



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection

Implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 in Serbia

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**6th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds
Malta, 21-23. 06. 2017.**

Implementation of the International Agreements

- The Convention on Biological Diversity
- The Convention for the Protection of Migratory Species of Wild Fauna
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats – Bern Convention
- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- The Law on the Confirmation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with changes and amendments
- The Law on the Confirmation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Implementation of the Documents within the Bern Convention

- Recommendation No. 5 (1986) on the Criminal Prosecution of Persons Illegally Capturing, Killing or Trading with Protected Bird Species, which deals with the issue of crime pertaining to wild birds for the first time;
- Recommendation No. 155 (2011) on the Illegal Killing, Capturing and Trade of Wild Bird Species, identifying the main issues concerning the legal, biological and institutional aspect of this problem
- Recommendation No. 164 (2013) pertaining to the Tunis Action Plan for the period 2013-2020, with the aim of combating illegal killing, capturing and trade of wild bird species
- Recommendation No. 171 (2014) pertaining to the establishment of national political/research priorities with the aim of combating the illegal killing, capturing and trade in wild bird species

Implementation of the Documents within the CMS

- Resolution 1026 on the Decrease of Risks of Migratory Birds Poisoning as part of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;
- Resolution 11.15 on prevention of poisoning of migratory bird species (based on which) the COP of the CMS adopts the “Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds”
- Resolution 11.16 on preventing of illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds which established the Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean with defined terms of reference in Annex 1 to this resolution;
- Cairo Declaration adopted in 2016. at the First Meeting of Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean;

Implementation of the EU Legislation

- **The Habitats Directive** (2/43/EEC as amended by Dir. 97/62/EC, 2006/105/EC and Regulation (EC) 1882/2003)
- **The Wild Birds Directive** (2009/147/EC)
- **The Wildlife Trade Regulations**

Including:

- The EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking and the EU Roadmap towards eliminating IKB;
- An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy;

Implementation of the Documents of the Rotterdam Convention

- At the 8th Meeting of the COP8 of the Rotterdam Convention from 24 April to 5 May 2017.(Switzerland), Decision to Carbofuran as a pesticide placed on the list in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention concerning the crippling import regime of this chemical in all member states of the Convention, including High segment of this meeting with topic "Detoxified future: Safe management of chemicals and wastes".

Transposition into the National Legislation

- The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, foresees that the state should guarantee the right to a healthy environment as well as the damages caused by the illegal or the inadequate activities of the state or other authorities;
- The Law on the Protection of Nature
- The Criminal Code;
- The Criminal Procedure Code
- The Law on Police
- The Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office

Environmental legislation

- The Law on Environmental Protection
- The Law on Chemicals (“OG RS”, no. 36/09, 88/10, 92/12, 93/12 and 25/16);
- The Law on Waste Management (“OG RS”, no. 36/09, 88/10 and 14/16);
- The Law on Inspectional Supervision (“OG RS”, no. 36/15);
- The Law on Land (“OG RS”, no. 111/15).

Implementation Document on the National Level

Draft Protocol for Action and Cooperation of Authorities and Organisations in Combating Illegal Killing, Capture and Trade in Wild Animal Species including the Tunis Action Plan (2011-2020).

- The Protocol defines the cooperation between competent authorities in the field of illegal killing, keeping and trade of wild fauna:
 - the internal procedures of each individual system, in accordance with the positive legislation of the Republic of Serbia and international agreements;
 - the procedures pertaining to instances of illegal killing, keeping and trade in wild fauna should be worked out in great detail, within the competencies and in cooperation with relevant authorities, institutions and other organisations;
 - to ensure better protection and preserving wild fauna, especially strictly protected and protected fauna, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species;
 - the conditions pertaining to the special protection of wild fauna which are the subject of protection should be ensured, thus strictly forbidding any deliberate capture and keeping, deliberate killing as well as the possession and international trade of all fauna, dead or alive;

Progress Report on Complaint

- **Report on Complaint of the COE handling No. 2014/3 – Assumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia and**
- **Report on Complaint of the COE handling No. 2016/3- Founded suspicion of deliberate killing of birds in Serbia in period 2014-2016,**
- Progress Report on complaints have been prepared in March 2017. with competent institutions for nature protection, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province and the Directorate for Plant Protection and competent inspectorates at the national and regional level;
- In this Report it was highlighted that a large number of strictly protected birds were victims of poisoning by Carbofuran due to illegal treatment of seeds with this substance;

Progress Report on Complaint

- All pesticides on the basis of carbofuran (Furadan 35 ST, Carbodan and others), are banned for use and selling in Serbia since 2012 in accordance with EU legislation,
- Carbodan 35CT (Carbofuran) was imported through illegal channels via the Internet using software that was not registered in Serbia and that it arrives from Turkey, Bosnia, Ukraine, Moldova, Israel etc. where its sale still allowed;
- In this Report it was highlighted that a large number of strictly protected birds were victims of poisoning by Carbofuran due to illegal treatment of seeds with this substance;
- Based on the complaint of the Society for Bird Protection and Study of Serbia no. 13 -2017 of 3.11. 2017, the Ministry of the Interior carried out the search for person Zeljko Tepic from Golubinci. Against Zeljka Tepic filed for criminal offense of illicit trafficking of Carbofuran by internet No. KU 719/17.



Photo1: illegal trade of Carbofuran

Resolving the issue of stocks (of Furadan and Carbofuran)

- 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 25th October 2016.);
- In accordance with the above-mentioned permit, hazardous waste (Carbofuran) exported a total of 66.52 tons of based on 4 delivery of the documents submitted on the transboundary movement of waste by exporters;

A meeting with the Ministry of Interior

- Purpose of the meeting on 16 03. 2017. was the preparation of progress report on measures taken to prevent illegal poisoning strictly protected bird species and illegal use and illicit traffic of chemical substances for plant protection products (Carbofuran / Furadan ST 35), which are the most common cause of poisoning;
- In accordance with the scope of work, continuous control and monitoring will be established including efficient and effective on-site investigation in cooperation with the public prosecutor and the exchange of detailed information on the reports of illegal activity conferred;
- It was agreed to intensify the process of adoption of the Protocol on procedures and cooperation of authorities and organizations in the prevention of illegal killing, trapping and trade in wild animal species on the Government;

Poisoned white-tailed Eagle saved

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



Photo 2: Poisoned Eagle saved in Sanad (Vojvodina) by site of the INCPV

Projects are ongoing

- 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.

Projects are ongoing

- The Project “Civil society and the public together to improve the environmental situation in Serbia” is ongoing within the Programme 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.

Further Steps

- To intensify the process of adoption of the Protocol on procedures and cooperation of authorities and organizations in the prevention of illegal killing, trapping and trade in wild animal species on the Government;
- To establish continuity in the training of certain representatives of the police and other competent authorities that would be nominated to make full contribution to the prevention and sanctioning of this type of illegal cases;
- To conduct a detailed preliminary on-site investigation with as many collected data about an individual case as possible, because Insufficient evidence is the most common problem for an inadequate judgement;
- To improve international and regional cooperation and joint control of trade of Carbofuran;
- To raise awareness on the phenomenon of illegal killing, poisoning, keeping or trade of wild fauna



THANK YOU