

PannonEagle

LIFE project

Conservation of the eastern
imperial eagle by decreasing
human-caused mortality in the
Pannonian Region - LIFE15
NAT/HU/000902

LIFE PannonEagle
Márton Árvay
project manager

Swipe workshop - Madrid
29/06/2022



Basic information

Project duration: 2016.10.01-2023.01.31

Total budget: 3 583 577 € (75% EU contribution)

Coordinating beneficiary:

[BirdLife Hungary \(MME\)](#)

Associated beneficiaries:

[Kiskunsági National Park Directorate, Hungary](#)

[Hortobágyi National Park Directorate, Hungary](#)

[Vychodoslovenská distribučná a.s \(VSD\), Slovakia](#)

[Raptor Protection of Slovakia, Slovakia](#)

[Czech Society for Ornithology \(CSO\) – Czech Republic](#)

[Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic - Czech Republic](#)

[BirdLife Österreich – Austria](#)

[WWF Österreich - Austria](#)

[Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia – Serbia](#)

[Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province - Serbia](#)



Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic



Project objectives

The main objective of the project PannonEagle Life is to increase the population of the eastern imperial eagle in the Pannonian Region through significantly decreasing the non-natural mortality caused by persecution incidents.

- Decrease the direct adverse effects of persecution incidents on the Pannonian imperial eagle population
- Increase the chance of detecting illegal activities and imposing precedent judgments in the case of bird persecution incidents.
- Increase stakeholder awareness about the overestimated effect of raptor species on game populations and about alternative eagle-friendly game management methods.
- Increase public awareness about the conservational importance of imperial eagles and about the possible consequences of persecution incidents.



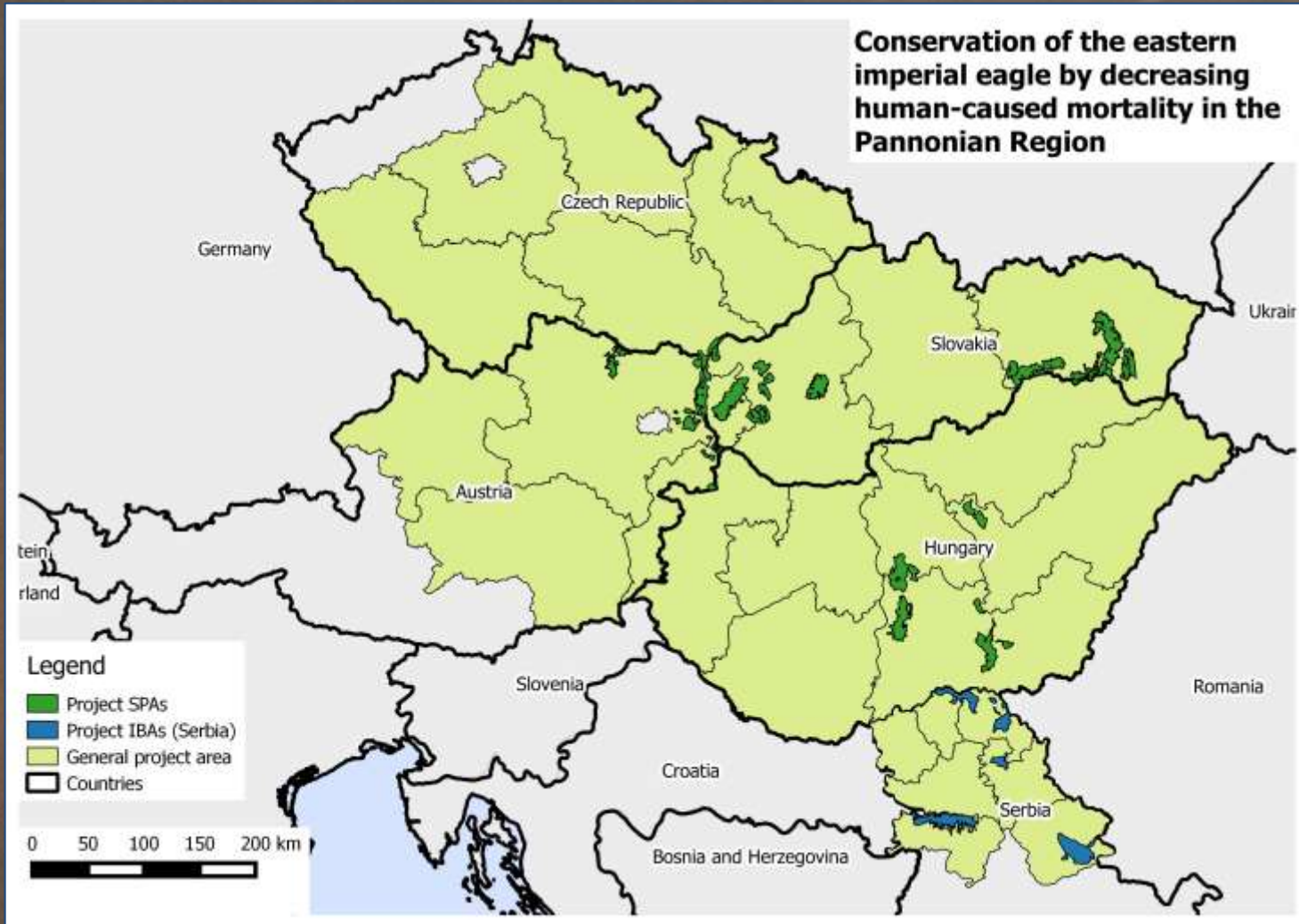
Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic



NATURE FOR NATURAL CONSERVATION
OF VONKOVSKA PROVINCE



Project area



Action C1 Detect and investigate raptor persecution

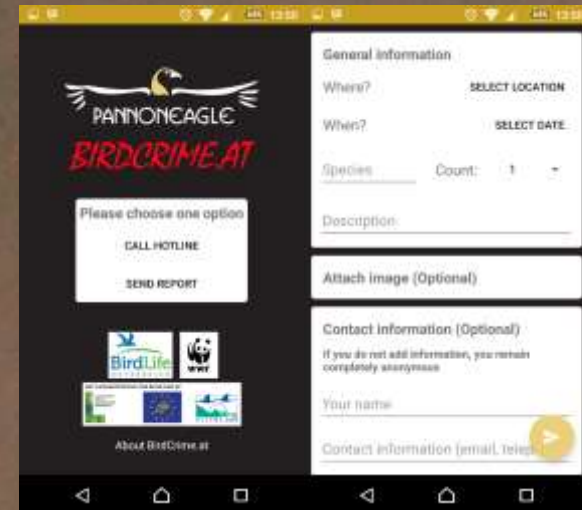
Country	Organization	Name of the dog	Name of the dog leader	Breed
Hungary	MME	Carlo	Gábor Deák	Belgian malinois
Hungary	MME/private	Hella	Gábor Deák	German shepherd
Hungary	KNPD	Samu	Viktor Kiss	German shepherd
Czech Republic	CSO	Irbis	Klára Hlubocká	Cheasepeak Bay retriever
Czech Republic	CSO	Victory	Klára Hlubocká	Cheasepeak Bay retriever
Slovakia	RPS_SK	XARA/Ora Rita GLORIA LEONES	Martin Hupka	Schnauzer Kennel Pepper & Salt
Slovakia	RPS_SK	NERO	Pavol Gorny	German Shepherd Dog



Establish stakeholder network and best-practice protocols

National reporting surfaces

- Birdcrime App produced in Austria
- Reporting hotlines
- Cooperation with national laboratory

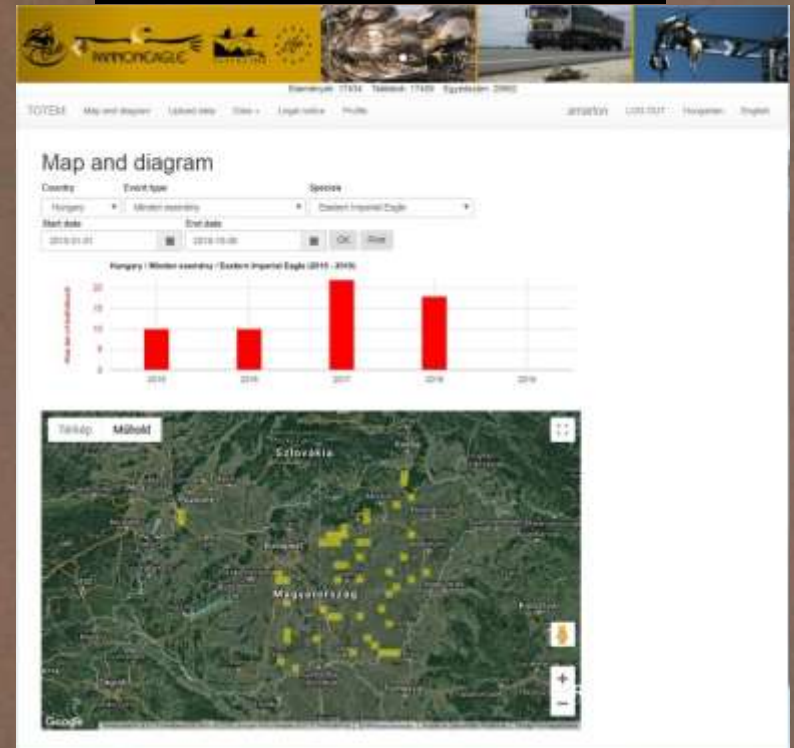


The screenshot shows the Birdcrime App interface. At the top, there is a logo for 'PANNONCAGLE BIRDCRIME.AT'. Below the logo, there is a section titled 'Please choose one option' with two buttons: 'CALL HOTLINE' and 'SEND REPORT'. Below this, there are logos for 'BirdLife', 'WWF', and 'About BirdCrime.at'. On the right side, there is a 'General information' section with fields for 'Where?' (SELECT LOCATION), 'When?' (SELECT DATE), 'Species', 'Count', and 'Description'. Below this is an 'Attach image (Optional)' section. At the bottom right, there is a 'Contact information (Optional)' section with a field for 'Your name' and a button for 'Contact information (email, telephone)'.

Regional bird crime database TOTEM

<https://totem.mme.hu/>

- 498 cases from the Pannonian region (from 2016-2019)
- 339 poisoning or suspected poisoning
- 33 imperial eagle, 52 WTE
- 229 police case



Genetic tracking – Execute population viability analyses

- PVA is carried out according to breeding – GPS data
- collaboration with the University of Veterinary Science

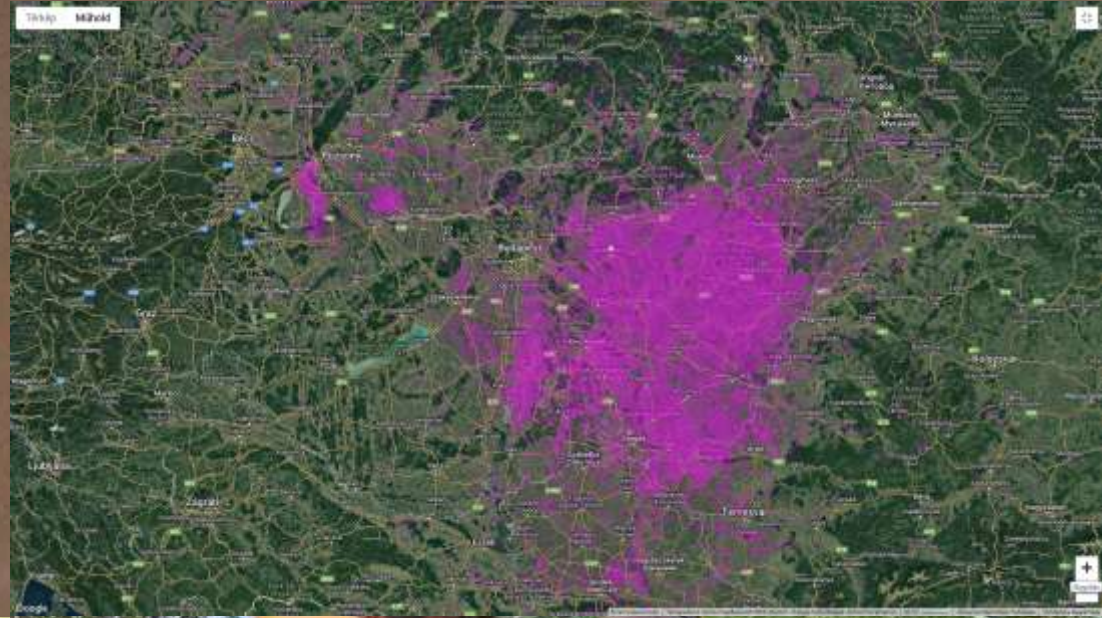


A close-up photograph of four young bald eagle heads resting in a row on a bright orange surface. The eaglets have dark, hooked beaks and light brown, downy feathers. They are looking towards the camera with a calm expression. The background is slightly out of focus, showing green foliage and a building structure.

- Ismert parlagi sas fészkek számának alakulása Magyarországon (1980-2021)**
-
- | Év | Fészkek száma |
|------|---------------|
| 1980 | 2 |
| 1981 | 3 |
| 1982 | 4 |
| 1983 | 5 |
| 1984 | 6 |
| 1985 | 7 |
| 1986 | 8 |
| 1987 | 9 |
| 1988 | 10 |
| 1989 | 11 |
| 1990 | 12 |
| 1991 | 13 |
| 1992 | 14 |
| 1993 | 15 |
| 1994 | 16 |
| 1995 | 17 |
| 1996 | 18 |
| 1997 | 19 |
| 1998 | 20 |
| 1999 | 21 |
| 2000 | 22 |
| 2001 | 23 |
| 2002 | 24 |
| 2003 | 25 |
| 2004 | 26 |
| 2005 | 27 |
| 2006 | 28 |
| 2007 | 29 |
| 2008 | 30 |
| 2009 | 31 |
| 2010 | 32 |
| 2011 | 33 |
| 2012 | 34 |
| 2013 | 35 |
| 2014 | 36 |
| 2015 | 37 |
| 2016 | 38 |
| 2017 | 39 |
| 2018 | 40 |
| 2019 | 41 |
| 2020 | 42 |
| 2021 | 43 |
- parlagisas.hu
imperiategle.eu
- Logo of the Ministry of Environment and Water (Környezetvédelmi és Vízügyi Minisztérium) featuring a stork and the text 'KÖRNYEZETVÉDELMI ÉS VÍZÜGYI MINISZTERISÉG'.
- Logo of the Hungarian Ornithological Society (Magyar Madártani Társaság) featuring a stork and the text 'MAGYAR MADÁRTANI TÁRSASÁG'.
- Logo of the Hungarian Ornithological Society (Magyar Madártani Társaság) featuring a stork and the text 'MAGYAR MADÁRTANI TÁRSASÁG'.
- Logo of the Hungarian Ornithological Society (Magyar Madártani Társaság) featuring a stork and the text 'MAGYAR MADÁRTANI TÁRSASÁG'.
- Logo of the European Union featuring the text 'EUROPA' and 'EUROPEAN UNION'.
- Logo of the Hungarian Ornithological Society (Magyar Madártani Társaság) featuring a stork and the text 'MAGYAR MADÁRTANI TÁRSASÁG'.

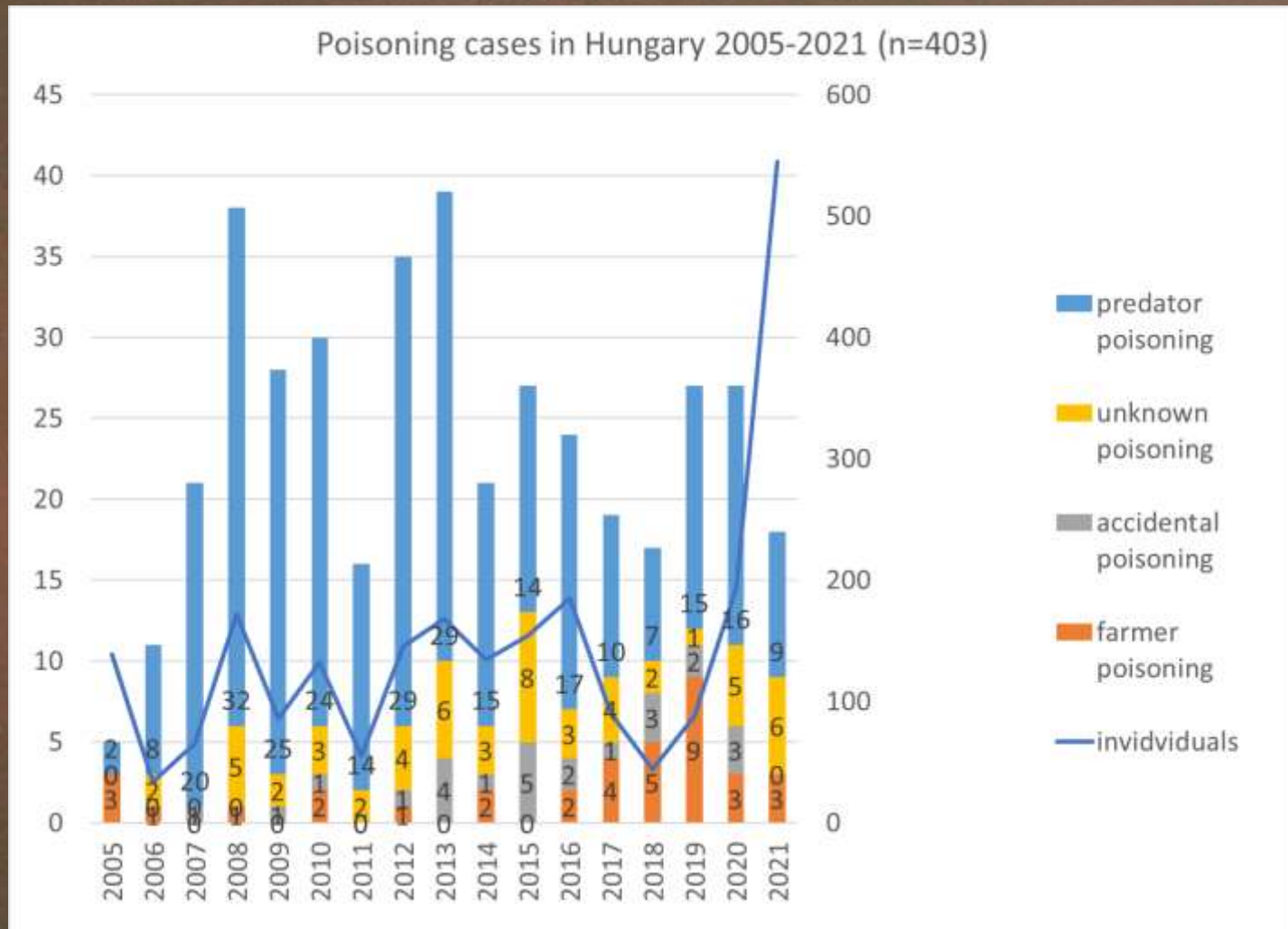
Monitor mortality of immature imperial eagles by GPS tracking

- Previously tagged imperial eagles are monitored throughout the year
- Imperial eagles tagged in the previous years show decreased persecution mortality
- 2 imperial eagles were tagged in Serbia by BPSSS & MME



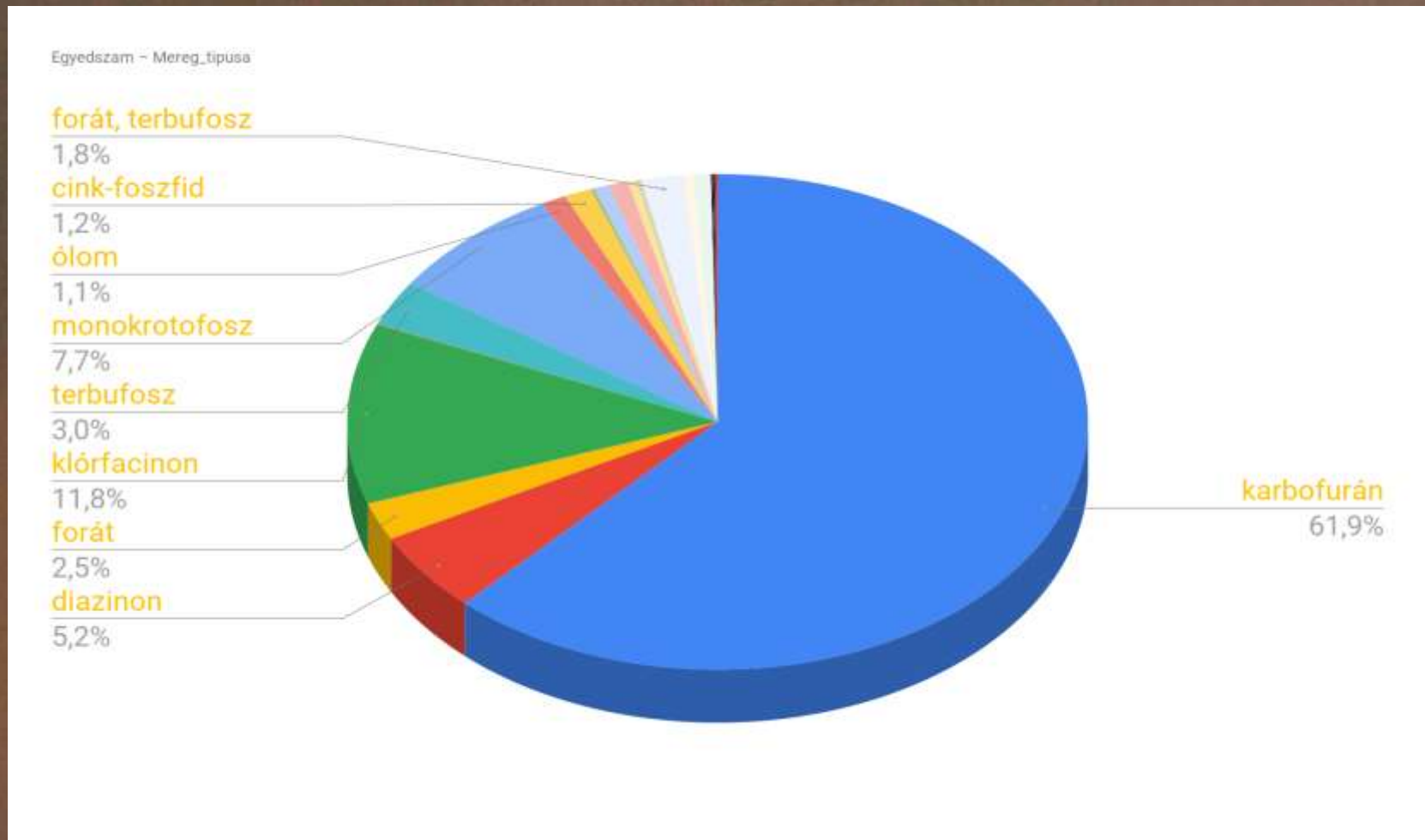
Bird crime reports

- 2021 there were less cases in Hungary, but with record number of casualties



Most frequently detected substances

Carbofuran alone is still causing the majority of wildlife poisoning in Hungary.



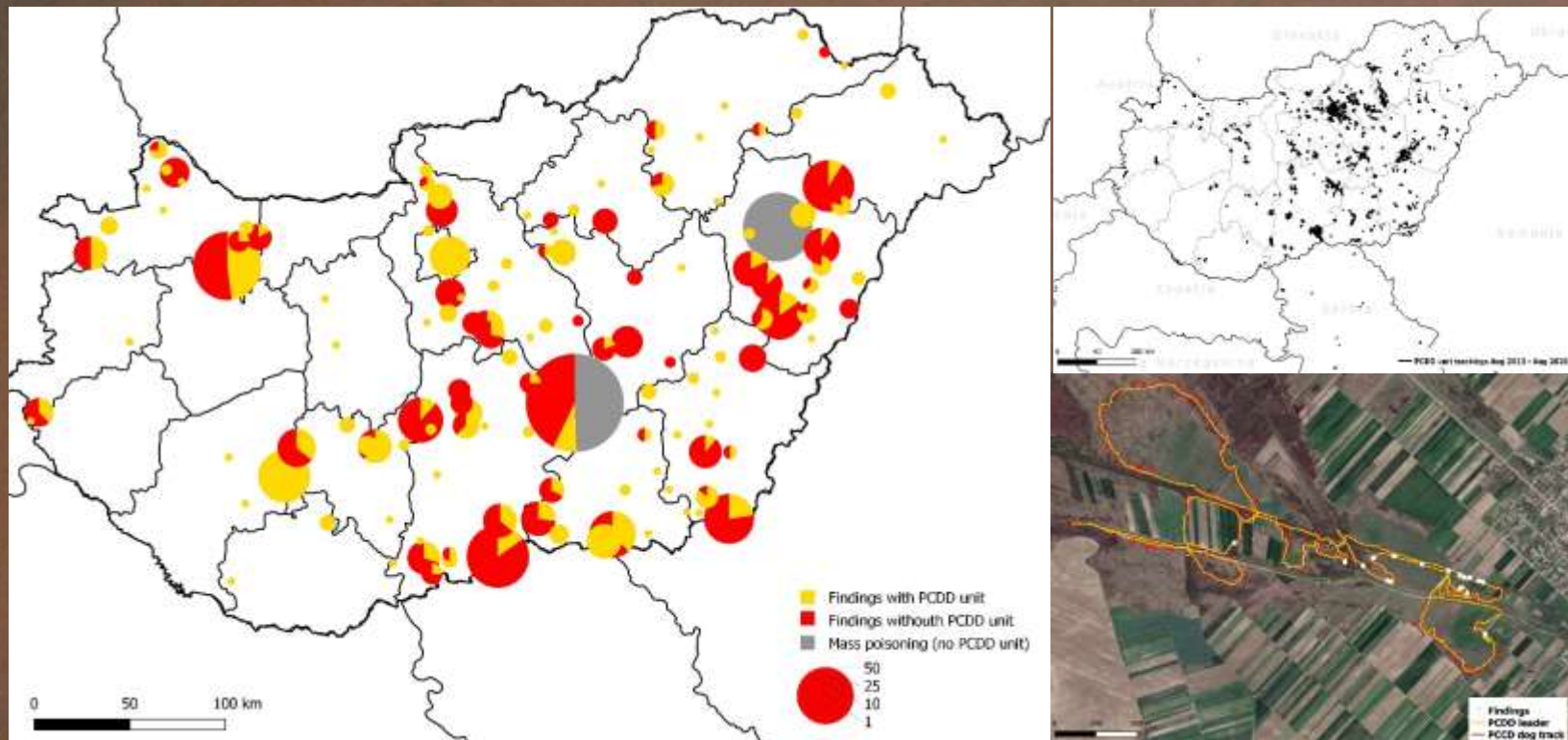
Article published about pesticide poisoning findings with search dogs:

Using detection dogs to reveal illegal pesticide poisoning of raptors in Hungary

Gábor Deák, Márton Árvay, Márton Horváth

J. of Vertebrate Biology, 69(3):20110.1-15

(2021). <https://doi.org/10.25225/jvb.20110>



Case studies 2021 March – Kisbér poisoning

- 29 common buzzards, 8 ravens, 1 white-tailed eagle, 6 baits and 17 other animal carcasses were found
- Poisoning baits – deer and roedeer head (hunting origin)
- Police investigation was suspended, but prosecution office made the police re-open the case



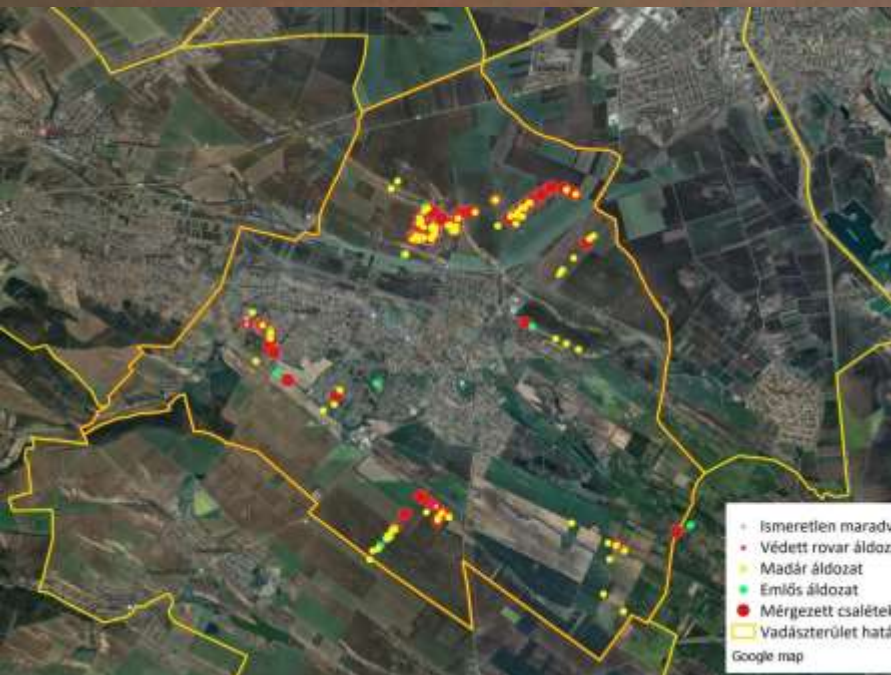
Case studies – shooting a GPS tagged cinereous vulture

- A Bulgarian cinereous vulture, tagged by Green Balkans – Bulgaria, was shot in East-Hungary
- Offenders tried to throw the GPS tag to the river but MME's dog unit found it anyway according to the GPS signals
- Police field investigation – DNA samples from the GPS tag and feathers of the vulture
- Ongoing investigation – local hunters already admitted „finding the vulture”



Case studies – Tura - worst ever poisoning case in Hungary

- Territory of Szent András Dombi Hunting Association
- 77 marsh harriers, 7 common buzzards, 3 ravens, 3 tree pipits, 2 strictly protected black kite and 1 Montagu's harrier, 1 white tailed eagle, 141 baits and 24 additional animal
- The laboratory results also showed record carbamate concentration in the baits (6000 mg/kg!)
- Police investigation is in progress for nature destruction, animal cruelty, poaching, illegal possession of poison.
- Large media fuss, multiple press releases - > law modification was proposed by the government on animals cruelty and nature destruction



Conviction in Austria and Czechia with involvement of PannonEagle dog units

- In Austria carbofuran was seized during a house search with poison-sniffing dog Falco and its leader Gábor Deák (MME) in cooperation with local police, WWF AT and Birdlife AT. During the house search animals were found in the suspect's freezer - including a strictly protected eagle owl - which was later also proven positive to carbofuran. A year later, in the two days of trial, the case was finally brought to the landing court and a verdict of guilt was reached. The verdict is six months conditional and 120 daily rates unconditional against a 70 year old gamekeeper-farmer.
- Klára Hlubocká, a dog handler in the Czech Society for Ornithology, testified in court, as she is searching the field for poisoned baits and their victims and handing over the documents to the police. The appellate court in České Budějovice confirmed the judgement for the bird poisoner, who killed two white-tailed eagles and two ravens near Mečichov in the Strakonice region in March 2019. The man was given suspended sentence - 2,5 years of imprisonment with a delay of 3,5 years. For the first time in history, bird of prey poisoner was convicted in Czechia.

Thank you for your attention!

<https://imperialeagle.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PannonEagleLIFE/>



Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic

