Reducing mortality of migratory birds and vultures

Amongst the many human activities that result in heavy species mortality, three strongly affect migratory birds and vultures:

- 25 million birds are illegally killed each year as they migrate between nesting and wintering grounds.
- Collisions with power lines and wind turbines come a close second as a threat to migratory species.
- Illegally placed poisoned bait, as well as livestock carcasses loaded with dangerous veterinary drugs, threaten populations of vultures and large raptors.

"Our approach to address the conservation of these species is to reduce intentional and accidental killing both by supporting local partners in each priority country and advocating governments to implement the existing legislation."

Luis Costa, Programme Manager, Mediterranean Basin, MAVA

WHERE ARE THE GEOGRAPHICAL INTERVENTION AREAS?

Actions on the ground focus on areas where the threats are most acute.

Efforts will be scaled up to produce an impact at Mediterranean wide level.

THREATENED SPECIES

Migratory Birds

- Golden Oriole

Vultures

- Bearded Vulture

Collision and electrocution

Illegal killing

Poisoning
M7 Birds

**HOW WE THINK CHANGE WILL HAPPEN**

The action plan (or 'results chain' in technical terms) has been developed in accordance with the Open Standards - a recognised methodology in the conservation field. A summary is presented below:

**KNOWLEDGE**
- Develop research needed to support action and influence policies and strategies

**AWARENESS**
- Raise awareness of stakeholders about priority issues

**CAPACITY**
- Develop capacity to enable local authorities and CSO to play an active role at national level

**ADVOCACY**
- Advocate for the establishment of national policies and legislation

**ACTION ON THE GROUND**
- Implement activities at local level for minimising the threats in the most problematic spots

**WE AIM TO:**
- Minimise or eliminate human-induced mortality of priority birds species at Mediterranean level
- Reduce illegal killing of migratory birds
- Mitigate the effects of poison and ban of diclofenac drug and lead ammunition
- Reduction of collision with infrastructure and electrocution

**EXPECTED KEY RESULTS**

**HOW IS THE ACTION PLAN BEING IMPLEMENTED?**

Steering Group is formed by BirdLife, EuroNatur, IUCN Mediterranean Centre, VCF, Tour du Valat, WWF Spain and WWF Greece – with BirdLife taking a leading role on illegal killing of birds and collision and electrocution, and VCF taking the lead for poisoning.

EuroNatur is expected to play a strong role in coordinating implementation in the Balkans, IUCN in collision and electrocution issues in the Maghreb, and BirdLife partners will act at national level according to the geographical priorities presented above.

Tour du Valat will contribute to the socioeconomic studies for understanding illegal killing.

VCF is leading the work on poisoning across the distribution areas of the species of vultures in the region, with support by BirdLife through their national partners.

WWF Greece is contributing to Greek national policy and to site specific actions to reduce risks of collision with existing energy infrastructure in Greece.

WWF Spain is engaging with energy and poisoning issues in Spain.

A new NGO created by WWF Greece to work specifically in Thrace is being registered and will join the partnership soon.

**WHO ARE OUR MAIN PARTNERS?**

**WHAT IS THE BUDGET?**

Total budget CHF 12.9 million
- Co-funding CHF 4.5 million
- MAVA Allocation CHF 8.4 million

**LINKS WITH OTHER MAV A ACTION PLANS**

**M6. Cultural Landscapes:** threats to migratory birds and vultures occur in some of our pilot sites for this OAP (e.g. illegal killing of birds in el Shouf, Lebanon, and poisoning in the dehesas/montados)

**M3. Coastal Wetlands:** threats on migratory birds are prevalent in two of our coastal wetlands pilot sites Oristano and Bojana-Buna.

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