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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2019

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 Environmental Protection, Serbia*

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Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Number: 337-00-00147/2018-04

Date: 28. 01. 2019.

Немањина 22-26

Belgrade

Iva Obretenova, Secretary
Council of Europe
Biological Diversity Unit
Secretariat of the Bern convention
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

Subject: Report on the complaint No. 2014/3 – Assumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia and Report on a new complaint No. 2016/3 – Presumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia in the period 2014-2016

In the course of the proceedings on complaints No. 2014/3 and No. 2016/3, at the request of the Secretariat of the Bern Convention, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has continuously implemented measures in cooperation with other relevant authorities and organizations, duly providing relevant information to the public and involving non-governmental organizations in addressing these issues.

A report on the progress achieved in dealing with the above complaints has been prepared based on the internal reports of the Ministry and reports submitted by the Institute for Nature conservation of Serbia and Provincial Institute for Nature Protection as following:

1. INSPECTION AND EXPERT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

Joint inspection in the area of nature protection is carried out in accordance with the Law on Nature Protection (“Official Gazette of RS”, No. 36/09, 88/10 and 91/10 – corr. and 14/16) and the Law on Inspection Control (“Official Gazette of RS”, No. 36/2015) in cooperation with relevant sectoral inspections. Cooperation includes mutual notification, information exchange, assistance and common measures and actions relevant for inspection control.

Inspection control in the case of illegal killing of wild bird species is carried out by the environmental inspection at the republic, regional and local levels. At the request of the environmental inspector, field investigation is carried out by the phytosanitary inspection, veterinary inspection, the police, a public prosecutor and a professional nature protection organization. (**Annex1**: Report on the conduct of state of the Republic environmental inspection with strictly protected species of birds in the period from 31.08.2018. with penalites)

1.1 Report by the Provincial Institute for Nature Protection and Provincial inspection of environmental protection

On Detelinari in Novi Sad on 12.29.2018. were found a dozen of dead birds that are suspected of having been poisoned. The Society for the Protection and Study of Birds of Serbia got this information of the conscientious citizen, on dead birds, mainly domestic pigeons (*Columba livia domestica*) but also was found dead (*Accipiter nisus*) with typical symptoms of poisoning, near the pink colored substance, most likely toxins and informed the Provincial Institute for Nature Conservation, the Provincial inspection of environmental protection and the Police.

These services were immediately on the spot joined activists of the Society for Bird Protection and Study of Serbia, collected data for further processing with the help Zoohigijena, removing poisoned individuals in order to prevent further spreading of the poison. *Accipiter nisus* as a strictly protected species, was submitted to the Institute in Novi Sad on the analysis of causes of death. The analysis is ongoing

2. EXPERT SUPERVISION

In accordance with Article 102 of the Law on Nature Protection, professional nature protection organizations, i.e. the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and the Provincial Institute for Nature Protection, perform expert supervision over protected natural assets with proposed measures, including protected areas, ecological network, strictly protected and protected species and their derivatives.

The Institute for nature conservation of Serbia has evidences all the cases of killing and taking care of the strictly protected species from the list of Bern Convention, on which concretely was worked during the period of 2018 year. Also the cases evidenced by the other organizations were considered in collaboration with environmental inspection

3. CAPACITY BUILDING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE RISKS OF PESTICIDES HAVE AT WILDLIFE AND HUMAN HEALTH

3.1 UNDP/UNEP Project „Strengthening the synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions for Serbia“

Planned activities to raise public awareness regarding the safety of hazardous chemicals and hazardous waste management are implemented through the Project „Strengthening the synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions for Serbia“.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Serbia and UNDP/UNEP Implementation Agency, as following:

Component 3. of the Project including this activity:

- Capacity building, awareness raising activities and trainings for improvement of the synergistic approach to chemicals and waste management in Serbia including:
 - leading a better informing of the civil society and skilled partners in chemical safety and
 - strengthening enforcement, implementation, and future preparation, of the new laws and regulations related to all four Conventions;
- Main target groups are:
 - Decision makers - i.e. representatives of key Government institutions responsible for chemicals and waste management, as well as representatives of regional/provincial and local authorities;
 - Industry - trainings will be conducted in coordination with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, through its seven Associations of Industry. Particular attention: waste management/recycling industry and metal processing industry;
 - Business community - improve the knowledge of businesses about their potential exposure to harmful chemicals, such as the exposure of farmers to the POPs in unintentional combustion

in agriculture, exposure of waste operators (collectors, importers and exporters of wastes) to the POPs and other harmful chemicals from wastes, etc.

- Civil society organizations
- Scientific community

3.2 The project "Stop poisoning predators in Serbia - safe life for birds and people"

In 2018, it was intensified the participation of NGOs on the training of stakeholders and the public about the risks of pesticides that have on wildlife and human health.

In accordance with the realized project "Stop poisoning predators in Serbia - safe life of birds and people," was co-financed with the funds of the budget of the Republic of Serbia, on the basis of the public competition for the allocation of funds to support civil society projects in the field of environmental protection in 2018. The project was implemented by the Association for Bird Protection and Study of Serbia.

Within the project taken on 22.10.2018. was held the workshop with relevant institutions and organizations on the theme "Solutions for causes poisoning of birds" in order to improve the legal and institutional framework for solving these problems.

The main target groups are:

- The representatives of public institutions, responsible for the problem of the use of pesticides and poisoning animals and representatives of associations for the nature protection, including guests from international organization VCF from Spain.
- On the base of the research results on poisoning, it where selected three municipalities for the implementation of educational workshops: Apatin, Coka and Vrsac. The attendances of workshop are on average expected: A total of 56 participants, among those were represented all groups of interest.

The report on the research in this project, were presented as an illustrative brochure that is easily understood and visually presents the results of our research: via distribution maps, tables and graphs. It was designed and printed the educational poster in 600 copies (B2 and B3 format), for distribution for settlements in particularly troubled regions, and beyond.

4. EXPORT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE – FURADAN'S STOCK

In accordance with Article 36, paragraph 4 of the Law on Waste Management exports in the previous period was carried out as follows:

In 2018, we had one issued permit for the export of hazardous waste from waste pesticides in the amount of 150 tons with the validity period of the license until 09.07.2019. year, intended for incineration operations (D10) in Austria.

Waste pesticides which include the preparation - Furadan are exported as hazardous waste under the national designation:

A4 3 A4030 - Waste from the production, formulation and use of biocides and phytopharmaceuticals, including waste pesticides and herbicides, which have not been made to the specification or have expired their use or are not suitable for their original purpose.

Waste under the national designation A4 3 A4030 are on the IA List of Hazardous Waste whose export and transit are permitted in accordance with the Basel Convention.

The Republic of Serbia as an exporting country, if it does not have sufficient technical and necessary facilities, capacity or suitable disposal sites, in order to dispose or recycle the waste in the ecological and proper exported manner.

In 2019 year, we did not have requirements for the planned export of waste pesticides as of today.

5. ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATHS OF STRICTLY PROTECTED SPECIES

The costs of analysis of samples and diagnostic tests to determine the cause of killing or death specimens covered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of each calendar year in the amount of 500 000 RSD through the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

During 2018. not spent all the funds planned for this purpose.

6.Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating IKB-self assessment and Questionnaire on Post- 2020 policy priorities on eradication of IKB were sent to the Secretariat by online.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon and we would like to thank in advance for highest consideration of this report.

Sincerely Yours

MINISTER
Goran Trivan

Annex 1

Report on the conduct of state of the Republic environmental inspection with strictly protected species of birds in the period from 31.08.2018.

1. 02.09.2018. – Taken over the injured individual of the (*Ciconia ciconia*) from village Krupac, Municipality of Pirot and transferred to the Association ZOO Planet, Nis.
2. 02/09/2018. – Taked over the injured individual of the (*Falco tinnunculus*) from the natural person from Pirot, and transferred to the Association ZOO Planet, Nis
3. 25.09. 2018. - Taken over the injured individual of (*Falco subbuteo*) from Boževac, municipality of Malo Crniće was transferred to the Beo zoo.
4. 26.10.2018 – Taken over the injured (*Buteo buteo*) from the Old Village near Velika Plana transferred to the Beo zoo.
5. 14.11./2018 – On the denunciation of Police Station, Knić, against the natural person from Knić, for holding in captivity, temporarily seized ten individuals of (*Carduelis carduelis*) and eight individuals where released into nature and two dead individuals were taken over and handed over to the ZZPS. It was requested to initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court.
6. 04.12.2018. - The temporarily confiscated of 5 individuals (*Carduelis carduelis*) and 3 specimens of hybrids (*Carduelis carduelis/Serinus canaria*) taken over from natural person from Belgrade. It was requested to initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court.

4.2. Denunciation							
NO.	Date of Reporte	Numer of Reporte	Tipe of Reporte	Business entity (company, entrepreneur, person)	Date		The penalties
					Calls for Hearing	The decision	
1	31.03.2017		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court.	Natural person – holding in captivity the strictly protected species of songbirds		19.01.2018.	5.000,00 dinars + court costs
2	21.12.2017		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court.	Natural person – capture of strictly protected species of songbirds by illegal means		17.04.2018.	20.000 dinars + court costs
3	13.12.2017		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court.	Natural person –, illegal possession of (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)		27.04.2018.	10.000,00 dinars + 1000 dinars court costs
4	25.12.2017		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court.	Natural person – holding in captivity the strictly protected species of songbirds		12.12.2018	10.000,00 dinars + 1000 dinars court costs
5	03.03.2018		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court.	Natural person – capture of strictly protected species of songbirds by illegal mean		15.10.2018.	10.000,00 dinars + 1000 dinars court costs

6	13.04.2018		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court	Natural person – capture of strictly protected species			
7	08.08.2018		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court	Natural person – capture of strictly protected species		15.11.2018.	5 000 dinars + 1200 dinars court costs
8	02.10.2018		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court	Natural person – capture of strictly protected species and capture of strictly protected species of songbirds by illegal means	22.01.2019.		
9	06.12.2018		The request to for initiate the minor offense charges, processed to the Magistrates Court	Natural person – capture of strictly protected species			