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**Identification of national policing
investigation priorities: the experience of
Hungary**

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What did we build on?

- Tunis Action Plan and Rec. No. 164 on its implementation
- Rec. No. 171 on setting-up of national policing and investigation priorities
- Experience and data on IKB activities and measures against them in Hungary (E. g. Illegal hunting and trade of birds in CEE – 2006 by TRAFFIC and WWF)
- Anti-poisoning Action Plan agreed by the Raptor Conservation Council (2013)
- Experience from and results of HELICON LIFE project





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Focus on identification of priorities:

- **The impact that IKB has on the conservation status of the affected species,**
- The legal or administrative status of the area,
- The possible damage to the ecological balance or to the habitat,
- The particular nature of the area (e.g. hotspots of bird conservation),
- The level of penalties provided by the legislation.





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Number one conflict source in Hungary:

- Predators versus game, fish and livestock owners and managers
- Since the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and probably still all over its former territory
(8000-10,000 eagles, 1500-2000 vultures and 100,000 other raptors slaughtered in Hungary annually a hundred years ago...)
- Modern times: to minimise the use of manpower and to maximise efficiency → poisoning

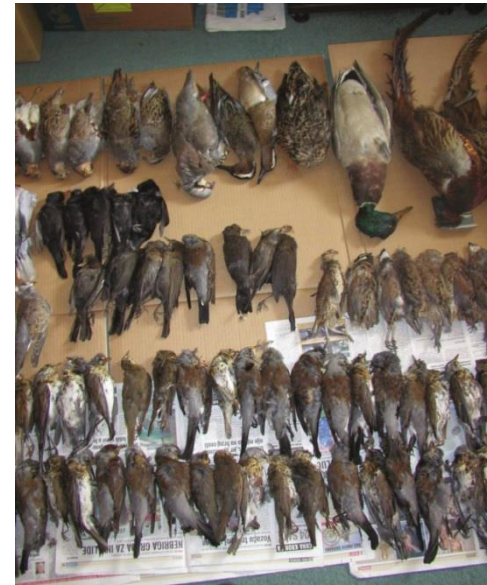




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Other conflict sources in Hungary:

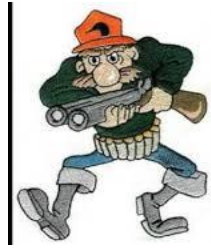
- Illegal egg and chick collection for falconry
- Shooting of protected wildfowl
- Illegal hunting or transporting of protected passerines, Coturnix coturnix etc.
- Live finch trapping



Who poisons?

Why?

Hunter/
game manager



Pigeon-keeper



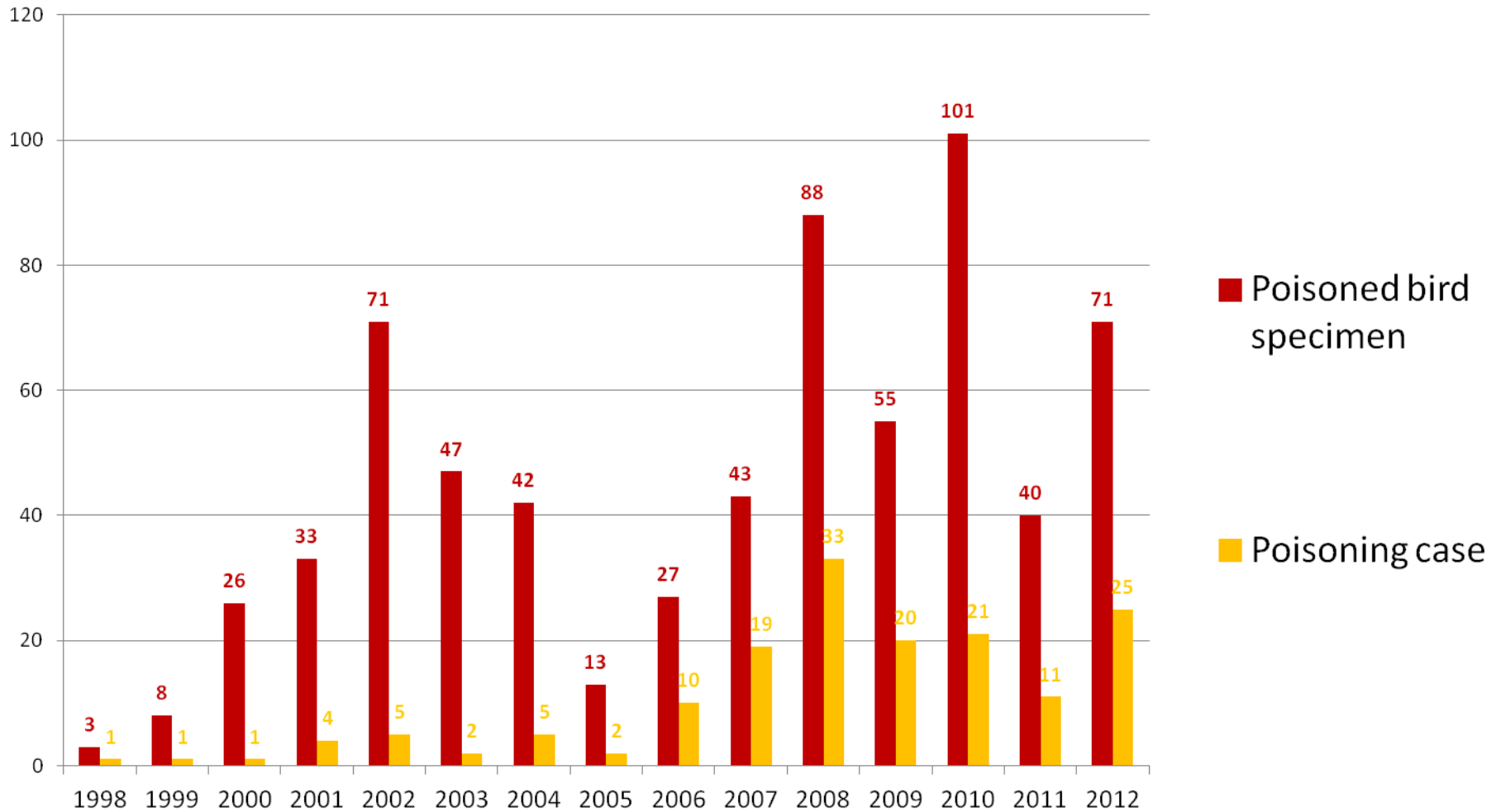
Poultry keeper



Fish farmer



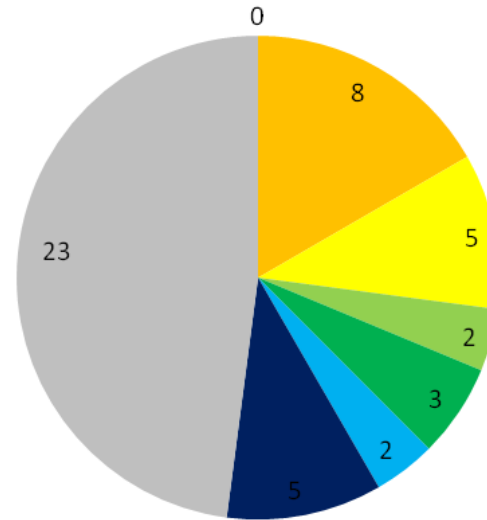
Illegal poisoning activities recorded in Hungary between 1998 and 2012



Mortality causes of Eastern Imperial Eagles in Hungary



1980-2004 (n=48)

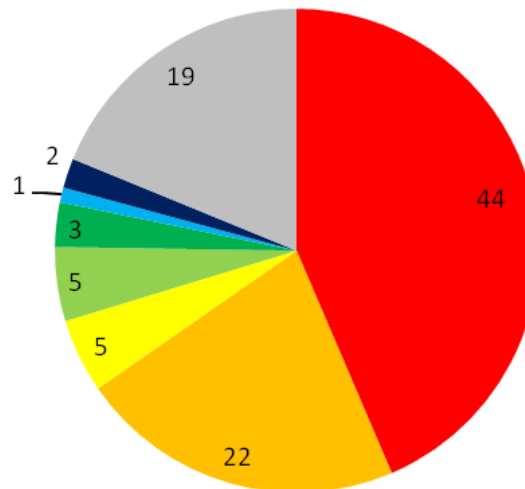


- Poisoning
- Electrocution
- Collision with vehicle
- Shooting
- Starving
- Collision with electric cable
- Other
- Unknown



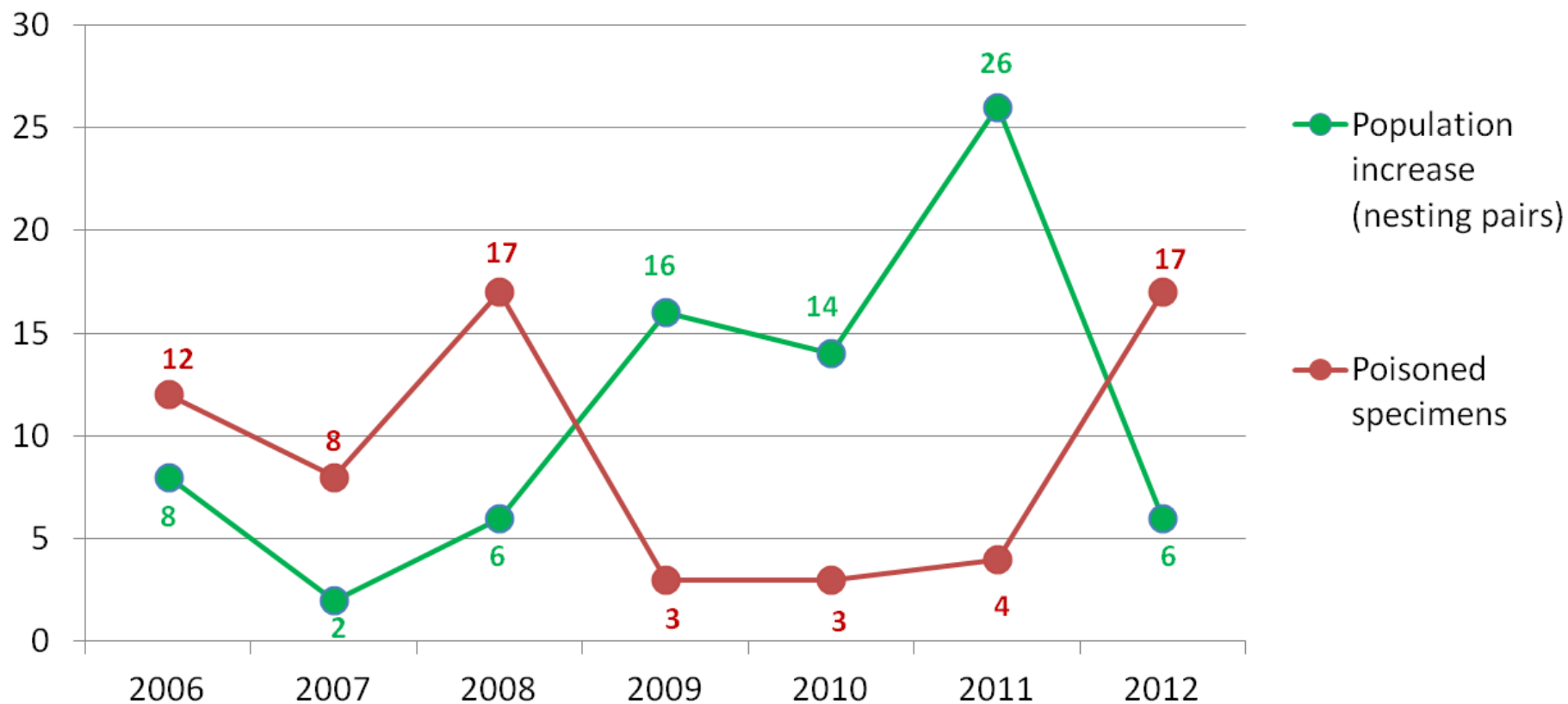
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2005-2012 (n=101)

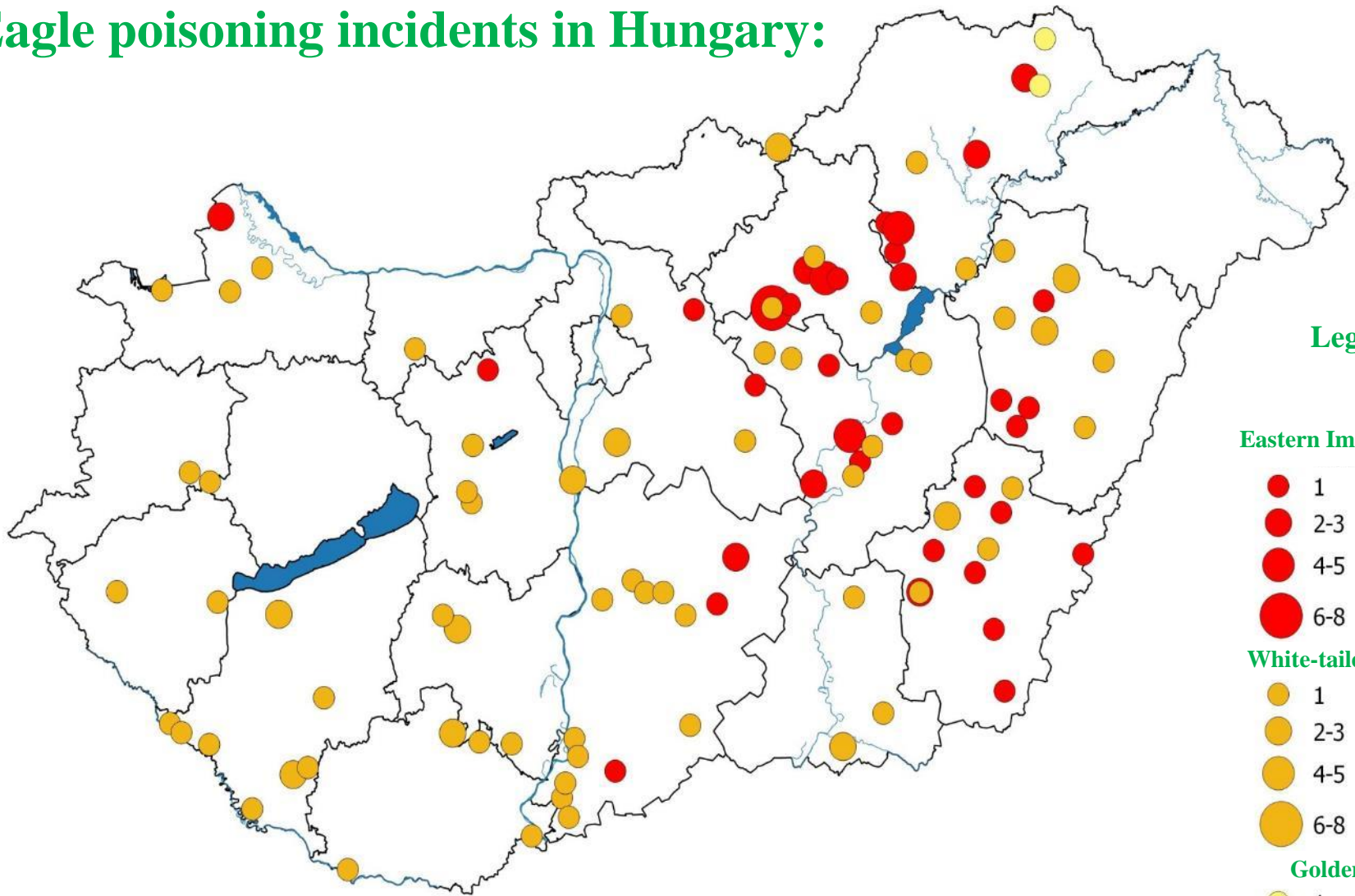


- Poisoning
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- Collision with vehicle
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Changes in the number of poisoned and breeding imperial eagles in Hungary (2005-2012)



Eagle poisoning incidents in Hungary:



Legend

Eastern Imperial Eagle

- 1
- 2-3
- 4-5
- 6-8

White-tailed Eagle

- 1
- 2-3
- 4-5
- 6-8

Golden Eagle

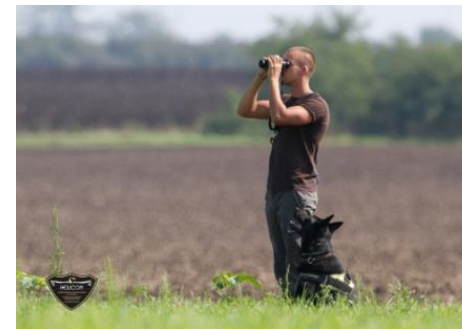
- 1
- 2-3



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Identification of priorities – process

- Conservation prioritisation based on expert assessment of impact on population, factors used:
 - frequency of crime
 - conservation status
- Stakeholder involvement: minimal (only during antecedents), priorities of nature conservation are to be identified by nature conservation
- Actors: Herman Ottó Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, BirdLife Hungary
- Process: internal and informal, compilation of existing knowledge and documents



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Identification of actions and responsible bodies

Implementation priorities (potentially co-operating stakeholders, i.e. police, National Hunting Chamber, falconer societies etc. involved during antecedents):

- 2013 discussion and approval of Anti-poisoning Action Plan by Raptor Conservation Council, involving National Bureau of Investigation
- Protocols (Field Investigation Protocol, Veterinary Protocol, Police Investigation Protocol) approved by project partners under HELICON LIFE project in 2014 (<http://imperialeagle.hu/content/downloads>)
- National Police HQ letter to all regional police HQ (29015/164/2012) and National Police HQ ordinance to all regional police HQ (29022-18720/2014)





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Identified priorities

- 1-5: IKB against raptors by stakeholders and by methods used (most frequent crime and many species nationally or internationally threatened)
- 6: Bee-eaters (widespread conflict, but LC)
- 7: wildfowl (relatively few cases recently, but some species EN)
- 8: shooting of small birds (mostly not in HU now, LC)
- 9: finch trapping (only a few cases, LC)





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Identified actions and responsible bodies

- Based chiefly on current practice (e.g. close collaboration with police, vets, rescue centres, dog unit)
- Also planned actions under the HELICON LIFE project and a planned future project (training, extension of dog units)
- Consultations with falconers on Goshawk protection – compromise and co-operation
- Some new elements included
 - raising awareness of stakeholders
 - conference on wildfowl hunting with hunters
 - increase population monitoring of Bee-eaters



**Thank you for your
attention!**

