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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

42<sup>nd</sup> meeting

Strasbourg, 29 November - 2 December 2022

**Complaints on stand-by: 2014/3 & 2016/3**

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

**- GOVERNMENT REPORT -**

*Document prepared by  
Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia*

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## **The Updated 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 2022**

In Reference of the request of the Bureau of the Bern Convention on the Complaints No. 2014/3 – Assumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia and Report on a new complaint and No. 2016/3 – Presumed deliberate killing of birds in Serbia in 2021, we would like to inform you, on behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection on the implementation measures on that issues in cooperation with relevant competent authorities and organizations.

Updated Report has been prepared for the period 2020 to 2021 based on the Internal reports of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and reports submitted by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, the Secretariat for Urbanism and Environmental Protection of Vojvodina Province and the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province as following:

### **1. The Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia for period 2021. to 2023.**

1.1. In accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia, Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia for period 2021. to 2023 was adopted in May 2021. and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No 53/21.

The Action plan of this Program envisages, among others, the following measures:

Measure 1.1.3: Suppression of illegal killing, capture and trafficking in wild species and Measure 1.3.2: Improving international cooperation at the level of the European Union and the Council of Europe - Harmonization of regulations for nature protection with international treaties and party resolutions and recommendations of the Council of Europe which include the acceptance by the Government of Recommendation 205 (2019) of the Bern Convention/CMS Strategic Plan of Rome for the period 2020-2030.

1.2. The Recommendation 205 (2019) of the Bern Convention/CMS and Strategic Plan of Rome for the period 2020-2030. was accepted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in April 2021. (05No. 337-3762/2021 from 28th April 2021).

With this conclusion, the Government ordered: the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Finance to take measures and activities. the scope of its competencies in order to eradicate the illegal killing, capture and trafficking of wild bird species.

In accordance with the Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia for period 2021 to 2023. and this conclusion, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has been started to prepare the Action plan for the Implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan financed by the Budget.

### **2. Inspection and expert supervision and control**

2.1. 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.

In case of illegal killing and capturing of wild bird species, the professional nature protection organizations perform supervision in cooperation with the environmental inspection.

## 2.2. Report by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia

In regards to the segment of deliberate killing of wild bird species, one case was registered 29.08.2020. The Institute was managed by the manager of the Special Nature Reserve "Uvac" - "Rezervat Uvac" d.o.o. from Nova Varoš, within the borders of this protected area, registered a case of the injury of one individual of eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* with limb injuries. The individual was found in poor condition and health. After examining of the veterinarian and providing help to the bird, a report was made stating that the bird was wounded by firearms. Criminal charges have been filed against the unknown person, and the case is being handled by the Prosecutor's Office in Prijepolje. The Institute has no new information on this case. According to the data available to the Institute, there were no new cases of deliberate killing of birds

## 2.3. Report by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province

As requested by the Bureau, Institute has been provided their explanation regarding birds listed in the NGO's report, as following:

-1 White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), 16.02.2020. year, Cerevic, Beocin - was done in the case of a stuffed white-tailed eagle, without clear evidence of the manner of death. In this case, the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection acted with the assistance of the Police.

-10 Wetland (*Circus aeruginosus*) found near Zobnatica, municipality of Bačka Topola, April 13, 2021. years. Due to the suspicion of poisoning, a referral was made to the analysis of the cause of death at the Scientific Institute for Veterinary Medicine "Novi Sad". Carbofuran poisoning was proven by analysis. (11-17) These individuals do not belong to all strictly protected species and were found at the same location, and the analysis was performed only for one individual, the wetland, on the basis of which the procedure was initiated. In this case, the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection acted, as well as the Police, Subotica Police Department.

- 3 White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), 23.02.2020. year, Novi Kneževac - was acted upon in the case of the found dead white-tailed deer. In this case, the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection acted with the assistance of the Police. Due to the suspicion of poisoning, a referral was made to the analysis of the cause of death at the Scientific Institute for Veterinary Medicine "Novi Sad". Carbofuran poisoning was proven by analysis. 4 Mishara eagles (*Buteo buteo*) were found at the same location, and the analysis did not prove carbofuran poisoning.

-6 White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), 16.03.2020. year, Apatin - acted in the case of a dead white-tailed deer found in the woods, without suspicion of poisoning or shooting.

-19 Eja wetland (*Circus aeruginosus*) found near Zobnatica, municipality of Bačka Topola, April 23, 2021. years. Due to the suspicion of poisoning, a referral was made to the analysis of the cause of death at the Scientific Institute for Veterinary Medicine "Novi Sad". Carbofuran poisoning was proven by analysis. (20-22, 25-30) These individuals were found at the same location and do not belong to all strictly protected species, and the analysis was performed only for one individual, the marsh, on the basis of which the procedure was initiated. In this case, the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection acted, as well as the Police, Subotica Police Department.

-36 Eagles of the Crusader (*Aquila heliaca*) found alive in the vicinity of Prigrevica, Apatin municipality, 30.12.2020. year and then died in the Shelter of the Palic Zoo. Due to the suspicion of poisoning, a referral was made to the analysis of the cause of death at the Scientific Institute for Veterinary Medicine "Novi Sad". The analysis proved the probable poisoning by swallowed lead.

## 2.4. Report by the Secretariat for Urbanism and Environmental Protection of Vojvodina Province

In reference to the request by the Bureau of the Bern Convention, report on new cases in 2021. has been provided.

Table: Updated date, place, number of individuals of bird species in cases of suspected poisoning in 2021.

No	Location	Date	Number of specimens	Name of Species	Status of the case
1.	Backi Monostor	08.03.2021	1	White-tailed Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> )	Toxicological analyse has not submitted
2.	Apatin	16.03.2021	1	Wild cat ( <i>Felis silvestris</i> )	A corpse in an advanced decay vase is not suitable for analysis
3.	Бачки Моноштор	16.03.2021	1	White-tailed Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> )	Toxicological analyse has not submitted
4.	Савино Село	26.03.2021	1	Eja wetland ( <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> )	Toxicological analyse has not submitted
5.	Sombor	01.04.2021	1	Gray falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	Toxicological analyse has not submitted
6.	Ђурђин	01.04.2021	6	Eja wetland ( <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> )	Suspected avian influenza
7.	Дорослово	08.04.2021	1	White-tailed Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> )	A corpse in an advanced decay vase is not suitable for analysis
8.	Арадац	05.04.2021	1	White-tailed Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> )	A corpse in an advanced decay vase is not suitable for analysis
9.	Томашевац	15.04.2021.	1	White Stork ( <i>Ciconia Ciconia</i> )	Cause of death electric shock
10.	Старог Жедника	15.04.2021.	1	White-tailed Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> )	A corpse in an advanced decay vase is not suitable for analysis

### 3. Report on bird migrations

**In accordance to the Article 78 of the Law on Nature Protection, the permit for scientific research and educational purposes is issued by the Ministry, by decision with previously obtained opinion with the purpose to research of strictly protected and protected wild species performed by methods that may endanger these species (such as capture, collection, marking, sampling, etc.) including the monitoring of migration.**

The Report on the activities of the Natural History Museum in Belgrade, the Center for Animal Marking, based on the permit number: 353-01-11 / 2021-04 from March 16, 2021. and supplement the decision number 353-01-11 / 1 / 2021-04 from 05.05.2021. years was sent to the Ministry.

The Report presents the species and number of ringed birds and bats in 2021 on the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

The Report presents also presents the localities where the individuals were ringed, as well as the total number of ringed individuals. 19,513 birds within 136 species were marked. Out of that, a total of 5,755 birds were marked on the territory of Serbia, ie 102 young in nests and 5,653 individuals of other age categories. Four cubs of the *Aquila heliaca* crusader eagle were ringed, and color rings were placed next to the aluminum rings. One cub of the eagle snake *Circaetus gallicus* was ringed. In addition to the aluminum rings, wing stamps were placed on 6 cubs of the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albcilla* and on 22 white-headed *Gypsfulvus* soups, and color rings were placed on the soups.

In 2021, 227 bats were marked with aluminum rings within 20 species, of which as many as 138 bats in Serbia. Bats were marked at 11 sites. The most frequently marked bat species was *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* with 89 marked individuals.

Special reports were submitted to the Managers of the PA' on ringing activities under the permit for research of strictly protected and protected wild species of birds and bats for scientific research purposes (ringing of birds and bats) during 2021.

**Belgrade, 31st January 2022.**

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Data source:

- Internal reports of the Ministry of Environmental Protection;
- Reports of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Porvince;
- Report by the Secretariat for Urbanism and Environmental Protection of Vojvodina Province;