

Fight against the illegal poisoning of predators in Hungary



7TH MAVIR
BIRD CONSERVATION
CONFERENCE

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Budapest, 8 November 2016



Eastern imperial eagles in Europe

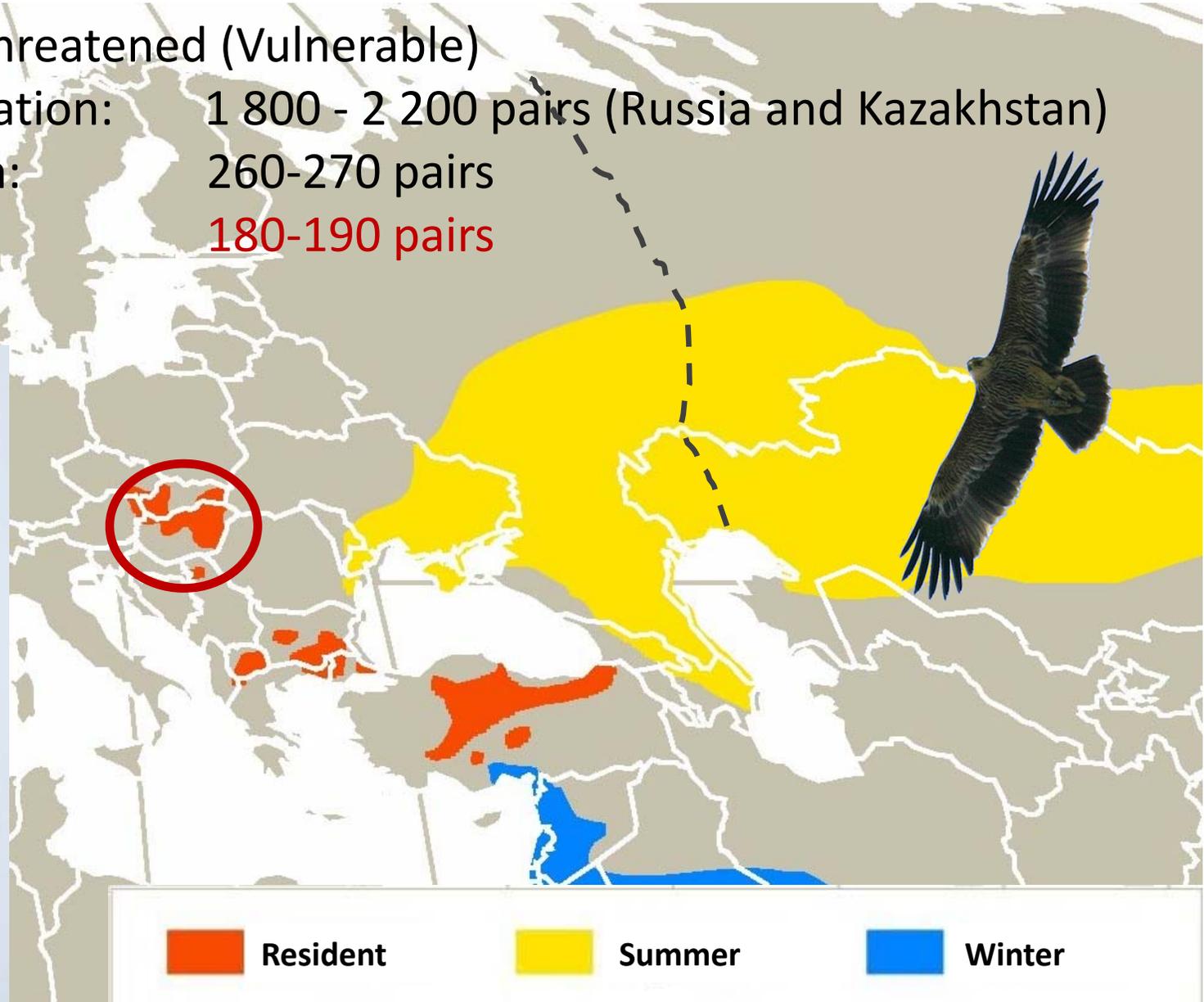


IUCN: Globally threatened (Vulnerable)

European population: 1 800 - 2 200 pairs (Russia and Kazakhstan)

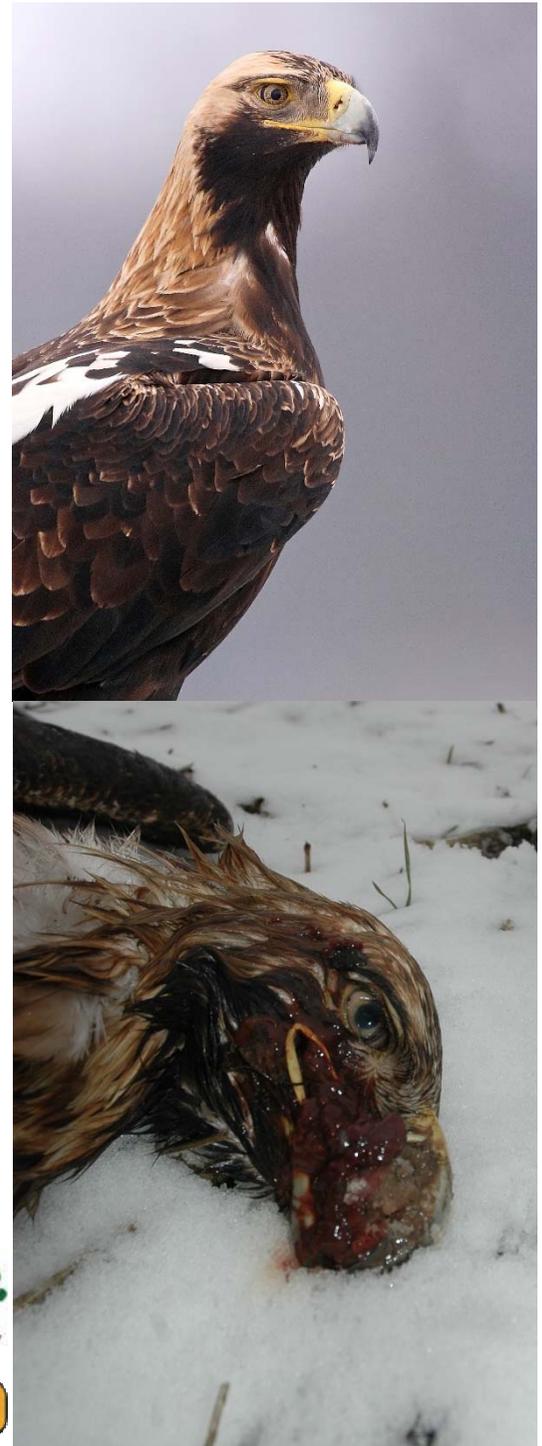
EU27 population: 260-270 pairs

Hungary: 180-190 pairs



Background

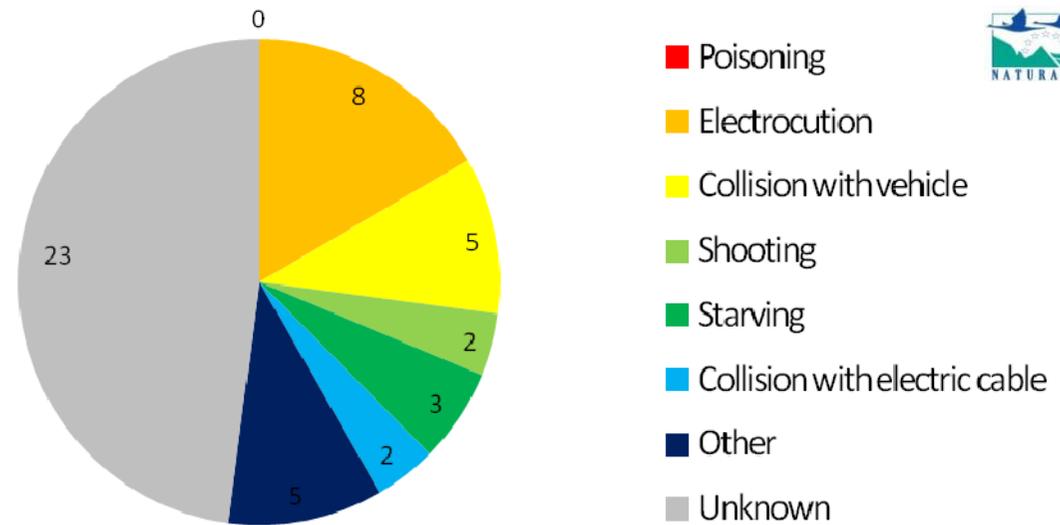
- 44 *eastern imperial eagles* and 65 *white-tailed eagles* have been poisoned in Hungary between 2005 and 2011
- MME and 8 partner organisations started a LIFE project to manage the problems between 2012 and 2016



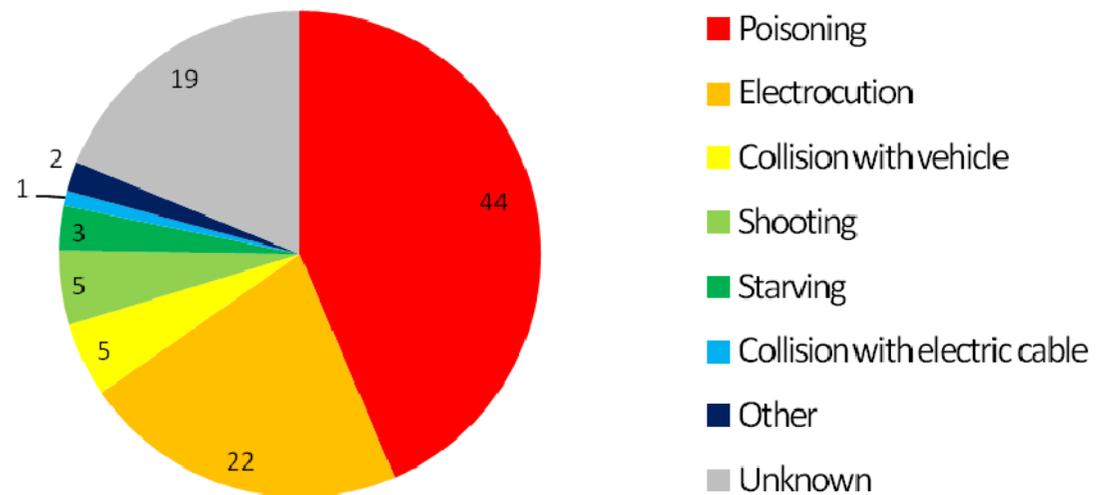
Changes in the causes of mortality of imperial eagles



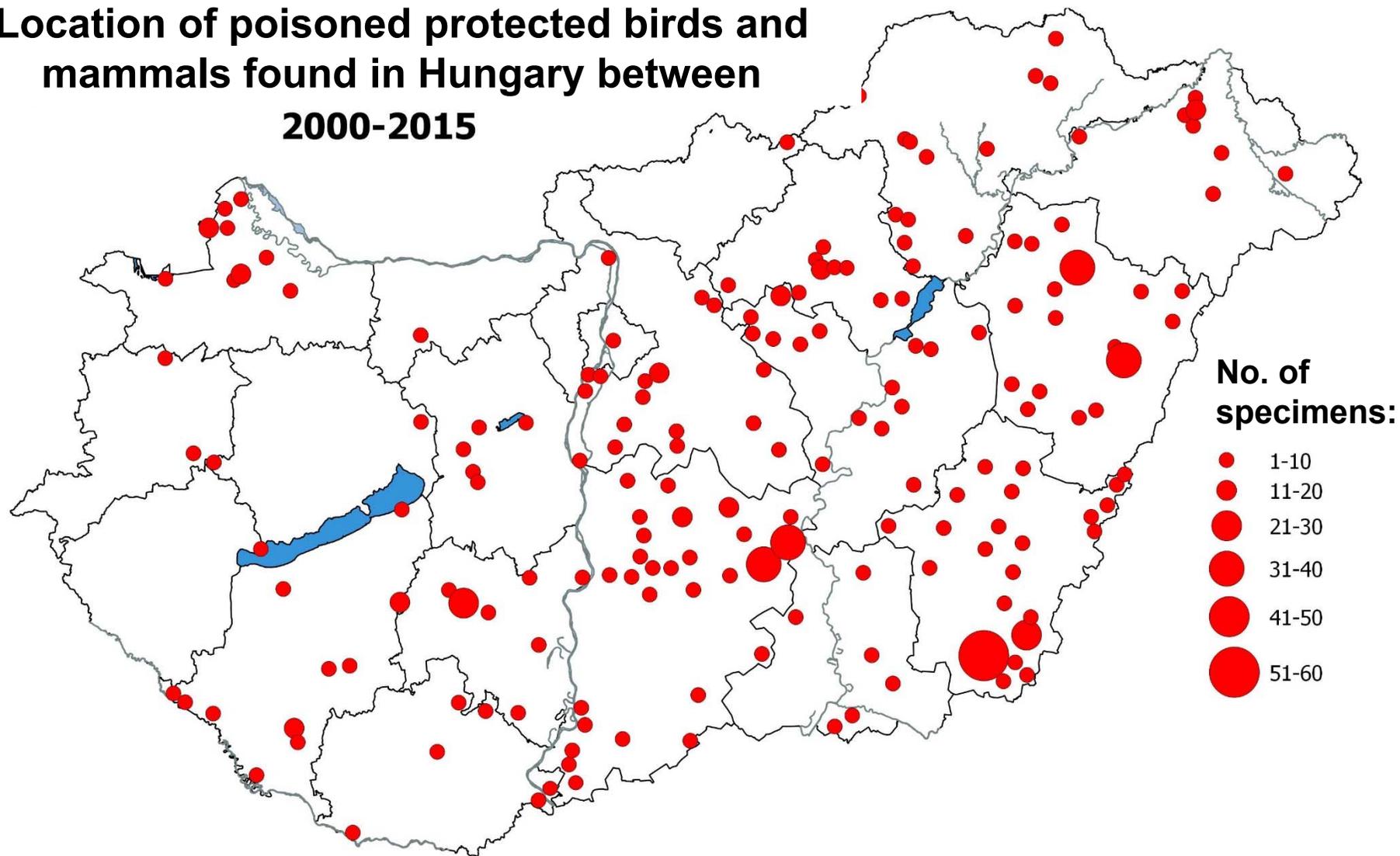
1980-2004 (n=48)



2005-2012 (n=101)



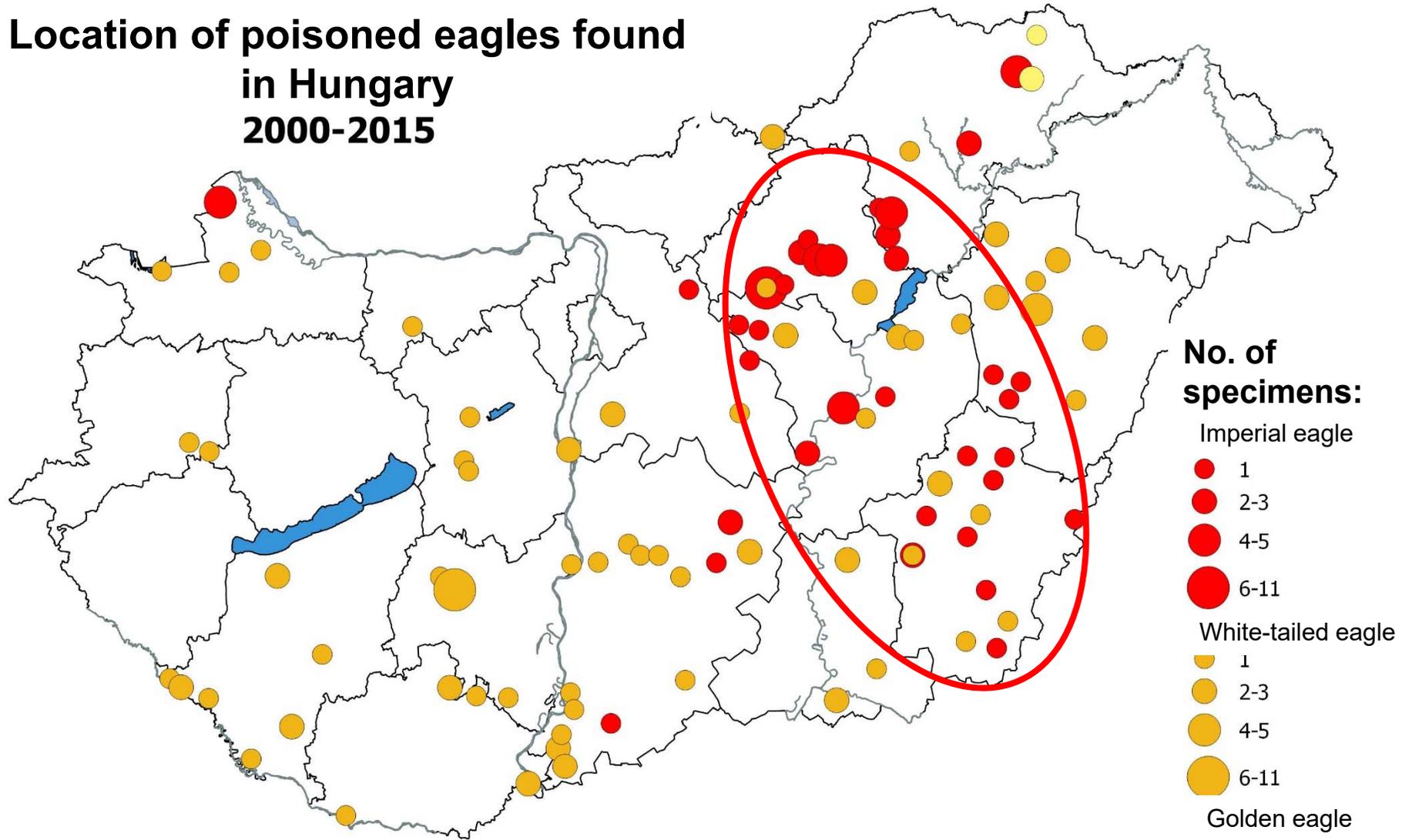
Location of poisoned protected birds and mammals found in Hungary between 2000-2015



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Location of poisoned eagles found in Hungary 2000-2015



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HELICON Life project



- Period: 01/01/2012 – 31/12/2016
5 years
- Total budget: 2'141'597 € (~600 M Ft)
- EU finance: 75%
- VM/FM finance: 8%
- Beneficiaries: 17%
- 34 actions





Coordinating beneficiary:

1. MME BirdLife Hungary

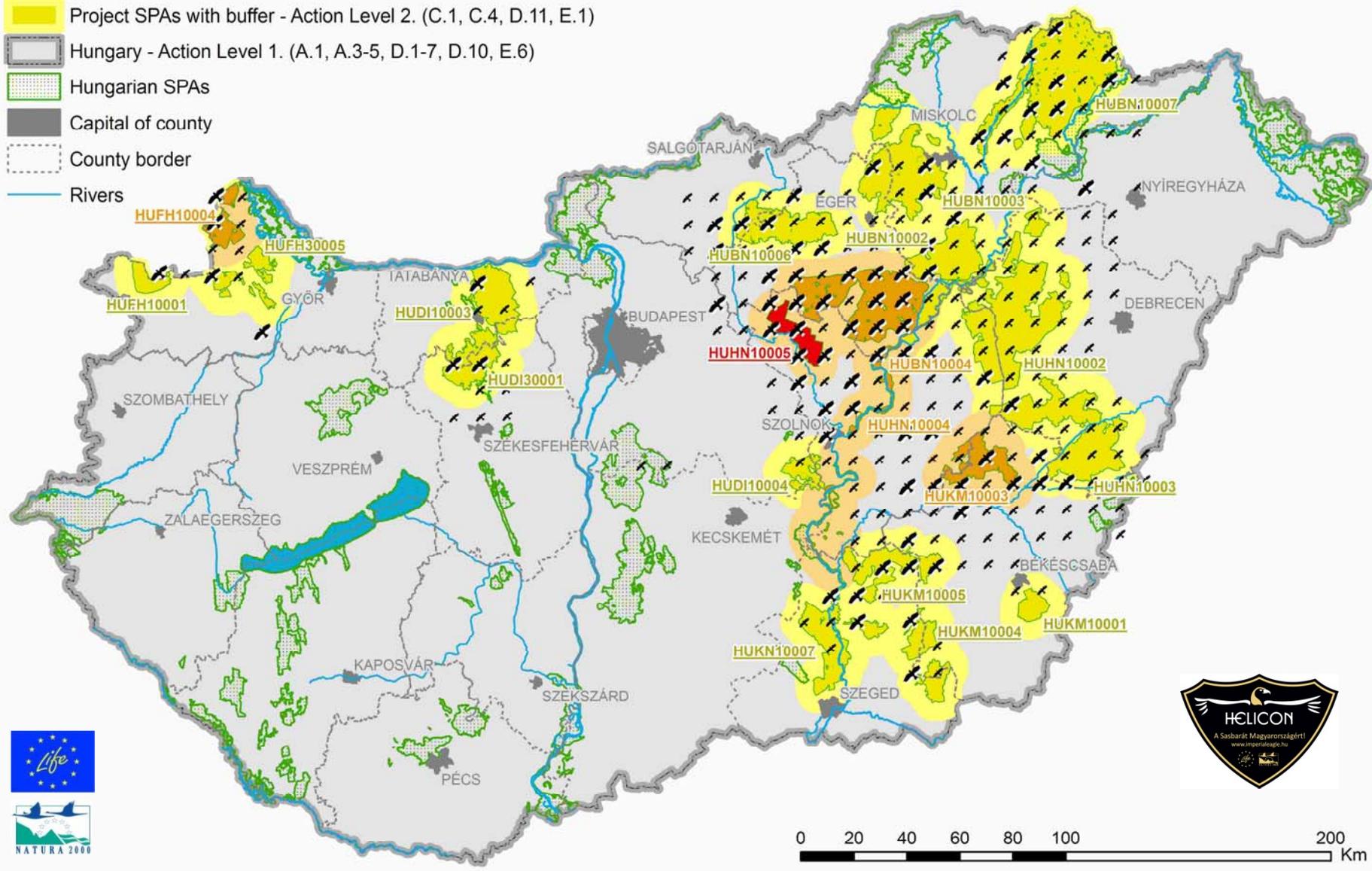
Associated beneficiaries:

2. Hortobágy National Park Directorate (HNPD)
3. Bükk National Park Directorate (BNPD)
4. Körös-Maros National Park Directorate (KMNPD)
5. Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden
6. Zoological Park and Botanical Garden of Jászberény
7. Hungarian Hunters' National Chamber (HHNC)
8. Hungarian National Bureau of Investigation (HNBI)
9. Filmjungle.eu Society



Legend

-  Aquila heliaca - breeding distribution (2010)
-  Aquila heliaca - temporary settlement areas (2003-2010)
-  Demonstrative Project SPA - Action Level 4. (A.6-7, C.3, C.6, D.8-9)
-  Key Project SPAs with buffer - Action Level 3. (A.2, C.2, C.5)
-  Project SPAs with buffer - Action Level 2. (C.1, C.4, D.11, E.1)
-  Hungary - Action Level 1. (A.1, A.3-5, D.1-7, D.10, E.6)
-  Hungarian SPAs
-  Capital of county
-  County border
-  Rivers



33 actions in 5 years in order to:

1. Decrease the effects of persecution
2. Increase the detection rate of illegal activities and convict perpetrators
3. Increase stakeholder awareness
4. Increase public awareness



www.imperialeagle.hu



Gathering data: 1. Public



- Hot Line: +36-20-251-4404
- Online: www.imperialeagle.hu
- E-mail: mergezes@mme.hu
- Media (>2000 reports in 3 years)



For an eagle-friendly Hungary!
A Sasbarát Magyarorszáért!

HELICON
CONSERVATION OF IMPERIAL EAGLES
IN HUNGARY
A PARLAGI SAS VÉDELME
MAGYARORSZÁGON
LIFE/DONAT/HU/019

English Magyar

NEWS IMPERIAL EAGLE THREATS PROJECTS

DATABASES DOWNLOADS GALLERY CONTACT

WEB CAM

EAGLE TRACKING

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Results of the 12th National Eagle Census
Wed, 28/01/2015 - 12:25

The 12th National Eagle Census was organized by MME/Birdlife in collaboration with Directorates of National Parks and other NGOs.

Read more

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Gathering data: 2. Conservation community

Hungarian Raptor Conservation Council

Anti-Poisoning Working Group

Standardized protocol for 25 organizations

250 rangers & employees, 300 volunteers



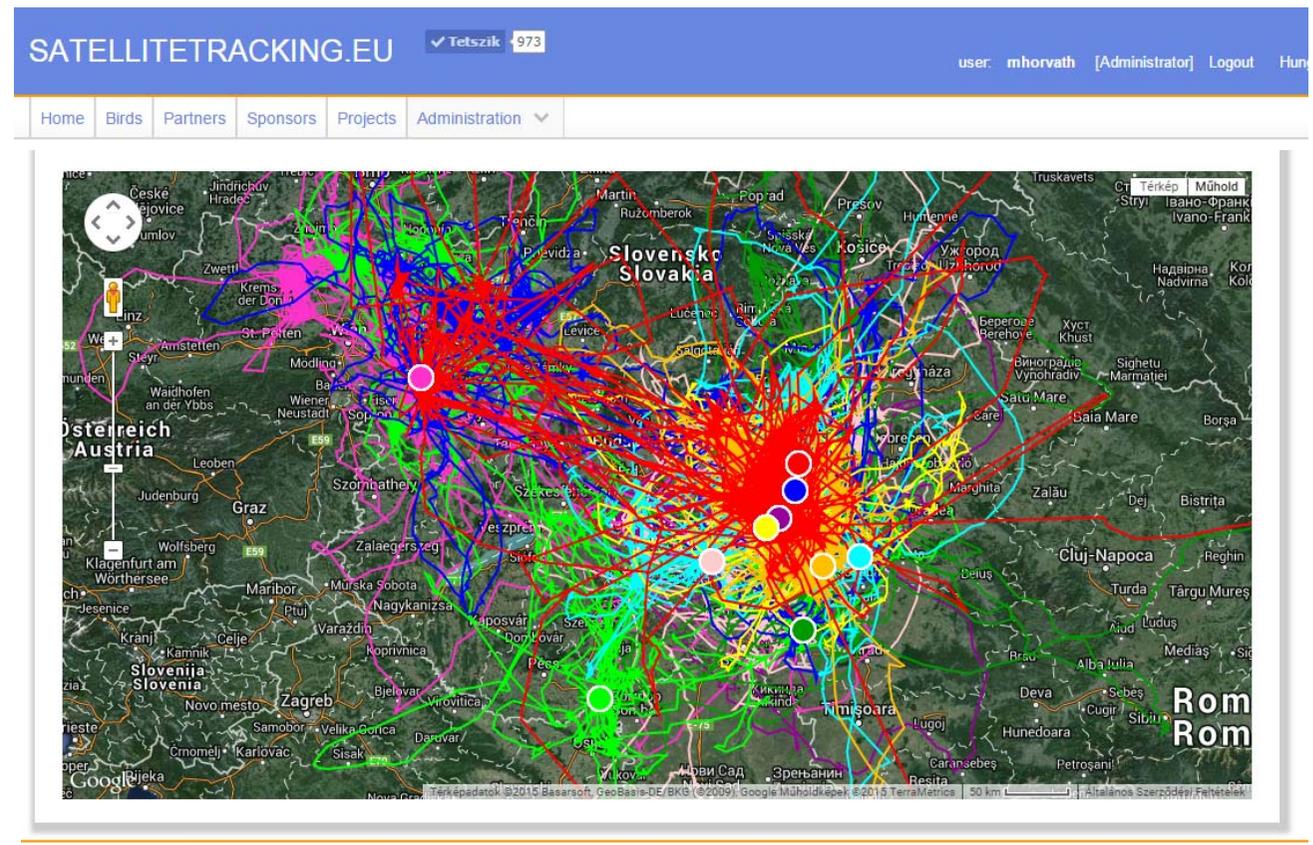
Gathering data: 3. Satellite tagging

39 imperial eagles tagged in Hungary (20 abroad)

Continuous monitoring

Urgent reaction in case of suspicion

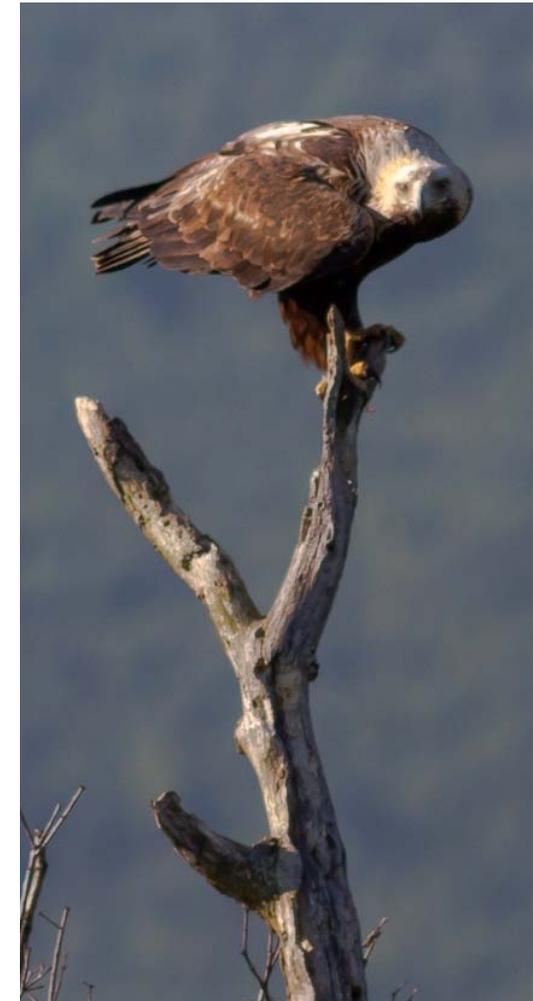
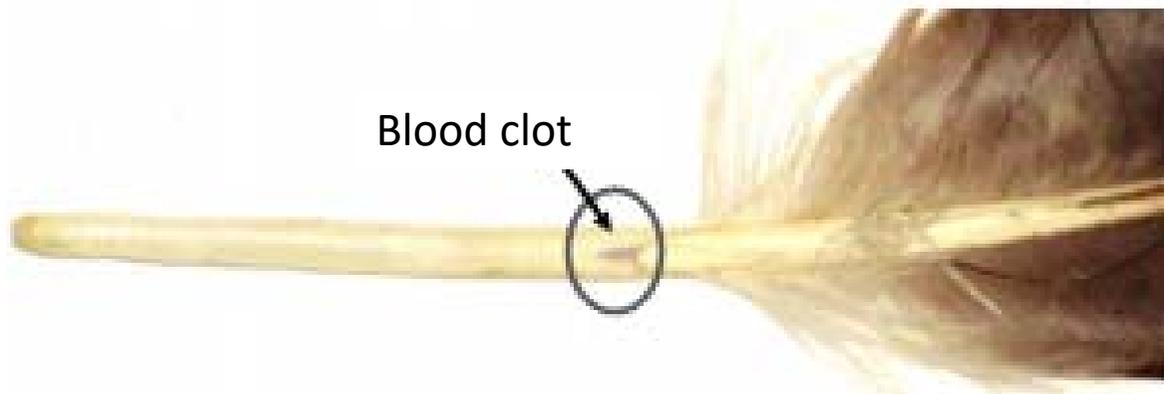
More than 500,000 records (www.satellitetracking.eu)



Gathering data: 4. Genetic monitoring



- Shed feathers of adults collected since 1997 (covering annually 30-70% of the population)
- DNA fingerprinting of individuals
- Annual turnover calculated
- Blackspots could be identified, where adults are changing



Gathering data: 5. Dog unit

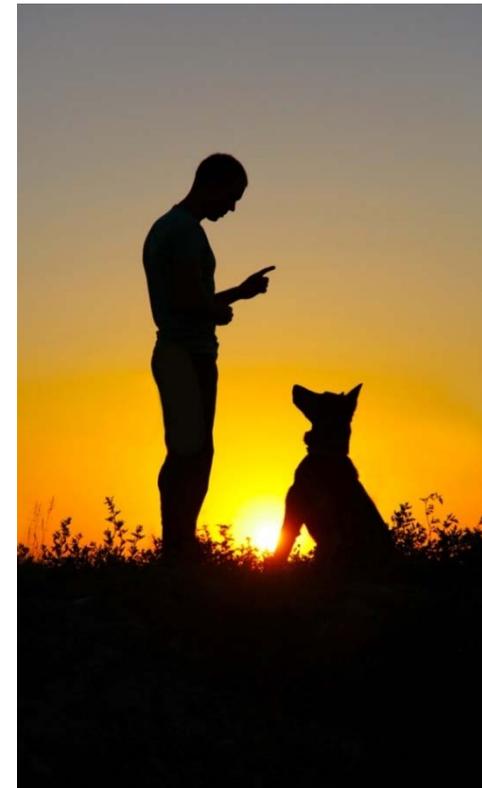


Anti-Poisoning Dog Unit formed in 2013 („Falco”)

All reported poisoning cases are investigated

Regular monitoring of 20 project SPAs (3 days a week)

All tracklogs recorded

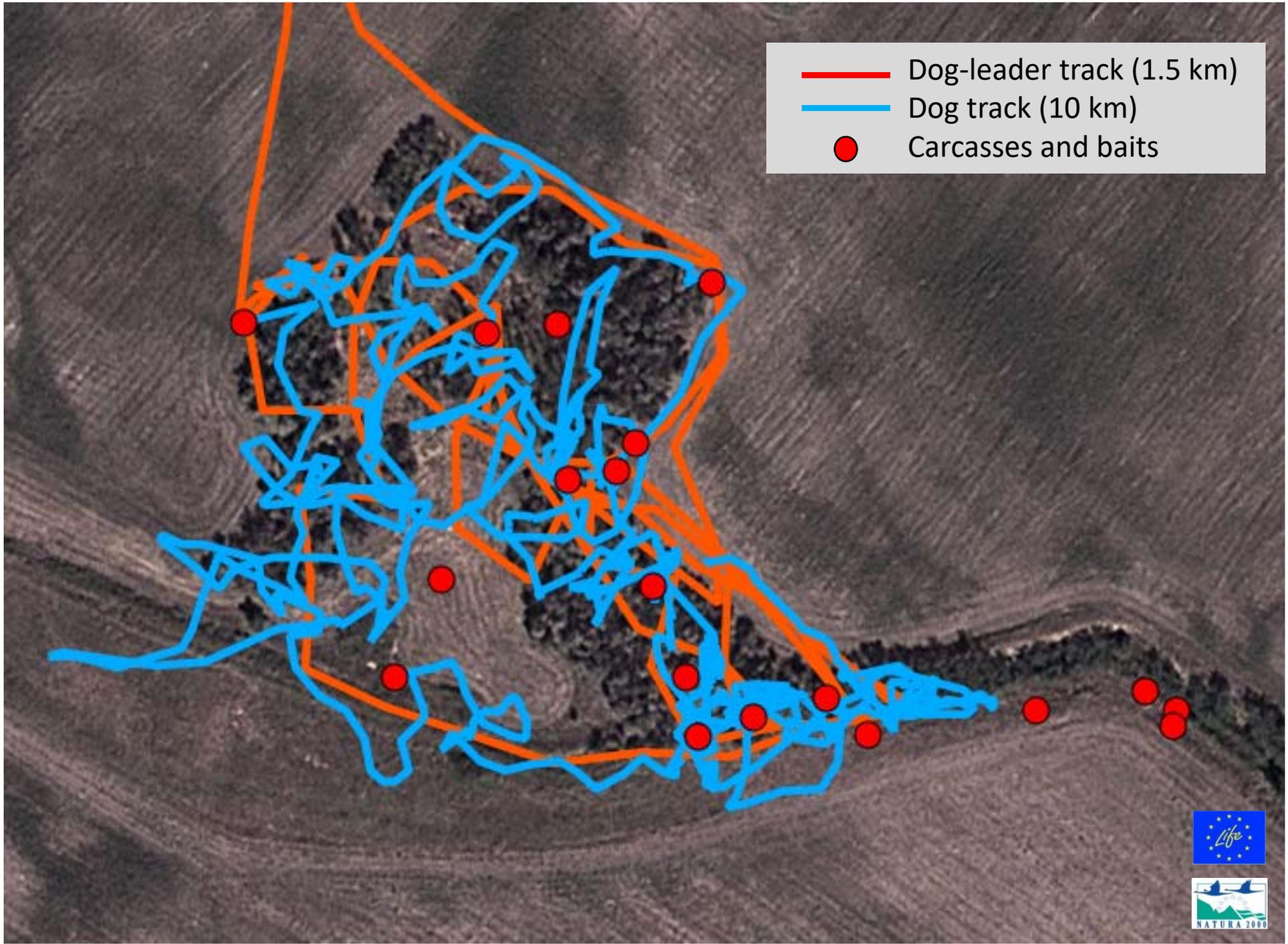


Case study 1. – Tiszaalpár, Septemer 2013 (1st field search)

- Rangers found 4 marsh harriers and 3 poisoned eggs
- Dog-unit found further 13 marsh harriers, 1 buzzards and 3 saker falcons underground, and >10 poisoned eggs



- Dog-leader track (1.5 km)
- Dog track (10 km)
- Carcasses and baits

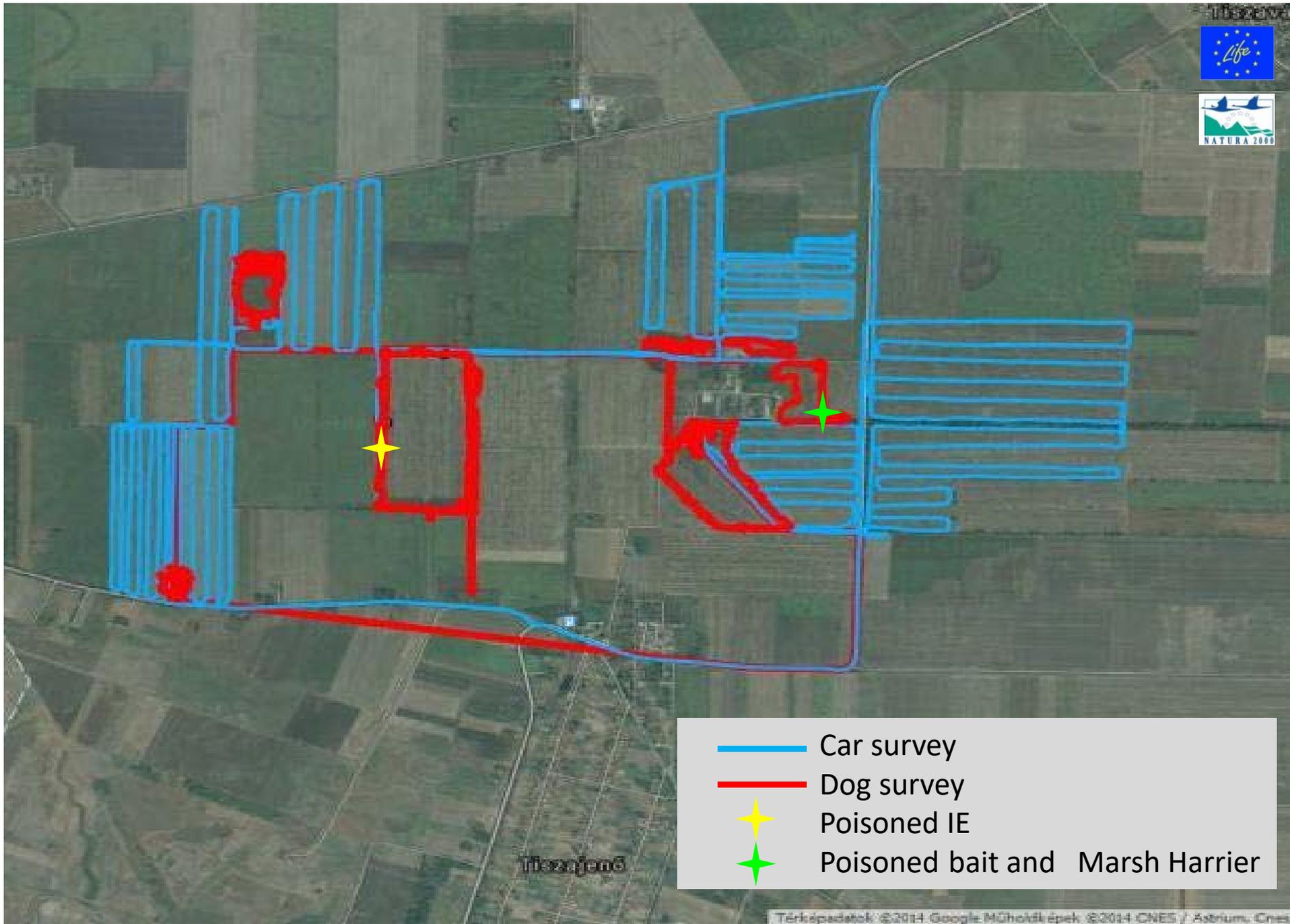




Case study 2. – Tiszavárkony, September 2013

„Rudolfina” Poisoned two-times





- Car survey
- Dog survey
- ★ Poisoned IE
- ★ Poisoned bait and Marsh Harrier

13.09.16 Tiszavárkony



Camera traps



Ltl Acorn

● 087°F 031°C

09.20.2013 15:29:29

Case study 3. – Városföld, February 2015 „Remény” = „Hope”









Assist police in search warrants

- 1st successful search warrant when the poison was found in 2016



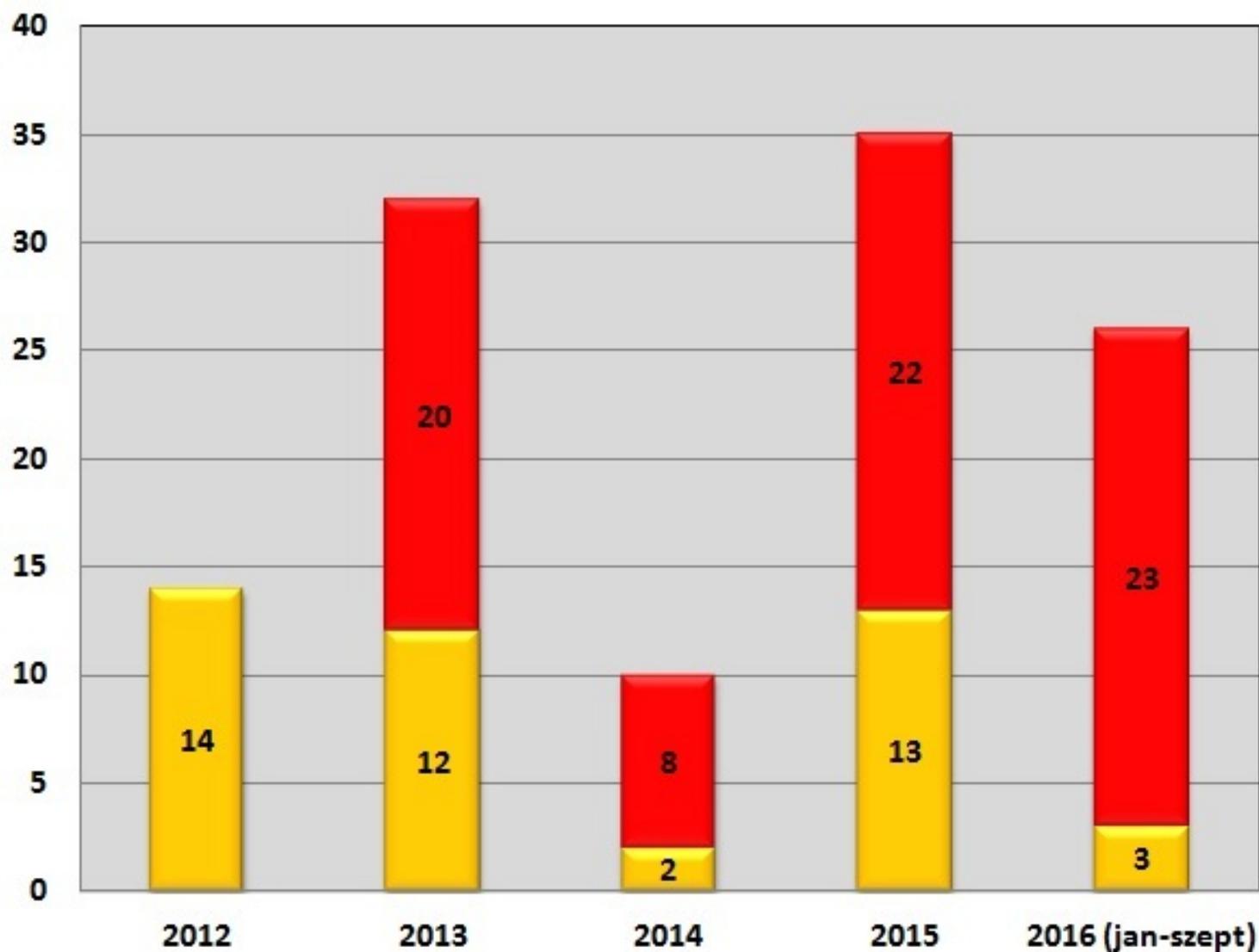
Results:

In 17 counties more than 2000 km survey (2013-2015)



Type of survey	No. of surveys	Findings related to bird crime	Findings suspected to bird crime
Random	119		1
Archive crime scene	138	11	19
Active crime scene	87	154	26
Disappeared tagged bird	13	4	1
Accident	1		
Monitoring	1		
Search warrant	5	2	
Total:	364	182	47

Number of poisoned baits found in Hungary between 2012 and 2015



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■ Found by the dog unit

■ Other Baits



Managing data



- All data on detected cases gathered in one national Bird Crime database operated by MME:
 - Field data (date, time, reporter & observers data, species, specimens, baits, GPS coordinates etc.)
 - Veterinarian data (pathology, treatment)
 - National Park Directorate data (field reports, prosecution details)
 - Police data (investigation ID and results)
 - Photos
 - Reports (pdf copies)
- All knoww bird crimes, but mostly poisoning and shooting
- Recently 768 records (mostly from 2000 onwards)
- 1744 specimens of 54 species and 194 poisoned baits





Veterinarian network and protocol



- Protocol, Trainings
- 26 vets





Nest guarding



- 2012: 3 nests (46 volunteers, 317 days)
- 2013: 3 nests (78 volunteers, 651 days)
- 2014: 4 nests (147 volunteers, 874 days)
- 2015: 5 nests (87 volunteers, 593 days)
- 2016: 3 nests (103 volunteers, 676 days)

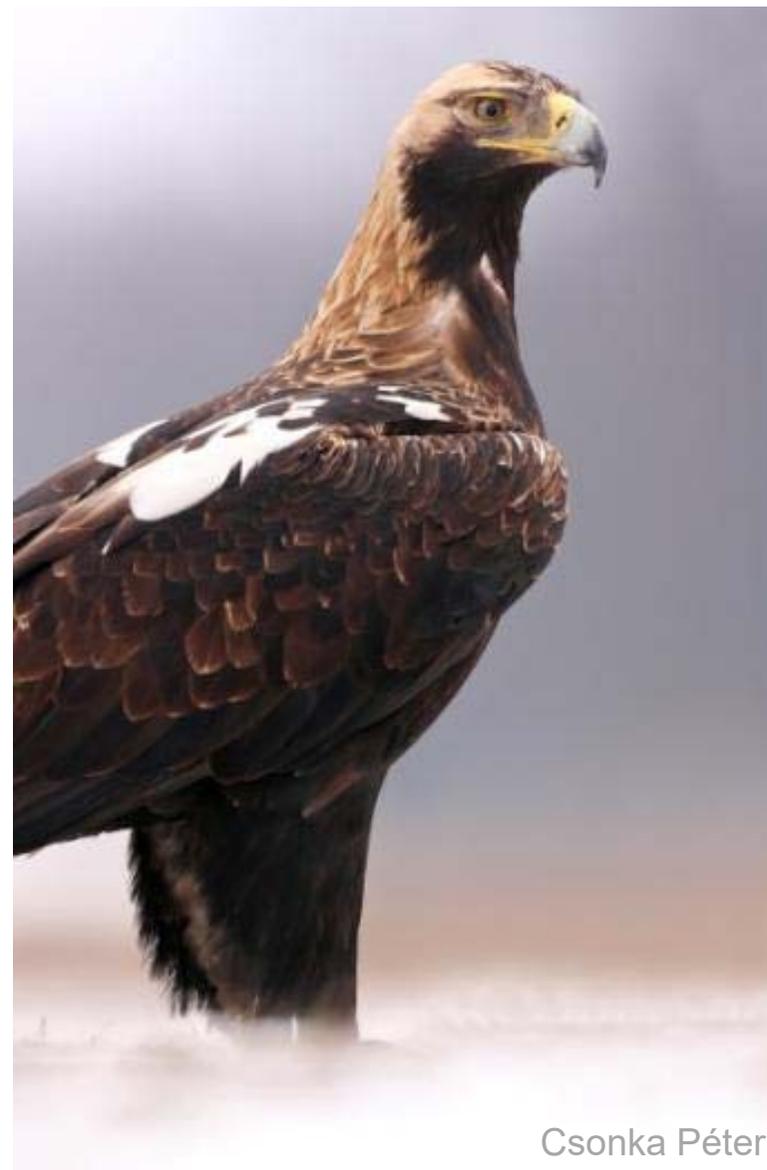
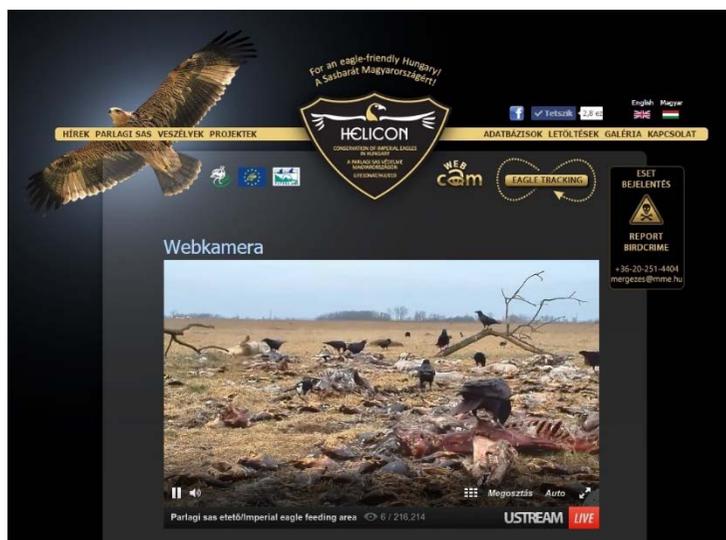




Winter feeding



Jászság SPA online camera



Csonka Péter



Artificial nests

- 100 nests to SPAs and buffers





Habitat development



- Purchase and manage abandoned house yards (10 yards, 5,4 ha)
- Jászság SPA Management Plan
- Changing the Agri-environmental Schemes (game management, „high nature conservation value area”)





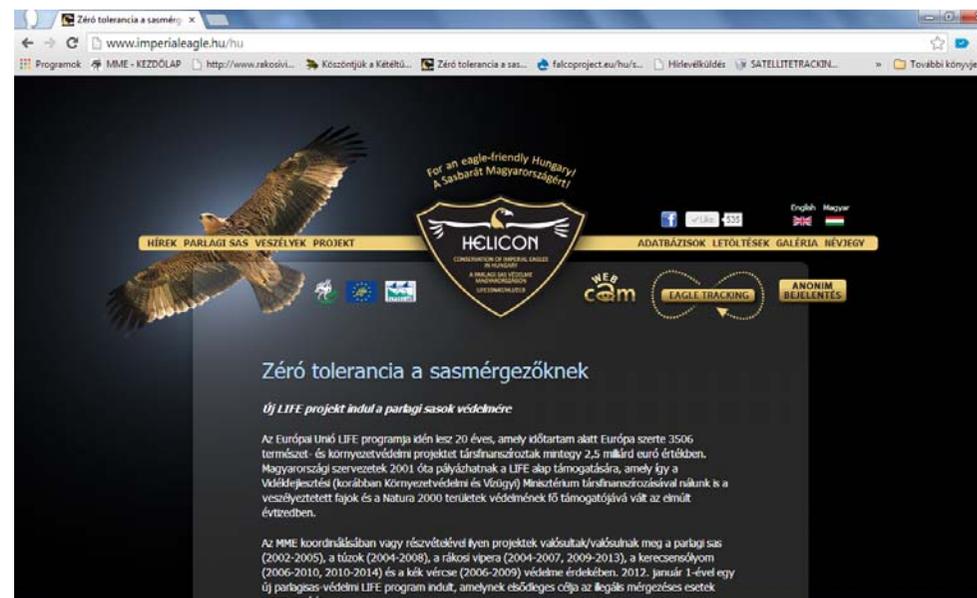
Public Relations



- Eagle Centre (2014)
- Exhibitions in Zoos (2014)
- Media work
- Webpage, Facebook
- Educational materials



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Cooperation with hunters, farmers, police, prosecutors, judges



- Workshops
- Educational materials
- Traps and trapping courses
- Game and habitat management in sample areas

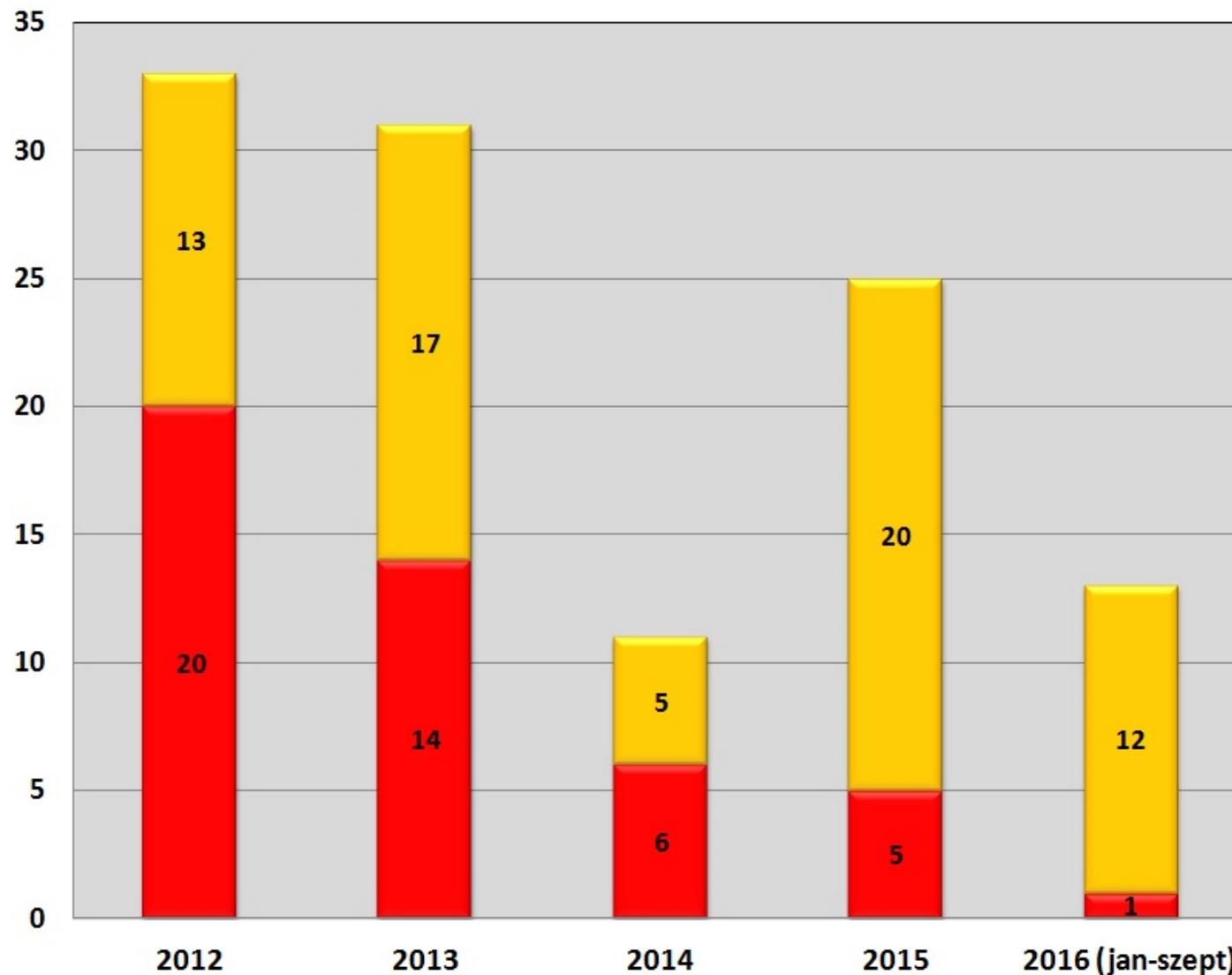




First precedent judgments

- 2000-2015: > 250 known cases
- Till 2014 no judgments
- 2015:
 - 2 professional hunters: 1800-2200 € penalty
 - 1 professional hunter: 400 € penalty, suspended judgement
 - 1 professional hunter: 770 € penalty, suspended jail (1 year 3 month)
- 2016: further 3 cases in court

No. of detected predator poisoning cases in Hungary between 2012 and 2016



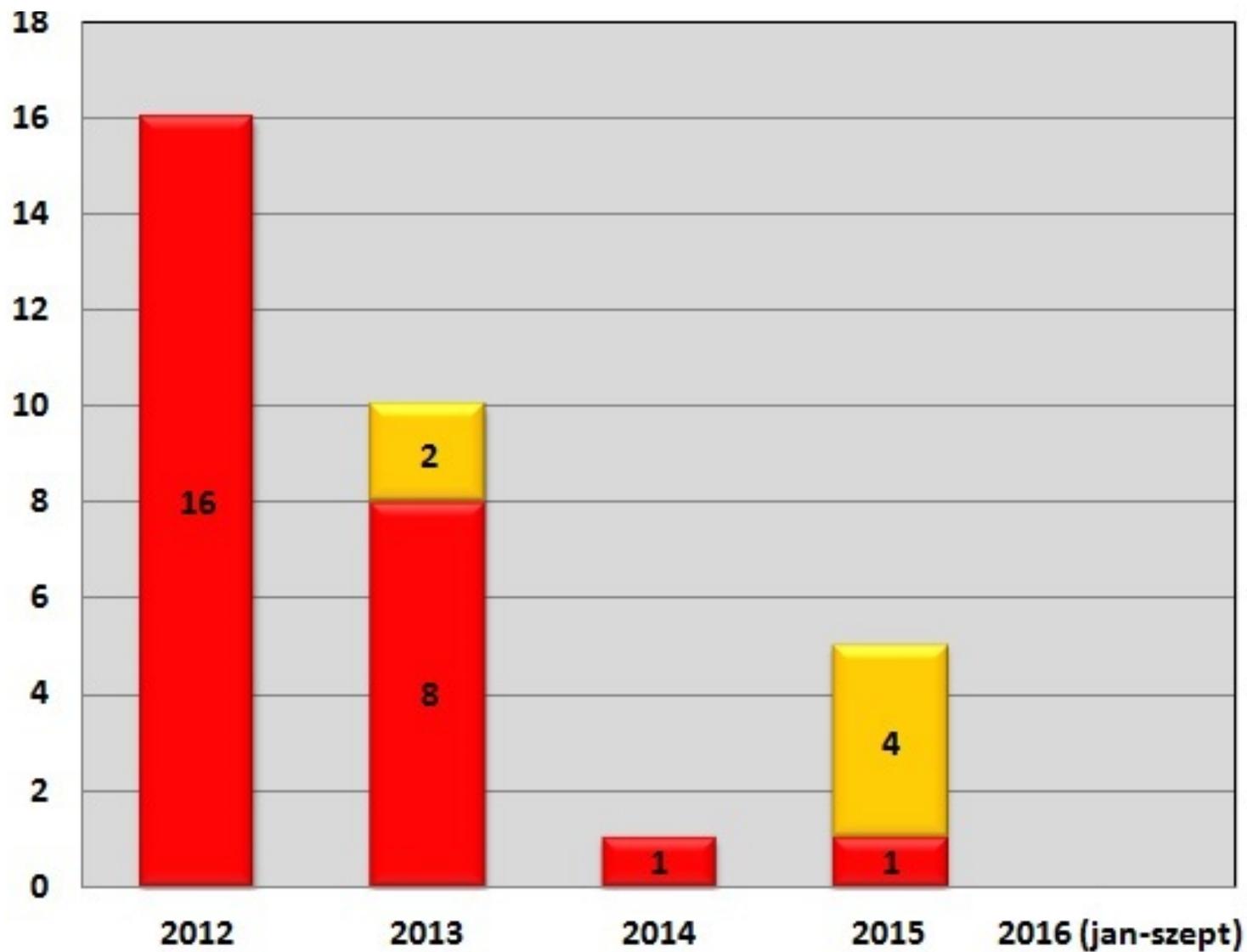
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■ Outside the main project areas

■ At main project areas



No. of poisoned imperial eagles in Hungary between 2012 and 2016



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■ Outside the main project areas

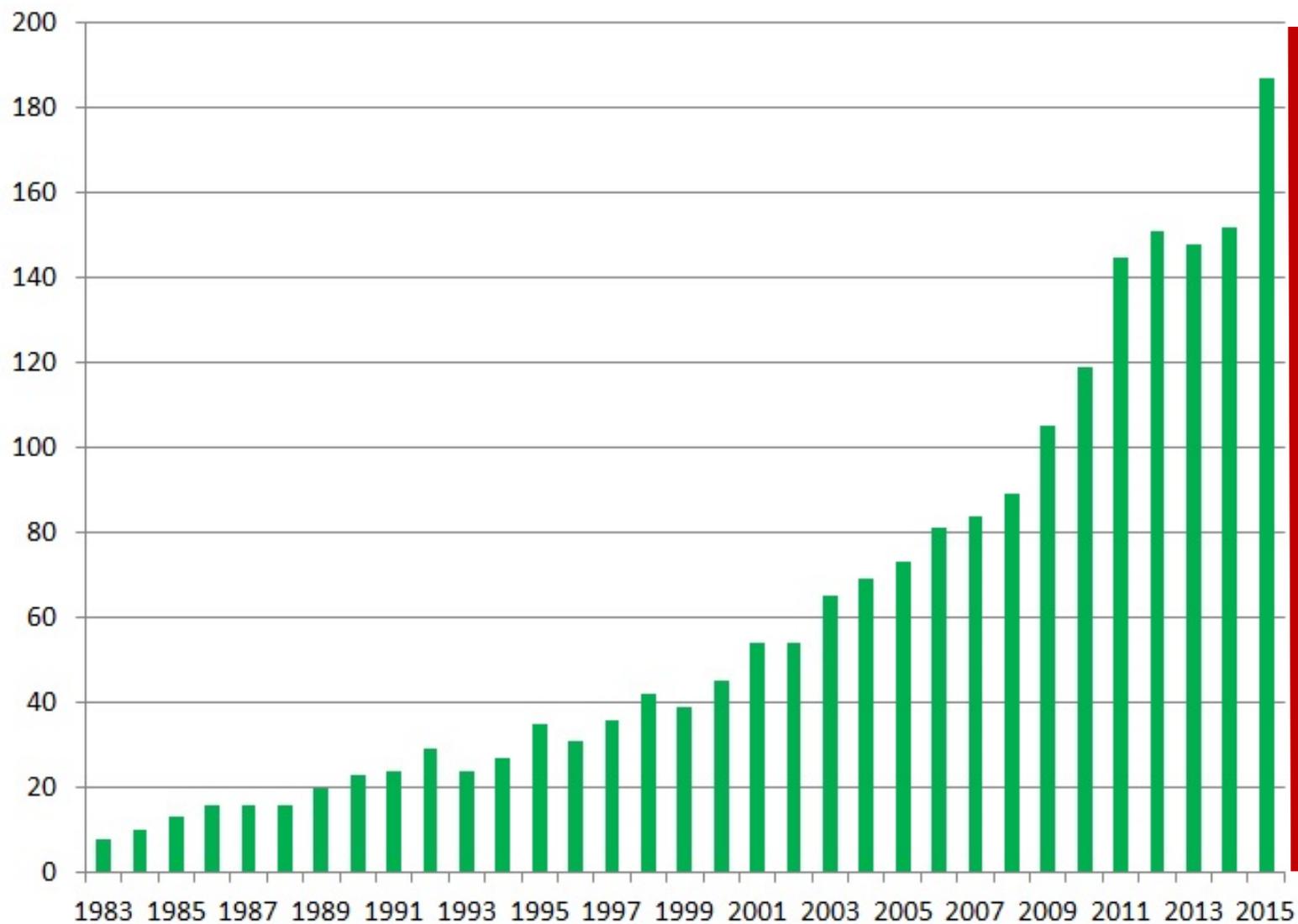
■ At main project areas



Ismert parlagi sas fészkek számának alakulása Magyarországon

No. of known eastern imperial eagle nests in Hungary

(1983-2015)



2016



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PannonEagle Life



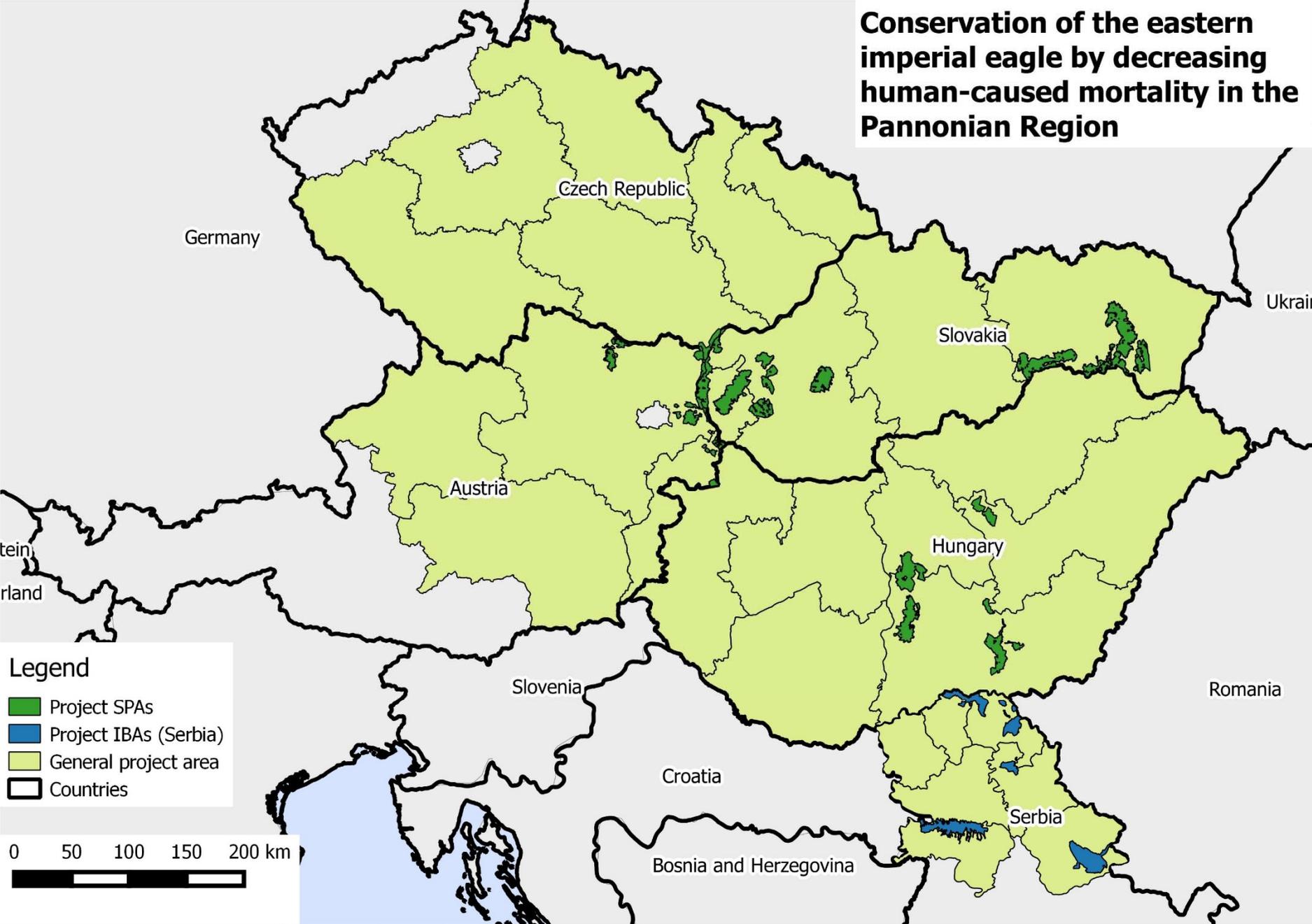
- Period: 01/10/2016 – 31/03/2022 (5.5 years)
- Total budget: 3'583'577 € (~1'111 M Ft)
- EU finance: 74,86%
- Co-financier: Hungarian and Austrian Ministry of Agriculture





1. MME BirdLife Hungary
2. Hortobágy National Park Directorate (Hungary)
3. Kiskunság National Park Directorate (Hungary)
4. Raptor Protection Slovakia
5. Vychodoslovenska distribucna, a.s. (Slovakia)
6. BirdLife Austria
7. WWF Austria
8. Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia (BirdLife Serbia)
9. Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province (Serbia)
10. Česká Společnost Ornitologická (BirdLife Czech Republic)
11. Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Conservation of the eastern imperial eagle by decreasing human-caused mortality in the Pannonian Region



Thanks for the attention!



www.imperialeagle.hu
www.facebook.com/HeliconLife

