

Antipoison Dog Units in Greece

to safeguard the last remaining Egyptian vultures in the Balkans



Since the beginning of the implementation of the LIFE+ Project “The Return of the Neophron” (LIFE10 NAT/BG/00152) in October 2011, it has become ever so clear that the greatest threat for the survival of the Egyptian vultures in Greece is the **illegal use of poison baits**. Different methodologies use such as satellite telemetry, monitoring and questionnaires among key stakeholders all point at poison baits as being the main cause of the sharp decrease the species has undergone in the last years in our country.

For this reason, the **Hellenic Ornithological Society/BirdLife Greece** has invested great efforts in the fight against poison. The best conservation tool, used effectively in other countries with the same objective, is the creation of dog units specially trained to find poison baits and dead animals in the countryside. Poison baits are set to be inconspicuous to the human eye, but dogs’ incredible sense of smell allows them to find them even in the roughest conditions. So they can then be removed, decreasing the chances of poisoning, potentially saving not only Egyptian vulture lives, but also that of other threatened species such as Golden Eagle, wolves or bears.

However, the fight against poison is not an easy one. This is a practice long rooted in the rural areas of Greece and it needs a combination of efforts for it to be successful: lots of awareness activities, lobbying to local and national authorities...

Please help us to carry on with the difficult task of cleaning our countryside from poison so we can see Egyptian vultures flying again in our skies!



LIFE+ 10 NAT/BG/000152

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

www.LifeNeophron.eu