPB	BSPB
	Activity 1.6:	Provide advice in fund-raising and a fund raising strategy					
	Output 2:	Ecological data necessary for conservation of species available					
	Activity 2.1:	Carry out surveys (fieldwork)		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF,BPPS
21	Activity 2.2:	Establish monitoring (incl. collection of "virus data")		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Activity 2.3:	Establish population databases		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Activity 2.4:	Understand long-distance movement (satellite radio-tracking)	BO Centre	GB, Le B	BSPB, WWF GR	BSPB	BSPB, WWF GR
	Activity 2.5:	Study situation in wintering areas					
	Activity 2.6:	Identify research needs, initiate research		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
1	Output 4:	No poisoning of vultures					
	Activity 4.1:	Law prohibits use of poison	GB				
	Activity 4.2:	Law properly implemented					
	Activity 4.3:	Develop anti-poison actions					
	Activity 4.4:	Share information about poisoning/co-ordinate data collection	FWFF				
6	Output 5:	Key sites protected					
	Activity 5.1:	Develop and lobby for legal protection of sites		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF

Threat	Project Purpose: To protect the vultures of the Balkans		all	BeV	BIV	EV	GV
	Activity 5.2:	Act as "watchdog" for specific cases (mining, road building etc.)		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Activity 5.3:	Identify key sites, colonies and feeding areas		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Activity 5.4:	Identify and document EU SPAs	BSPB				
	Output 6:	Habitat suitable for vultures (large scale)					
	Activity 6.1:	Create conditions for "vulture-friendly" agriculture	BSPB				
	Activity 6.2:	Create conditions for "vultures-friendly" forestry (tree species, forest fires etc.)	GB				
	Activity 6.3:	Promote "vulture friendly" hunting practices	BSPB				
2	Output 7:	Feeding situation improved					
	Activity 7.1:	Establish feeding stations		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
10	Activity 7.2:	Develop and distribute guidelines for feeding stations	BSPB				
8	Activity 7.3:	Ensure that slaughter houses provide food for vultures	BSPB				
15	Activity 7.4:	Manage livestock in "vulture-friendly way"					
	Activity 7.5:	Dispose carcasses around villages in traditional way	BSPB				
	Activity 7.6:	Promote Transhumance	FWFF				
23	Activity 7.7:	Restore wild ungulates populations	Balkani				
9	Activity 7.8:	Reduce food competition (dogs, ravens)		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
13	Output 8:	Disturbance reduced					
5	Activity 8.1:	lobby for legal and effective protection		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Activity 8.2:	Wardening key sites		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
14	Activity 8.3:	Reduce impact of electrocution	BSPB				
3	Activity 8.4:	Address problems caused by building of roads	GB				
	Activity 8.5:	Guidelines for "vulture friendly forest management" developed/implemented	GB				
4	Activity 8.6:	Reduce impact of geological work	BSPB				
20	Activity 8.7:	Reduce nest robbery (eggs, chicks)	BPPS				
12	Activity 8.8:	Reduce impact of wind parks	Le Balkan				
	Activity 8.9:	Work to reduce the disturbance from military aircraft	BSPB				
7	Output 9:	Reintroductions / re-stocking					
	Output 9.1:	Contribute to the revision of the IUCN criteria on reintroductions and restocking	GB				

Threat	Project Purpose: To protect the vultures of the Balkans		all	BeV	BIV	EV	GV
	Output 9.2:	Identify possible projects	ST GRP				
	Output 9.3:	Enhance the breeding programme	GB centre Stara Zagora				
	Output 9.4:	Carry out reintroduction / re-stocking projects in accordance with IUCN Criteria		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
17	Output 10:	People aware of and supportive to vultures conservation					
	Output 10.1:	Carry out projects with shepherds and landusers		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Output 10.2:	Carry out projects with pupils, general public and decision makers		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Output 10.3:	Highlight vulture conservation in information centres		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Output 10.4:	Joint public awareness campaigns and events		GB	BSPB GB	BSPB	BSPB GB FWFF
	Output 11:	Legal protection of vultures and their habitats in place					
	Output 11.1:	Use international convention to protect vultures	BSPB				
18	Output 12:	Capacity building					
10	Output 12.1:	Train key stake holders (veterinary, forestry men, police etc.)	BPPS				
	Output 12.2:	Enhance capacity of NGOs and assist increase in capacity of Public bodies	Steering Group				