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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

37<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 5-8 December 2017

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**Complaints on stand-by**

**Presumed deliberate killing of birds  
&  
Alleged deliberate killing of birds of prey  
in Serbia**

**- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -**

*Document prepared by  
the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Serbia*

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- UPDATED AUGUST 2017 -

**REPORT ON THE COMPLAINT NO. 2014/3 - ASSUMED DELIBERATE KILLING OF BIRDS IN SERBIA, AND**

**REPORT ON THE COMPLAINT NO. 2016/3 - PRESUMED DELIBERATE KILLING OF BIRDS IN SERBIA IN 2017**

In the course of the complaint proceedings, and at the request of the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Bern Convention, the Ministry of Environmental Protection implements planned measures in cooperation with other competent authorities and organizations, duly providing relevant information, involving NGOs and raising public awareness of the importance of addressing the relevant issues at national level.

The report on the progress made in dealing with the cases referred to in the Complaint No. 2014/3 and the Complaint No. 2016/3 was prepared based on the official reports submitted by the competent institutions and organizations at national and regional level.

**1. INSPECTION SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL**

1.1 The Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia filed to the Phytosanitary Inspection the complaint about illegal sale of the prohibited plant protection product Furadan No: 13-2017 of 11 March 2017, against a private person Željko Tepić from Golubinci (Serbia – AP Vojvodina) suspected of advertising the sale of the banned pesticide FURADAN 35 ST at the following Internet address:

[http://www.kupujemprodajem.com/furadan-35-st-42475438-oglas.htm?filter\\_id=133788](http://www.kupujemprodajem.com/furadan-35-st-42475438-oglas.htm?filter_id=133788)  
[http://www.kupujemprodajem.com/pesticidi-izuzetno-povoljne-cene-34370113-oglas.htm?filter\\_id=133788](http://www.kupujemprodajem.com/pesticidi-izuzetno-povoljne-cene-34370113-oglas.htm?filter_id=133788)

The suspect advertises and sells a large number of plant protection products and other pesticides via his Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/ztepic/photos\\_all](https://www.facebook.com/ztepic/photos_all)

1.2 Acting on the aforementioned Complaint, the Phytosanitary Inspection informed the Bird Protection and Study Society that referring to the Complaint No. 13-2017 of 03.11.2017, the following measures were taken: the Ministry of Interior, City Police Directorate Sremska Mitrovica, that is, Police Station Stara Pazova, searched the premises occupied by Željko Tepić from Golubinci and on that occasion seized the items found at the investigation site. A criminal charge was filed against the aforementioned person to the City of Stara Pazova Public Prosecutor's Office for the crime of illegal trade activities under Article 243 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia; this criminal charge was filed under the number KU-719/17. The criminal proceeding is currently in process.

**2. MEETING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

On Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2017, a meeting was held in Belgrade between the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Interior to discuss the Council of Europe's complaints regarding possible violation of the Bern Convention and the preparation of a progress report on the measures undertaken to prevent illegal poisoning of strictly protected bird species and illegal use and trade in prohibited chemical substances for plant protection (Carbofuran/Furadan 35 ST) as the most common cause of poisoning.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Department for Environmental Protection and Environmental Inspection Department, representatives of the Ministry of Interior from Border Police Directorate, Criminal Police Directorate (Organized Crime Department and Crime Prevention Service) and the International Operational Police Cooperation Department (INTERPOL-EUROPOL-SELEC).

According to the sphere of action, it was agreed to establish continuous control and supervision including efficient and effective on-site inspection in cooperation with the public prosecutor as well as the exchange of detailed information referring to reports on illegal actions.

It was also agreed to speed up the adoption by the Government of the Protocol on the Actions and Co-operation between Authorities and Organizations in Eradicating the Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Animal Species.

### **3. PROTOCOL ON THE ACTIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN AUTHORITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN ERADICATING THE ILLEGAL KILLING, TRAPPING AND TRADE IN WILD ANIMAL SPECIES**

The Draft of the Protocol on the Actions and Cooperation Between Authorities and Organizations in Eradicating the Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Animal Species was drafted in accordance with the international agreements, including the Tunis Action Plan (2011-2020). The Draft of this document was extended at the request of interested parties so as to include handling cases of illegal killing, trapping and trade in all wild animal species, which required a special approach to redefining the document. The Draft of this document is currently in the process of obtaining the opinions of the competent authorities, which is necessary procedure prior to the adoption of the document by the Government.

### **4. FURADAN 35 ST STOCKS**

In accordance with Article 36, paragraph 4, of the Law on Waste Management, a permit for the export of 200 tons of stored waste from Serbia to Austria has been obtained, as well as all required permissions of all transit countries (Croatia and Slovenia). This permit – the Hazardous waste export permit (No. 19-00-00982/2015-16) is attached to this report.

Based on the inspection of the documentation and records provided by the operator Kemis Ltd. from Valjevo (Serbia), it was established that based on the export permit No. 18-00-00982/2015-16 of 25th October 2016, the export of waste pesticide known under a tradename Furadan (Carbofuran), index number 07 04 08 \*, in a total quantity of 25.78 tons was carried out.

Given that the quantity of stocks of pesticides to be exported from Serbia was established, the operator KEMIS Ltd. from Valjevo has submitted a new request No. 19-00-00339/2017-16 of 24. 05./2017 for the export of hazardous waste - inorganic pesticides and organic solvents in the quantity of 100 tons to Austria. The relevant procedure is currently in progress.

### **5. ROTTERDAM CONVENTION**

Carbofuran, classified among pesticides, is a banned active substance in the Republic of Serbia (Decision No. 321-01-2585/2013-11 of 31 December 2013) according to the Law on Plant Protection Products (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 41/09) and the List of Approved Substances (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 107/15). The production, import, placing on the market or use of Carbofuran on the territory of the Republic of Serbia has been banned since 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. Moreover, Carbofuran is on the List of chemicals subject to notification procedure and the List of chemicals subject to prior informed consent procedure (PIC procedure) of the Rulebook on the import and export of certain hazardous chemicals (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. **89/10 and 15/13**), in accordance with the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade with amendments (“Official Gazette of the RS – International Agreements”, No. 38/09).

At the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (of 2009) held from 24th April to 5th 2017 a decision to list Carbofuran as pesticide in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention was adopted. Annex III consists of chemicals which when imported are subject to prior informed consent procedure. Including carbofuran in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention was supported by the Republic of Serbia. This means that all Parties to the Convention will have to comply with the obligation, coming into force in a year from now, to respect the response (whether it approves or not) of another Party regarding the future import of that chemical. Previously, this obligation applied only to countries that were implementing provisions of the EU Regulation 649/2012 on the

import and export of hazardous chemicals. So far, the Republic of Serbia has not received any request for approval of the import or export of Carbofuran.

## **6. PROJECTS ARE ONGOING**

6.1 Project (LIFE15NAT/HU/000902) „Conservation of the eastern imperial eagle by decreasing human-caused mortality in the Pannonian Region, for period 1. 10. 2016.- 30. 3. 2021.

Coordination users are MME Bird Life Hungary in cooperation with other users from Austria, Check Republic, Hungary, Slovak Republic and Republic of Serbia. User from the Republic of Serbia is Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina Province.

The aim of the project is increasing of population of strictly protected species of imperial eagle ( *Aquila heliaca*) in the Pannonian Region including significant reduction in mortality caused by humans.

6.2 The Project “Civil society and the public together to improve the environmental situation in Serbia” is ongoing within the Programe which runs the project: "Support to civil society and media in the field of European integration" and financed by the Kingdom of Sweden.

Contractor of this project is the Association for Bird Protection and Study Serbia. Activities to mitigate the effects of suffering birds of prey are supported within the these projects.

## **7. POISONED WHITE-TAILED EAGLE SAVED**

Increasing number of saved and released wild birds affected by poisoning: 4 White-tailed Eagles in 2016/17.

Poisoned white-tailed Eagle near Sanad (Vojvodina) saved and realise. This eagle has regurgitated entire stomach contents after threatment with the antidote. The recovery was very fast and bird was released on following day, especially bearing in mind that it was found nor far from the active nest.

Each an early discovery of poisoned individual is very rare and therefore fast reaction of dedicated conservationists with this positive outcome is encouraging.

## **8. THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS**

Public information has been intensified by the Non-governmental organizations and professional organizations for the protection of nature to alert citizens to the potential danger of pesticides for living beings and human health.

Two public campaigns have started which are still lasting regarding halting of carbofuran use, targeting media, all stakeholder groups, including public talks and presentations in areas where carbofuran poisoning have occurred most frequently. Very good acceptance in general public, including sport associations who have *Aquila* eagle as their symbol (Handball association of Serbia). Opening of telephone number for reporting of cases of founding of dead strictly protected wild birds.

Additional campaign has started in this spring regarding awareness in use of chemicals outdoors including pesticides (Week of the action on responsible use of pesticides, 20-30 march. The goal of this action is strenghtening of awareness on responsible use of pesticides, promotion of reduction of pesticide use and selection of safer and less hazardous pesticide use.

Prepared by:

Snežana Prokić, MSc, Head of the Section for Ecological Network and Appropriate Assessment, as well as the Bern Convention Focal Point

Gordana Petković, MSc, Head of the Division for EU Integration and International Cooperation

Data source:

- Internal reports of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management;
- Republic Phytosanitary Inspection report;
- Report by the Institute for Nature Conservation of the Vojvodina Province;
- Report of the Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia;
- Report of the Inspection for Environmental Protection;



**Republic of Serbia**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Directorate for Plant Protection

Phytosanitary inspection

N<sup>o</sup>: officially /2017

Date: 18.04.2017

District: Srem

Stara Pazova

Svetosavska 11

Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia

Vladike Cirica 24/19 Novi Sad

Subject: Notification

In this way, we would like to inform you that according to your denunciation no.13-2017 on 11.03.2017. Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police Directory of Sremska Mitrovica, Police Station of Stara Pazova, carried out a search on Zeljko Tepic from Golubinci and on this occasion seized the found objects.

On the same occasion, were filed criminal charges against the named person and processed to the Basic public prosecutor in Stara Pazova for criminal offense, illegal trade from Article 243. Paragraph 3, Criminal Law of Republic of Serbia, which was filed under no.KU-719/17.

Yours sincerely,

Phytosanitary inspector  
Marina Rankov

Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia  
Vladike Cirica 24/19, 21000 Novi Sad  
Tel. 021/631-8343  
e-mail:sekretar@pticesrbije.rs  
[www.pticesrbije.rs](http://www.pticesrbije.rs)

Juznobački Administrative District  
Phytosanitary inspection  
Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 10  
21000 Novi Sad

No.13-2017

Date and place: 11.03.2017, Novi Sad

Subject:

Denunciation for illegal trade on Furadan – forbidden substance for plant protection, against Zeljko Tepic, unique identification number -190398980000, identity card, ID - 3969850, address, Djurdjevska 108 no. 108, 22308 Golubinci. The suspect through internet announced on the website of buy/sale for more than a year, sales prohibited substance:

<http://www.kupujemprodajem.com/furadan-35-st-42475438-oglas.htm?filter> id=133788

<http://www.kupujemprodajem.com/pesticidi-izuzetno-povoljne-cene-34370113-oglas.htm?filter>  
id=133788

The suspect advertises and sells a large number of substances for plant protection and other pesticides, via his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ztepic/photos> all

Since that Zeljko Tepic offers a number of substances and in significant quantities, we have a reasonable doubt that he resells substances and takes over from some wholesale.

Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia were on two occasions, in May 2016. and in February 2017. denounced to competent inspections for environmental protection and protection of plants, on selling of unauthorized substance Furadan against unknown person. Now we have come up with complete information regarding the suspect and put them to the insight.

We ask you to respond quickly to this denunciation, because there is a reasonable suspicion that the suspect, every week sells a large quantities of forbidden substance which are then illegally use across Serbia. Additional information is in the form of evidence of photographs, we are sending them you with this denunciation.

Yours sincerely,

Milan Ruzic  
President of Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Department for environment protection

Omladinskih brigada no.1  
11070 New Bgrade

Subject: Report on performing superintendance, field and office inspection supervision in terms of control of waste management in accordance with the provisions on Law on waste management („Official gazette RS”, no.36/09, 88/10 and 14/16) bylaws what regulate this area of waste management and in conetion to export hazardous waste according permit no. 19-00-00982/2015-16 and for documentation that follow the movement of waste, operator Kemis doo Valjevo – branch Backa Palanka.

Control done by: Republic inspectors for environment protection: Momir Boljanic and Jelena Stankovic

**REPORT**

Department of inspection for environment protection, on 13.06.2017. received by mail, request for exercise of the inspection of superintendance to operator Kemis doo Valjevo, as for to determine of quantity of hazardous waste – hazardous pesticides “carbofuran” which they be exported according to permit for export hazardous waste no. 19-00-00982/2015-16, as well as the remaining quantity of carbofuran in the warehouse of the operator, that were not exported on a specified permit.

According to Law on inspection supervision („Official gazette RS”, no.36/15) superintendance field inspection supervision on subject requested done on 20.06.2017. on location of branch Backa Palanka, where the given operator performs storage of hazardous waste and it was determined the following:

1. According to the insight into the annual report on waste of this exporter comes to (TIO 4) for 2016. DEO 4 for month on November and December 2017. and documentation on trans-border motion of waste it was confirmed that the supervised firm was exported hazardous waste – waste pesticides and contaminated packaging by pesticides, index no.06 13 01<sup>\*</sup>/07 04 01<sup>\*</sup>/07 04 04<sup>\*</sup>/07 04 08<sup>\*</sup>/07 04 13<sup>\*</sup>/15 01 10<sup>\*</sup>/16 03 03<sup>\*</sup>/16 03 05<sup>\*</sup>/20 01 19<sup>\*</sup> to Austria, according to permit for export hazardous waste no. 19-00-00982/2015-16 on 25.10.2016. in total quantity of 53,54 tons. According to the permit for export hazardous waste, supervised firm during 2017. to allow day relevance (31.03.2017) performed export of the given hazardous waste, in total quantity of 12,98 tons. In total and in gross the quantity of exported hazardous waste, according to the permit no. 19-00-00982/2015-16 on 25.10.2016. comes to 66,52 tons.
2. Hazardous waste - hazardous pesticides which were supervised firm, Kemis DOO Valjevo, exported to Austria, according to the permit no. 19-00-00982/2015-16 was collected and taken up by legal entities in period on 2015-2016. in total quantity of 59,804 tons and from:
  - Anahem doo Belgrade, in total quantity of 0,02 tons;
  - Envipack doo Belgrade, in total quantity of 5,04 tons;
  - Galenika-Fitofarmacija, AD Zemun, in total quantity of 40,24 tons;
  - KWS Serbia doo Belgrade, in total quantity of 1,0 tons;
  - Krivaja doo B.Topola, in total quantity of 3,04 tons;
  - Institut za ratarstvo i povrtarstvo (Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops) Novi Sad, in total quantity of 2,66 tons;
  - Public enterprise (JP) Srbijasume Belgrade, in total quantity of 5,22 tons;
  - Institut za kukuriz (Institute for Maize) Zemun Polje, in total quantity of 2,58 tons;
  - Naucni institut za veterinarstvo (Scientific Institute for Veterinary Medicine) Novi Sad, in total quantity of 0,004 tons;



In addition, during the export according to the permit no. 19-00-00982/2015-16, serial no. 3/30, on 22.12.2016. operator Kemis doo Valjevo, carried out a takeover of hazardous waste - hazardous pesticides, in gross quantity of 3,39 tons, takeover from the customs warehouse of the owner of waste, Galenika - Fitofarmacija, AD Zemun.

3. According to the insight into to the documentation and evidence of the supervised firm, it was found that according to the export permit no. 19-00-00982/2015-16, operator Kemis DOO Valjevo, exported waste pesticides under the trade name FURADAN (carbofuran) index no.07 04 08, in total quantity of 25,78 tons.
4. In warehouse of the liquid hazardous waste, operator Kemis doo Valjevo – branch Backa Palanka, in moment, during supervision it was found 480 kilograms of stored waste of pesticides which were not exported, according to the permit for export for hazardous waste, no. 19-00-00982/2015-16, as well as 8 tons of waste pesticides index no.16 03 05 which were takeover in period after the expiration of permit for export of hazardous waste as for after 31.03.2017.

Republic inspector for environment protection  
Momir Boljanic

- MARCH 2017 -

**REPORT ON COMPLAINT NO 2014/3 – ASSUMED INTENTIONAL KILLING OF BIRDS IN SERBIA  
AND REPORT ON NEW COMPLAINT NO 2016/3 - REASONABLE SUSPICION OF INTENTIONAL  
KILLING OF BIRDS IN SERBIA IN THE PERIOD 2014 -2016**

During complaint handling, at the request of the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Berne Convention, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection undertake planned measures in collaboration with other competent authorities and organisations, together with active information and involvement of non-governmental organisations in resolutions of these matters on the national level.

The Progress Reports on complaint handling no 2014/3 and new complaint no 2016/3 have been prepared on the basis of official reports submitted by competent institutions for nature protection, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province, the Plant Protection Directorate within the Ministry of Agricultural and Environmental Protection and competent inspectorates on the national and regional level.

## **1. Inspection and Control**

Joint environmental inspection is conducted in accordance with the special Law on Nature Protection (“Official Gazette of the RS”, no 36/09, 88/10 and 91/10 – correction and 14/16) and the Law on Inspection Control (“Official Gazette of the RS”, no 36/2015) on the basis of which inspection is conducted in collaboration with relevant sectoral inspectorates. The collaboration includes mutual communication, information-sharing, provision of assistance and joint measures and actions with relevance to inspection.

Inspection in cases of illegal killing of wild bird species is conducted by the environmental protection inspectorate on the national, regional and local level. At the invitation of the environmental protection inspectorate, field inspection is conducted by the phytosanitary inspectorate, veterinary inspectorate, the police, the public prosecutor and the expert organisation for nature protection.

### **1.1 Inspection by the Environmental Inspectorate of the Republic of Serbia**

The report on actions by national environmental inspectors with respect to strictly protected bird species from 15 August 2016 to the end of February 2017 is presented in Addendum 1 to this Report.

Depending on individual cases of illegal killing of wild bird species, the environmental inspector conducts inspection in collaboration with representatives of expert organisations for nature protection.

### **1.2 Inspection by the Provincial Environmental Protection Inspectorate at the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina**

The Provincial Secretariat, through the Provincial Environmental Protection Inspectorate within the Inspection Department, has acted in each of the registered cases of found specimens of strictly protected and protected animal species in accordance with its responsibilities and prerogatives under Article 25 of the Law on Establishing the Competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (“Official Gazette of the RS”, no 99/2009), as well as under Articles 119, 120 and 121 of the Law on Nature Protection (“Official Gazette of the RS”, no 36/09, 88/10, 91/10 - correction and 14/16) and the Law on Inspection (“Official Gazette of the RS”, no 36/2015). Addendum 1 to this Report presents new cases of deaths of strictly protected bird species.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, the Provincial Secretariat has, through its collaborators, participated in meetings with regard to the issues of monitoring the state of natural values in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and undertaking appropriate activities with regard to cases of bird poisoning. This included appropriate cooperation with the Ministry, the Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province and other significant agents, especially associations of citizens. The Provincial Secretariat took part in activities with respect to the campaign for prevention of poisoning of strictly protected species, coordinated by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

**1.3 In accordance with article 102 of the Law on Nature Protection, professional organisations for nature conservation conduct supervision on protected natural goods (PA's, ecological network, strictly protected and protected species and their derivatives) and recommended measures**

In the case of illegal killing and trapping of wild birds, professional environmental organisations carry out surveillance in cooperation with the inspection for environmental protection.

**2. Protocol for Action and Cooperation of Authorities and Organisations in Combating Illegal Killing, Capture and Trade in Wild Birds in accordance with the Tunis Action Plan (2011-2020)**

The Protocol for Action and Cooperation of Authorities and Organisations in Combating Illegal Killing, Capture and Trade of Wild Birds in accordance with the Tunis Action Plan (2011-2020) and other international treaties has been prepared. The proposed draft of this document has, at the request of stakeholders, extended to action in cases of illegal killing, capture and trade of all other wild animal species, which required the document to be redefined in a special manner. This document is still being reviewed by the competent authorities.

In the meantime, before the Protocol is adopted, the following activities are undertaken as a continuation of cooperation of the competent authorities and organisations with regard to resolution of cases of illegal killing of wild bird species.

**2.1 A meeting with the Ministry of Interior has been initiated again for the purpose of a more intense involvement of the Border Police Directorate and Interpol as well as representatives of the Special Police Unit for High Technology Crime in an illegal chemical trade case, scheduled for 9 March 2017**

The meeting will include consideration and establishment of training of specific representatives of the police and other competent authorities which would be appointed only to provide their full contribution to prevention and sanctioning of this type of illegal trade cases.

**2.2 Continued cooperation has been established with the Hunting Department within the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, especially with respect to consideration of the negotiating position of Serbia in the EU integration process.**

**2.3 Non-governmental organisations and expert organisations for nature protection have intensified public information activities and mass media appeals to warn citizens of the risks these pesticides pose to living beings and human health.**

**2.4 On the basis of the initiative launched on 11 August 2016, a working group was created within the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection for the purpose of analysis of valid legislative solutions with respect to placing plant protection products on the market (online sale, inspection and customs control), practical application and preparation of amendments and supplements to the Law on Plant Protection Products. This served as a basis for preparation of the proposed amendments and supplements to the Law on Plant Protection Products, which is currently subject to obtaining opinions of competent authorities.**

**2.5 Project (LIFE15NAT/HU/000902) "Conservation of the eastern imperial eagle by decreasing human-caused mortality in the Pannonian Region, for period 1.10.2016-30.3.2021. Coordination users are MME Bird Life Hungary in cooperation with other users from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovak Republic and Republic of Serbia. User from the Republic of Serbia is Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina Province.**

The aim of the project is increasing of population of strictly protected species of imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) in the Pannonian Region including significant reduction in mortality caused by humans.

### **3. Supplies of the preparation FURADAN 35 ST**

Pursuant to the Article 36, paragraph 4 of the Law on Waste Management, the permit for export of 200 tons of stored waste into Austria was obtained, together with permits of all transit countries (Croatia and Slovenia). Permit for export of hazardous waste (No 19-00-00982/2015-16 from 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.) is attached to this report.

### **4. Analysis of causes of deaths of strictly protected species**

The found specimens of strictly protected and protected animal species are handled in accordance with Article 93 of the Law on Nature Protection (“Official Gazette of RS“, No. 36/09, 88/10, 91/10 and 14/16) which stipulates that a person who finds a specimen of a strictly protected or protected wild animal species shall immediately notify the Ministry and the Institute for Nature Protection of:

- (1) dead specimens found,
- (2) live specimens that are sick, injured or unable to survive in the wild on their own.

The specimens of strictly protected wild species that were killed, or died otherwise, found within the territory of the Republic of Serbia shall be handed over to the closest veterinary organisation, or other institution chosen by the Ministry, for determining the cause of death. Expenses for sample analysis and diagnostic tests for determining the cause of death of the specimens shall be borne by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

Each calendar year the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection estimates the required funding at 500 000 RSD as planned in the Budget of the Republic of Serbia. During 2016, due to the increased number of reported killed specimens of strictly protected wild animal species, the planned budget for 2016 was spent, in accordance with the agreement signed with the Scientific Veterinary Institute Novi Sad. The Ministry has informed all relevant institutions involved in implementing measures and carrying out activities related to monitoring and management of populations of protected wild animal species, as well as the Scientific Veterinary Institute, about the temporary suspension of payments for expenses incurred through sample analyses and diagnostic testing for determining the cause of death of the specimens since over the past years the amount spent for the same purposes was even three times lower than the allocated funding. The species that could not undergo sample analysis and diagnostic testing were frozen with expert guidance so that they could be sent for analysis at the beginning of the new budget year. New budget funds for 2017 were planned during October 2016.

When developing work plans for 2017, and upon conducting a comprehensive analysis with regard to the implementation of obligations related to the handling of the found specimens of strictly protected and protected wild animal species, the Ministry’s professional services decided that all future sample analyses and diagnostic tests done in the territory of the Republic of Serbia should, pursuant to Article 93 of the Law on Nature Protection, be carried out in the nearest veterinary organisation.

This solution will help prevent work overload in institutions performing these analyses and at the same time increase their efficiency and speed up delivery of the results. Such a measure will enhance the efficiency of inspection authorities as well as the police and prosecution.

***Prepared by:***

Snežana Prokić, MSc, Head of the Division for Ecological Networks and Eligibility Assessment and Focal Point for the Bern Convention

and

Gordana Petković, MSc, Chief of the Department for EU Integration and International Cooperation

***References:***

- Internal reports of the Sector for Environmental Protection and Directorate for Plant Protection in the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
- Report of the Republic Inspection for Environmental Protection
- Report of the Secretariat for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection of Vojvodina Province-Inspection
- Report of the Institute for Nature Protection of Vojvodina Province

**Addendum 1**

**Table 1. The Inspectorate of the Republic of Serbia, in collaboration with the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and other competent inspecting authorities, the police and the public prosecutor, has made the following finding on deaths of strictly protected bird species.**

Case number	Date of complaint	Type of complaint	Inspection date	Measures undertaken	Lawsuit pending
1.	25/11/2016	Illegal hunting of 4 specimens of strictly protected songbird species European goldfinch ( <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> )	25/11/2016	Specimens were returned to the nature during the same day, in the presence of the police	
2.	15/12/2016	A specimen of injured Eurasian sparrowhawk ( <i>Accipiter nisus</i> ), with a broken wing, was taken from the veterinary clinic "Vet Aid" from Kruševac	15/12/2016	It was transported to the Belgrade Zoo Garden for further medical treatment and accommodation.	
3.	18/01 and 19/01/ 2017	Illegal setting of traps for bird trapping in Bojnik	18/01 and 19/01/ 2017	The trap has been removed, and a request for initiation of misdemeanour proceedings has been filed against the perpetrator	
4.	20/01/2017	A juvenile swan was found injured.	20/01/2017	The specimen was taken and transported to the Belgrade Zoo Garden for further medical treatment and accommodation.	
5.	23/01/2017	3 dead specimens of common buzzard were found on the bank of the West Morava river.	23/01/2017	They were taken and transferred to the Veterinary Specialist Clinic "Šojić" in Čačak for the purpose of establishing the cause of death. According to the report of the veterinarian, 1 specimen was shot, and criminal charges were filed against unknown persons to the competent Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Trstenik.	
6.	02/02/2017	Cages for bird trapping were placed by unknown persons.	02/02/2017	Cages were seized, and 2 specimens of European goldfinch, 1 specimen of common linnet and 1 specimen of spinus were returned to the nature at the recommendation of an ornithologist from the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. Criminal charges are to be filed against unknown persons.	
7.	08/02/2017	Illegal keeping of birds and preserved bodies of dead birds	08/02/2017	During inspection, one preserved body of a dead bird - of the species golden oriole - was found and temporarily seized until the final judgment of the court. In a cage placed in a courtyard, 4 specimens of European goldfinch and 1 specimen of spinus were found. The birds were returned into the nature at the recommendation of an ornithologist. A request for initiation of misdemeanour proceedings will be filed against the perpetrator.	
8.	10/02/2017	Three specimens of injured birds - of the species common buzzard	10/02/2017	All 3 specimens of the strictly protected species common buzzard were taken to the Veterinary Specialist Clinic "Šojić" in Čačak. The Report of the Veterinary Specialist Clinic "Šojić" was submitted to the Institute.	

9.	19/02/2017	At the complaint by the Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia from Novi Sad, with respect to 12 dead specimens of common buzzard ( <i>Buteo buteo</i> ), which were found at a private estate from Osipaonica in the Municipality of Smederevo on 18 February 2017.	20/02/2017	21/02/2017 Dead bodies of 12 specimens of common buzzard were taken to the Department for Forensic Veterinary Medicine of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade for an autopsy. On 23 February 2017, samples of tissue from the autopsy were taken to the Poison Control Centre of the Military Medical Academy, with a request for toxicological analyses due to suspicion of carbofuran poisoning. Criminal charges were filed against unknown persons to the competent prosecutor's office.	
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**Table. 2. - Cases in which Provincial inspections acted in the past in cooperation with Institute for nature conservation of Vojvodina Province**

No.	Date of denunciation	Category of denunciation	Date of inspection procedure	Action taken	Proceeding is pending
1.	20.04.2016.	Denunciation on 5 dead individuals ( <i>Grus grus</i> ) in area of Novi Knezevac (poisoning)	Inspection carried out 21.04.2016	The corpses were given over to Scientific institute for veterinary medicine "Novi Sad" for determination of cause of death. The results of analysis given on 09.08.2016 confirmed that carbofuran is presence in the bodies of birds. Criminal charges was submitted on 15.08.2016.year, against Cavadi Dezene, street Crma Bara JNA 4, OJT Kikinda.	In the process.
2.	28.09.2016.	Denunciation from Public corporation "Palic Ludac", Subotica, found dead otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) on the area of Special reserve of nature "Ludasko lake"	Inspection carried out 28.09.2016	Birds are in the freezer of Public Corporation. After that they informed the Institute for nature conservation of Vojvodina Province and the Ministry. <b>Ministry responded in writing that was no more funds for the analysis in 2016.year</b>	After analysing the appropriate application will be launched.
3.	21.12.2016.	Denunciation from Ecological society "Arkus" Backa Topola, it was found dead ( <i>Buteo buteo</i> ) in the area of Backa Topola	Record on 21.12.2016	Birds are in the freezer of Public corporation that informed Institute for nature conservation of Vojvodina Province until the analysis	After analysing the appropriate application will be launched.
4.	04.10.2016.	Denunciation from Provincial institute for nature protection, found 4 dead and 2 injured owls ( <i>Asio otus</i> ) in Nova Pazova	Record on 05.10.2016	The birds were found in front of the kindergarten Poletarac in Nova Pazova. In cooperation with the Society for the protection and study of birds in Serbia, they took them home. One bird dead on 03.10.2016 year, the other one was taken to the shelter of the zoo Palic. The dead birds were taken to the freezer of Institute for nature conservation of Vojvodina Province until refer to the analysis.	After analysing the appropriate application will be launched.
5.	18.11.2016.	Denunciation from Provincial institute for nature protection found injured ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> ) in Grabovci	Official note on 21.11.2016	Provincial inspector and ornithologist of Institute for nature conservation of Vojvodina Province where in the presence of the warden went on the location (300m from military facility KT 2). The eagle was still live and urgently prepared for transport but died on the way.	After analysing the appropriate application will be launched.
6.	24.11.2016	Denunciation from Provincial institute for nature protection found dead ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> ) and ( <i>Corvus corax</i> )	Record on 28.11.2016	3 dead individuals of <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> , one of which is a few days old and preserved feathers and bones, 2 dead individuals of <i>Corvus corax</i> where preserved feathers and bones	After analysing the appropriate application will be launched.
7.	24.12.2016	Found one dead individual of ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> ) in Apatin	Record on 26.12.2016	Birds were taken for analysis 28.12.2016 year and based on the autopsy obtained by veterinary medicine the opinion is that the animal died as a result of an electric shock on to suggest changes in the skin and on the left wing, followed by the heart and organs	Completed process