



LIFE
ARCPROM



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 25-26-27, 2025
LARISSA, GREECE

In the context of the LIFE PROJECT
“ARCPROM: Improving human-bear coexistence
in 4 National Parks of South Europe”

FINAL EVENT:
Outcomes of the LIFE ARCPROM Project
Advancing Knowledge and Practices
for Human-Bear Coexistence



LARGE CARNIVORES' COEXISTENCE: THE CONTEXT MATTERS! DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ALPS AND THE APENNINES IN ITALY

Anna Crimella - MNP

Does human-large carnivore coexistence depend on the context? Why?

It is difficult to speak in absolute terms about contexts that are more favorable than others to coexistence; however, in Italy, it is well known that the approach to coexistence in the main areas of wolf and bear colonization is very different.

Apennine
model

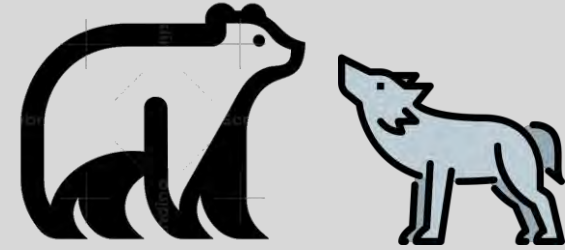


Alpine
model



What factors determine a different approach?

1. History of predator presence and distribution



2. Economic and social impact



3. Public perception



4. Policies, strategies, and management





1. History of Predator Presence and Distribution

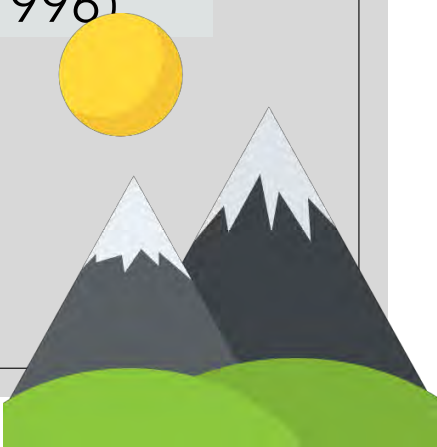
Apennines

The wolf has never completely disappeared, and its presence has been a constant, although reduced in the past. The Apennine brown bear is an isolated population in serious difficulty but historically rooted in the area.

Alps

The wolf was eradicated in the 20th century and has only recently returned (a few decades), causing a strong impact on the local population.

The bear was reintroduced in Trentino through a specific Life project (1996)



2. Economic and Social Impact

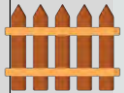
Apennines



Sheep farming is characterized by large flocks, while cattle farming involves smaller herds.



People are more accustomed to the presence of wolves.



Prevention measures, such as livestock guardian dogs and electric fences, are more widespread and traditionally accepted.

Alps



In the Alps, depending on the area, sheep farming is often more intensive and tourism-oriented (e.g., mountain pastures with dairies and agritourism). Cattle farming is not affected by wolves in the same way.



The presence of the **wolf** is perceived as a recent and destabilizing threat. The **bear**, particularly in Trentino, is at the center of controversy due to occasional attacks.



Damage prevention measures are still met with skepticism in several areas.

3. Public Perception

Apennines



The long-standing presence of wolves has led to **greater tolerance**, although local conflicts exist.



The Apennine brown bear is generally perceived as a **symbol to be protected**.

Inappropriate human behaviors can lead to bears becoming too accustomed to people.



The number of **illegal killings** remains high over time.

Alps



The presence of wolves is seen as an **external imposition** (from national and European legislation), leading to more frequent protests.



The Trentino bear, not being a strictly native species, is perceived by some as an "imported" animal and thus less legitimate.

The local community struggles with the return of what is **perceived as a threat**.

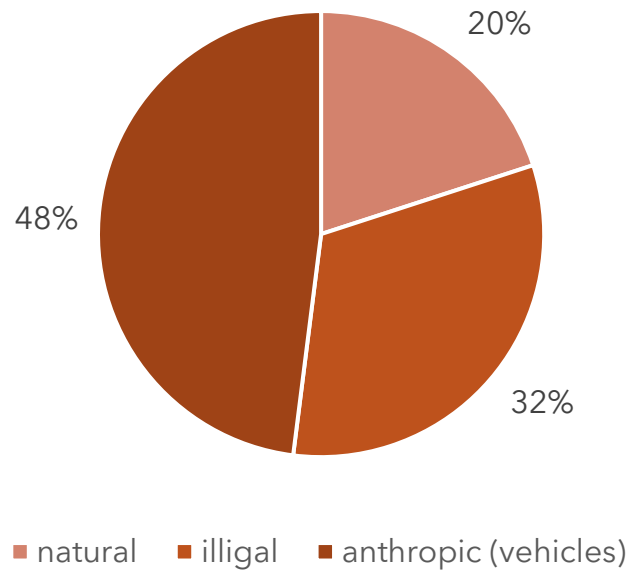
There is an **unwillingness to change** attitude.

Conflicts between interest groups are intense (pro/anti-wolf and bear).

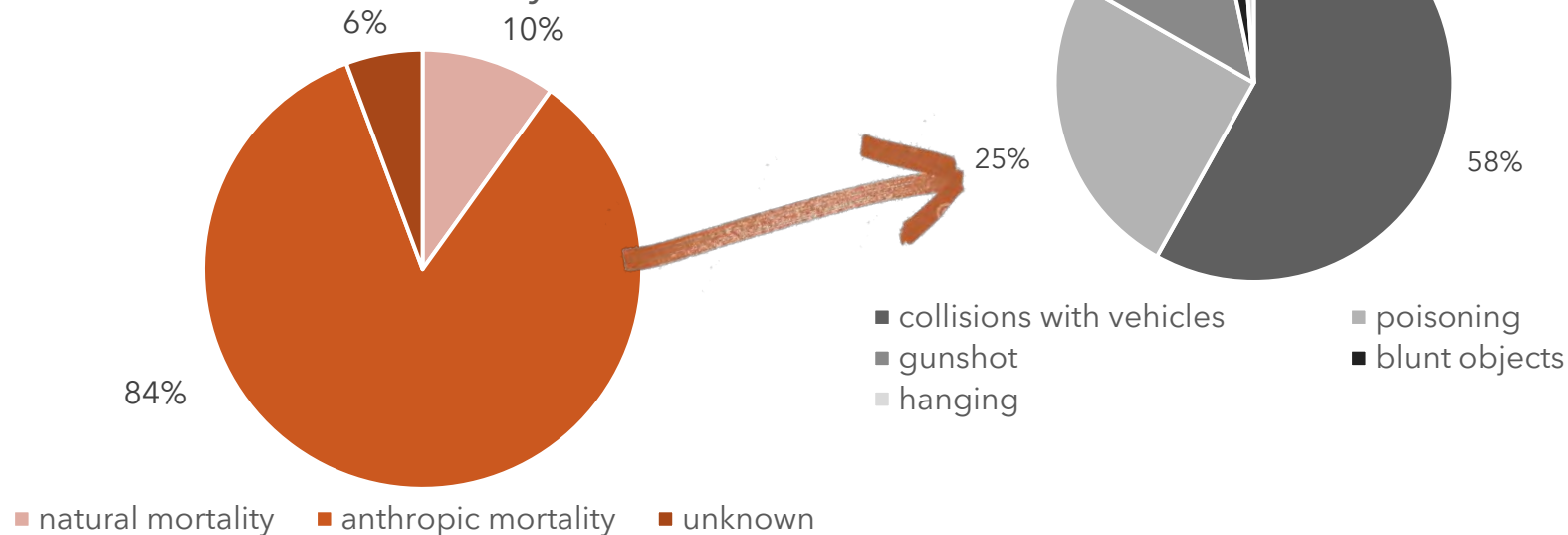


Confirmed cases of illegal killings in the Alps exist but are relatively limited.

Causes of mortality - Apennine brown bear



Causes of mortality - wolf



Illegal killing - Apennine

Between 1971 and 2023, 133 **bear** deaths were recorded.

The main causes of mortality (80%) include illegal killings (poisoning, firearms, or traps), vehicle collisions, and diseases. In 32% of cases, death was caused by illegal killings.

About 58% of **wolf** death between 2005 and 2021 result from illegal activities, including traps, poisoned bait, and firearms.

High level of conflict on the Alps

Conflicts between interest groups are intense (pro/anti-wolf and bear).

The wolf often becomes a scapegoat for broader frustrations related to traditional livestock farming.



DONA OR



4. Policies, Strategies, and Management

Apennines

No significant political debate regarding large carnivore management.

The debate mainly revolves around **incentives** for prevention measures and compensation mechanisms for damages.



Institutions do not take a clear stance for or against the presence of these predators, which is generally accepted.

Alps

Debate is highly polarized and is often a topic of **political campaigns**, with frequent calls for culling or removals




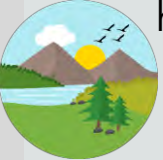

(especially for bears in Trentino and wolves in Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta, or Veneto).

Institutions are often divided on the issue.




Considerations and Areas to Focus on

The path toward lasting coexistence is still long, but in both contexts, there is room for improvement!

Apennines

- Increase **dialogue** with the local community to unify perceptions and ensure illegal behaviors are widely condemned and isolated. 
- Improve **awareness** of inappropriate behaviors that lead to bears becoming too accustomed to humans and emphasize the importance of protecting **bear habitats**. 
- Enhance coordination among relevant institutions to **standardize compensation/incentive** management.
- Actively work to **prevent and punish** illegal activities. 

Alps

- Focus on educating **new generations** of farmers to eliminate resistance to change. 
- Increase direct **engagement with individuals**, rather than relying on group dynamics that often conceal more cooperative attitudes. 
- Collaborate with institutions to elevate the political debate, ensuring that decisions are made based on **scientific data** rather than polarized opinions. 

Bibliography



Global Ecology and Conservation, Volume 32, *Men and wolves: Anthropogenic causes are an important driver of wolf mortality in human-dominated landscapes in Italy*, December 2021, Various Authors



Parco Nazionale Abruzzo Lazio e Molise – NaturaProtetta n. 27, *Rapporto Orso 2023*



Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta, Life WolfAlps EU (LIFE 18NAT/IT/000972) - *Rapporto Lupo 2023*



Regione Lombardia, Life Gestire 2020 Natura che vale – *Rapporto Grandi Carnivori, 2023*



Thank you for your attention!

Anna Crimella
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SESSION 6 14:30-16:30

Working Dogs in Wildlife Management and Protection

Detection dogs as a tool against poison baits: a review of the first units in Greece.



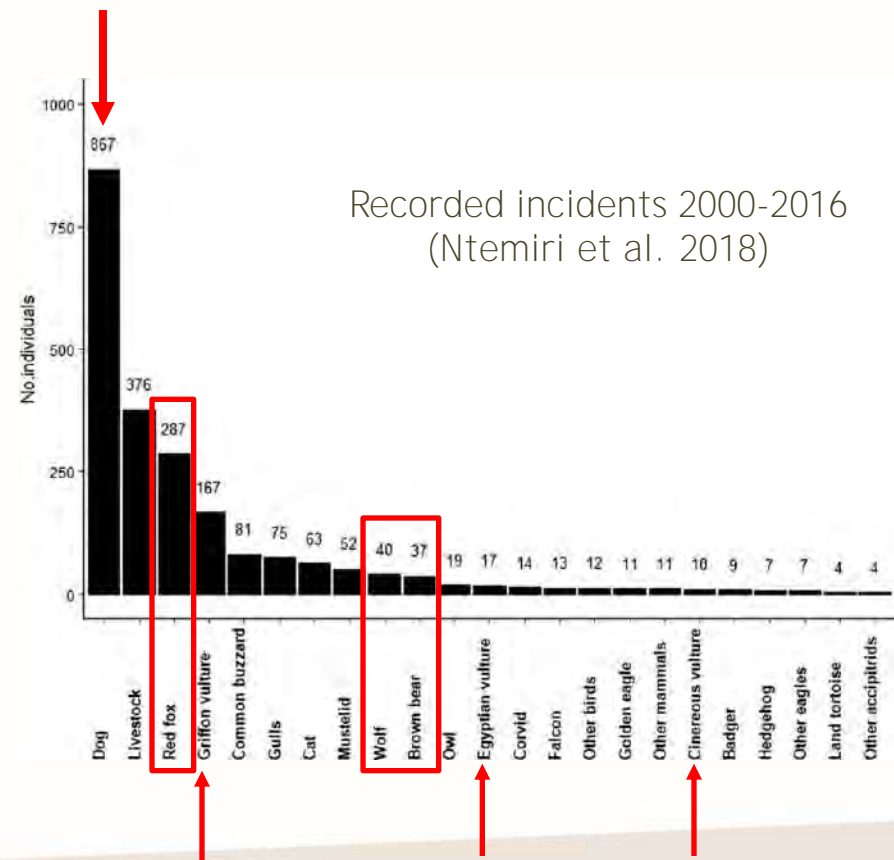
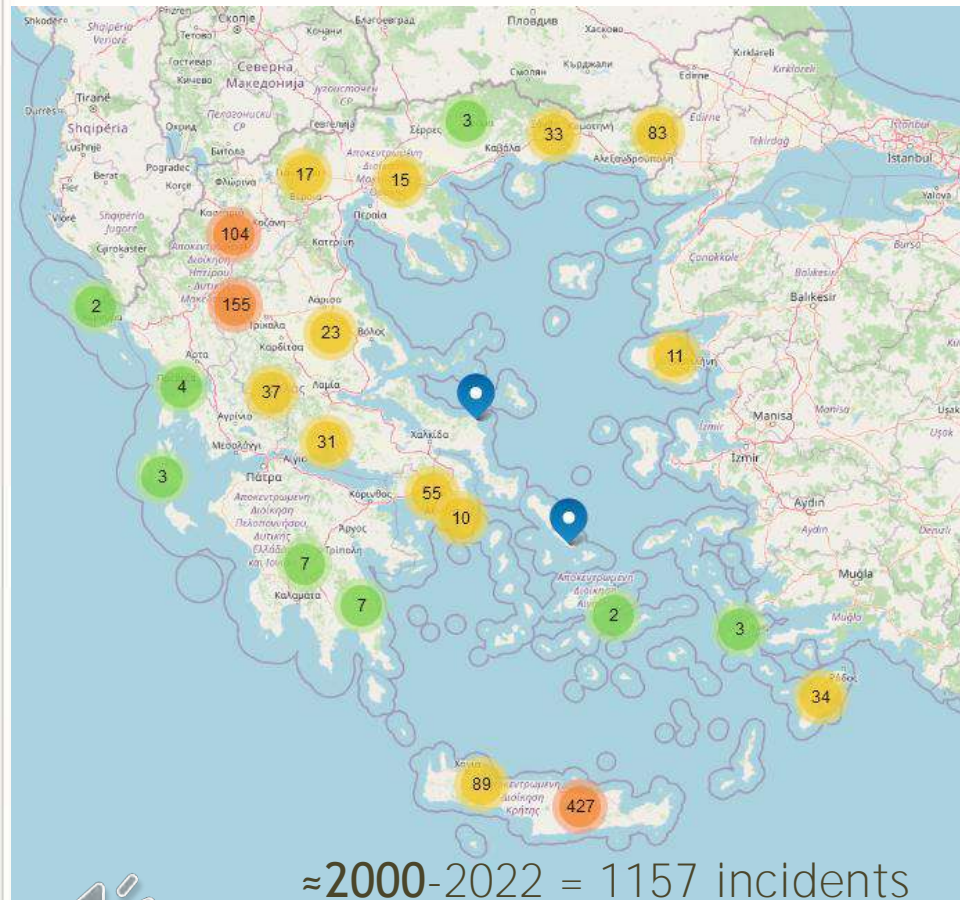
Victoria Saravia Mullin
HOS Projects Coordinator

LIFE ARCPROM Project Closing Conference, 25-27/2/2025



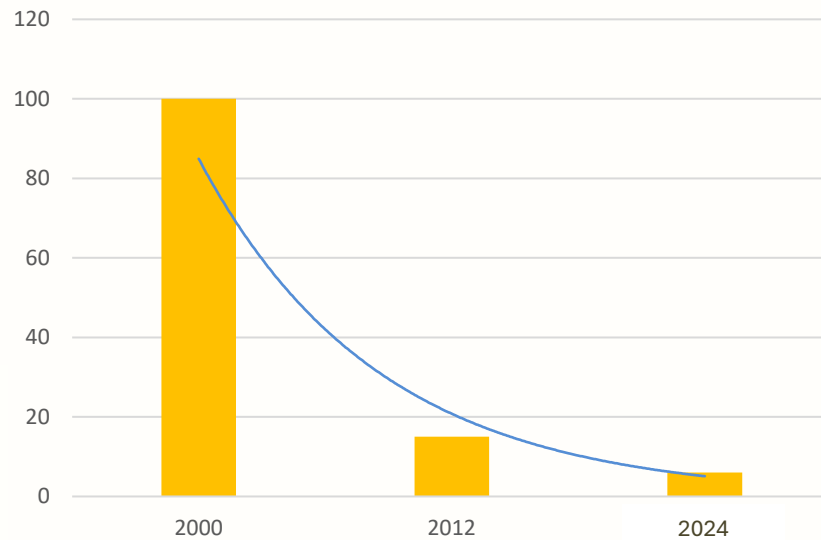
Wildlife poisoning in Greece

- Identified as one of the most important conservation problems for scavenger species in Greece, particularly for vultures.

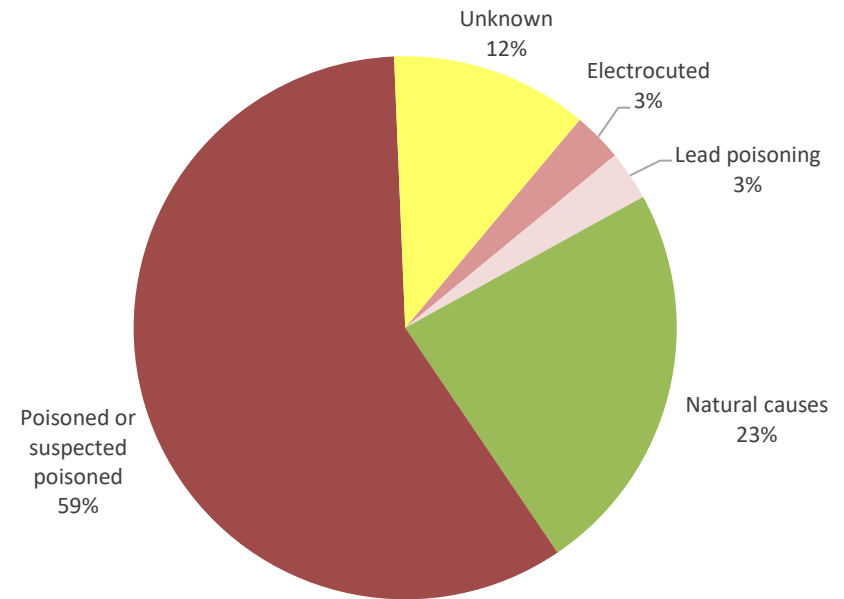


Poisoning of Egyptian vultures

Egyptian vulture population trend in Greece



Causes of death or injury in EV in Greece since 2000



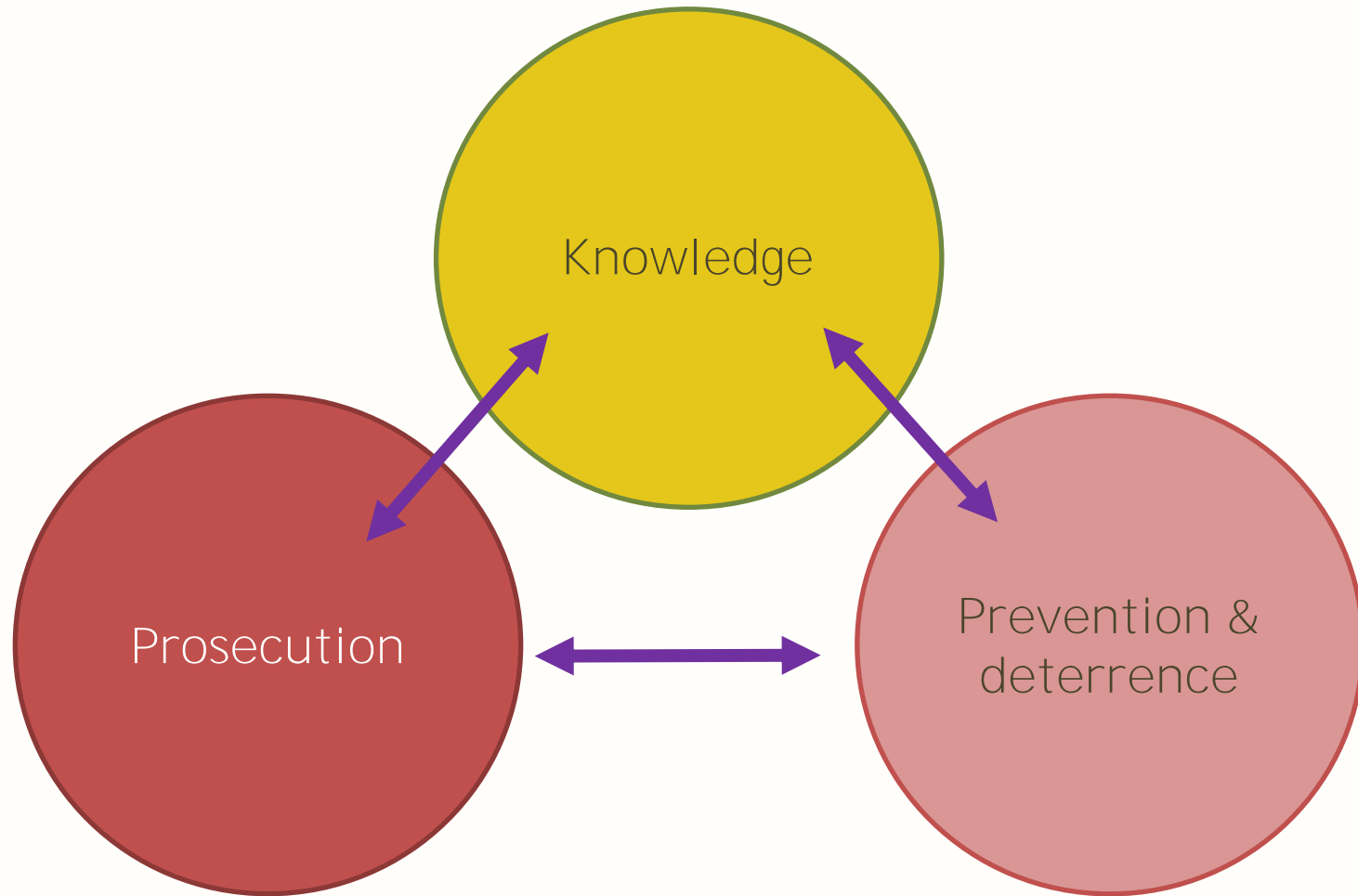
Eye opener!



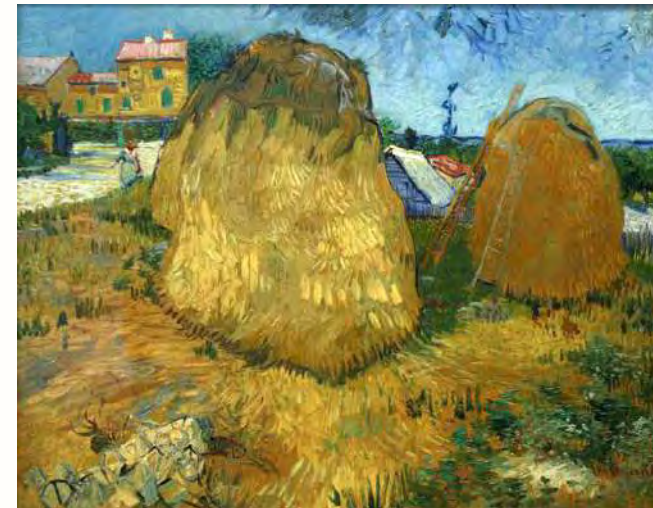
New approach was needed!



Multi-level approach



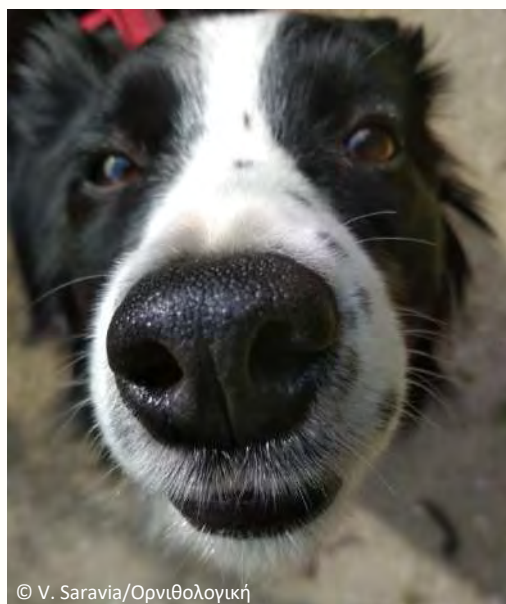
Invisible crime, random in place & time



Finding a needle in a haystack



Perfect searching tool?

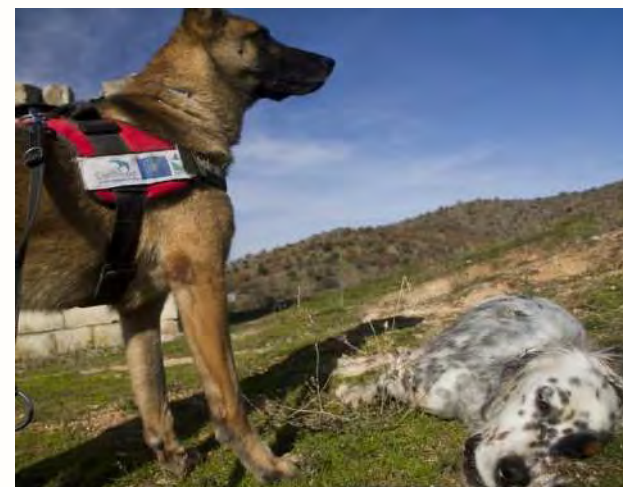


© V. Saravia/Ορνιθολογική

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Creation of first Antipoison units in Greece



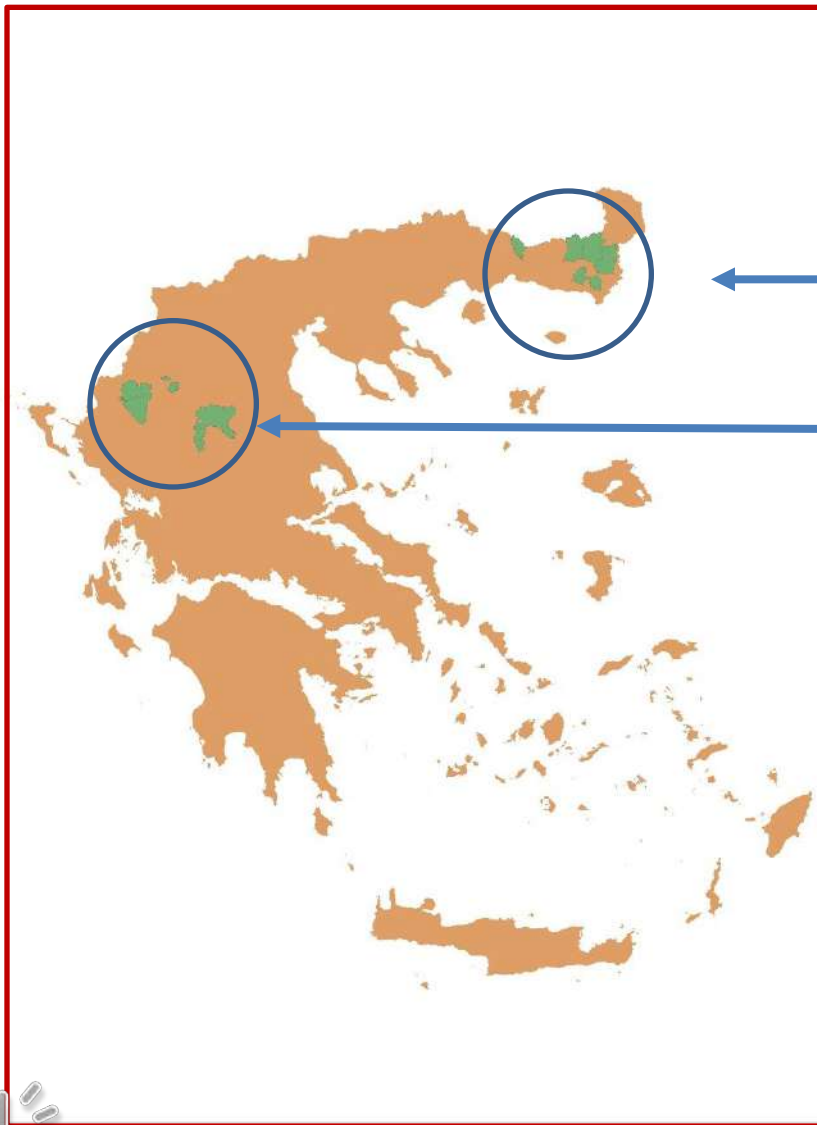
- 2014 → Creation and operation of two Antipoison Dog Units for the first time in GR by HOS and WWF (LIFE The Return of the Neophron)



- One month training in Spain
- Operation until 2022 (Kuki) & 2024 (Kiko)
- Operation under different projects



Areas covered



Thrace

Central Greece &
Epirus

- Last territories of the Egyptian vulture in the country
- Areas used by Black and Griffon vultures



Results

Period: 2014 - 2022

Patrols	497
Km	1217
No. incidents	112
Poisoned animals	219
Poison baits	245

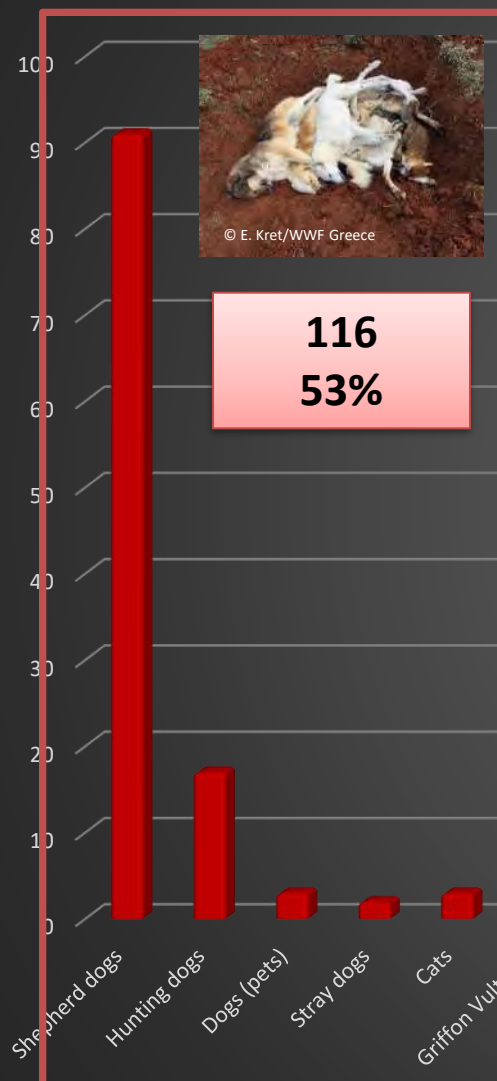


Poisoned animals



© E. Kret/WWF Greece

116
53%



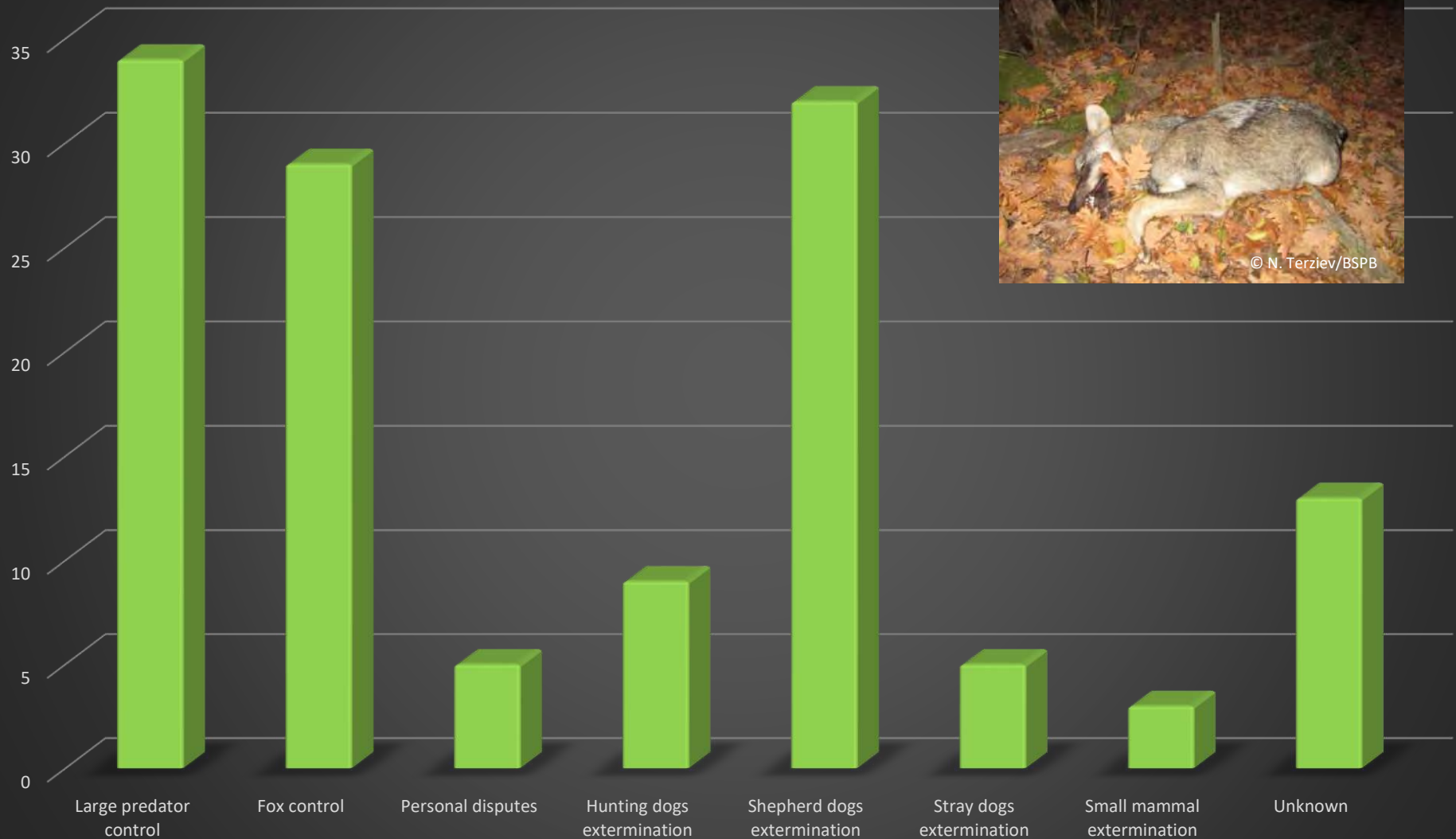
© E. Kret/WWF Greece

103
47%



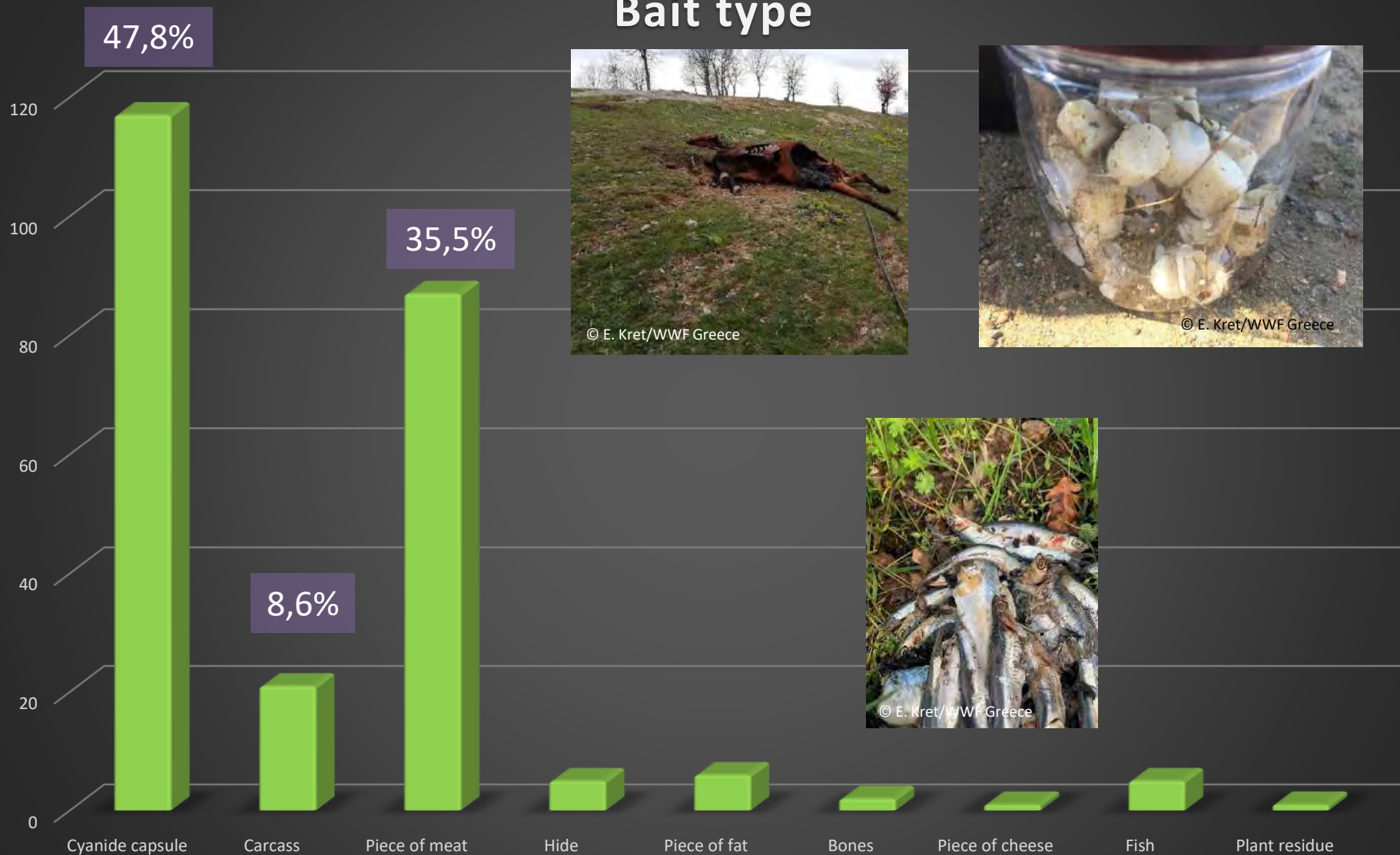


Possible motive



© N. Terziev/BSPB

Bait type

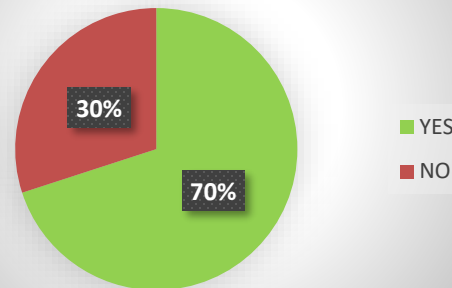




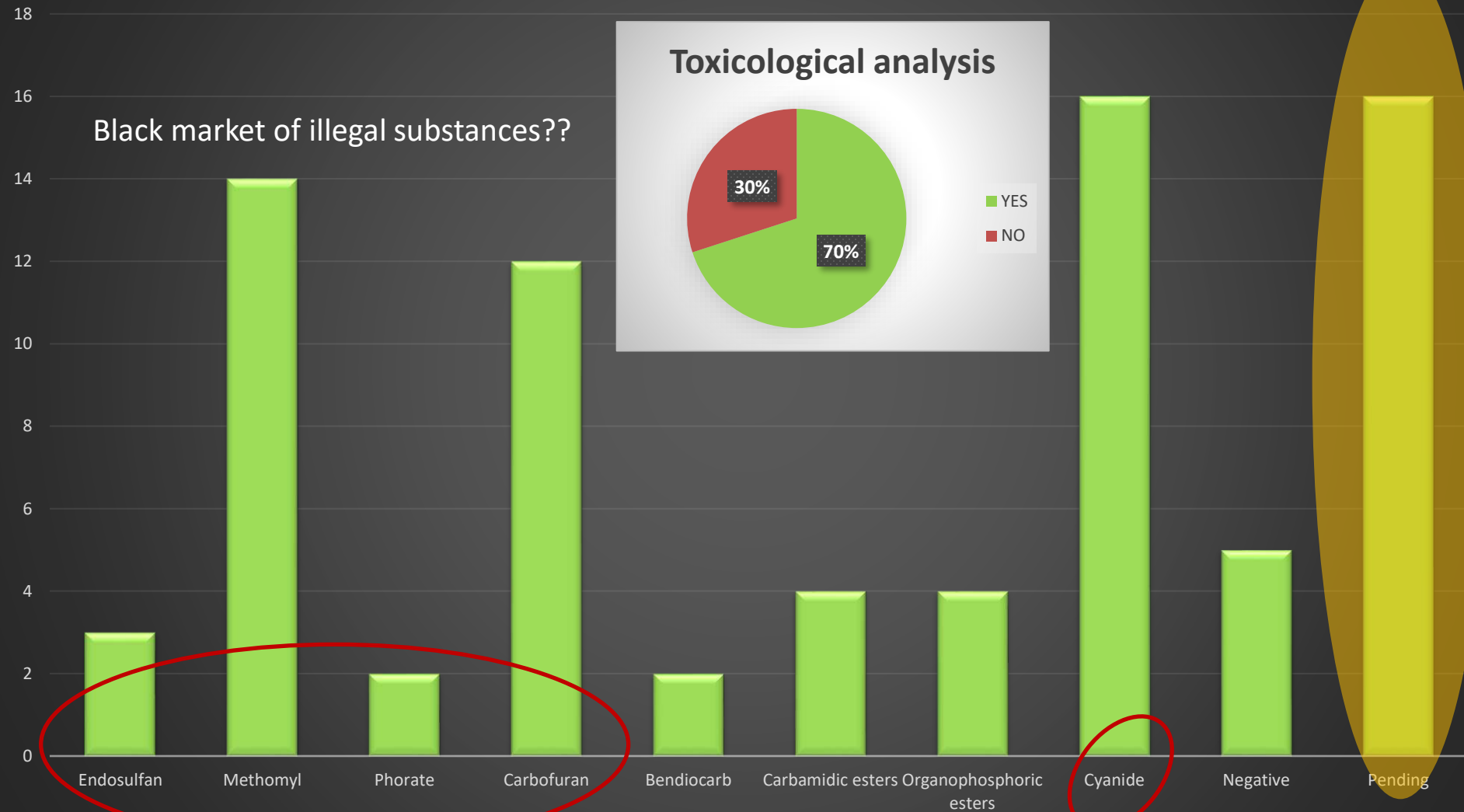
Toxicological analysis

Black market of illegal substances??

Toxicological analysis

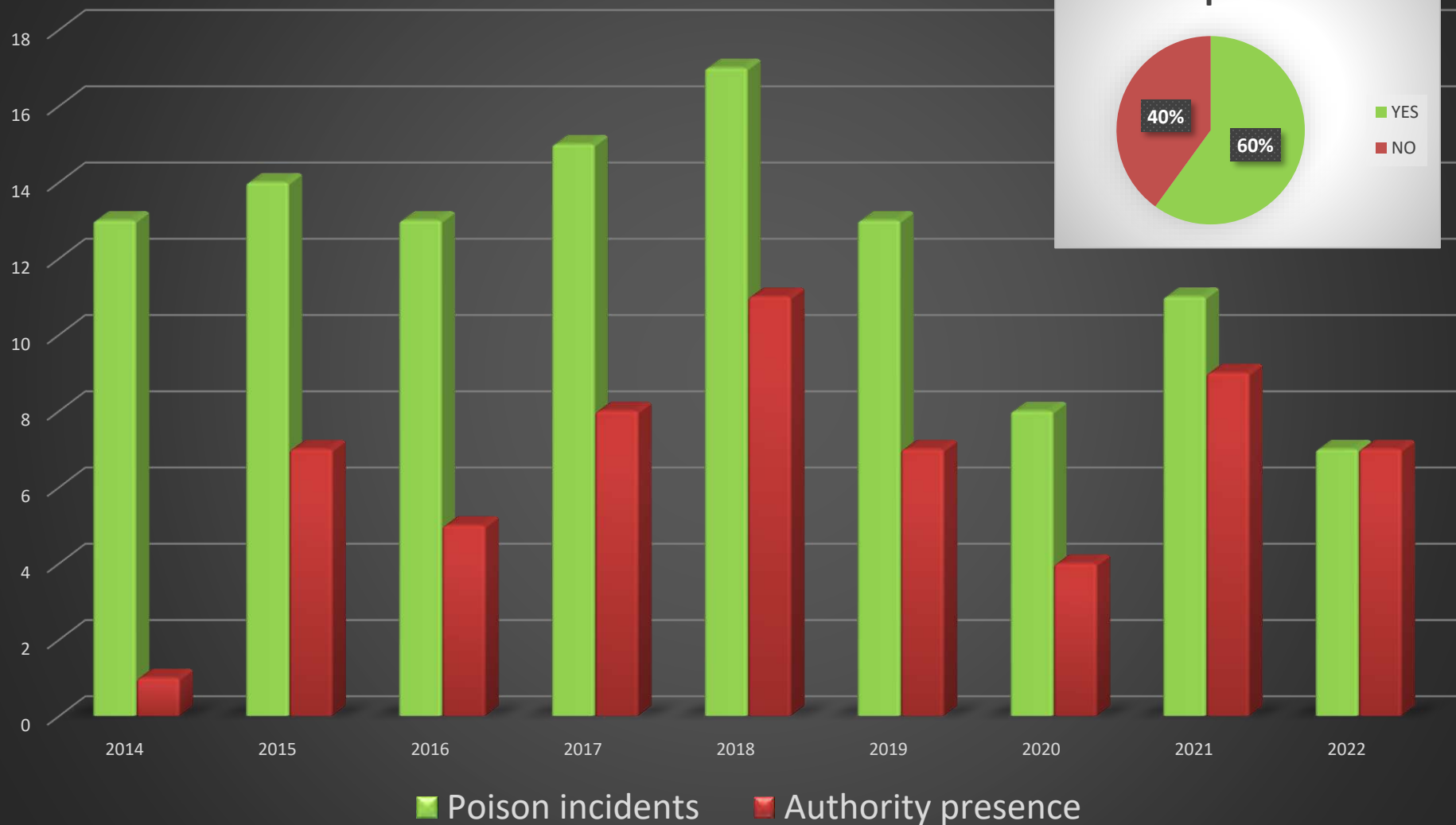


YES
NO

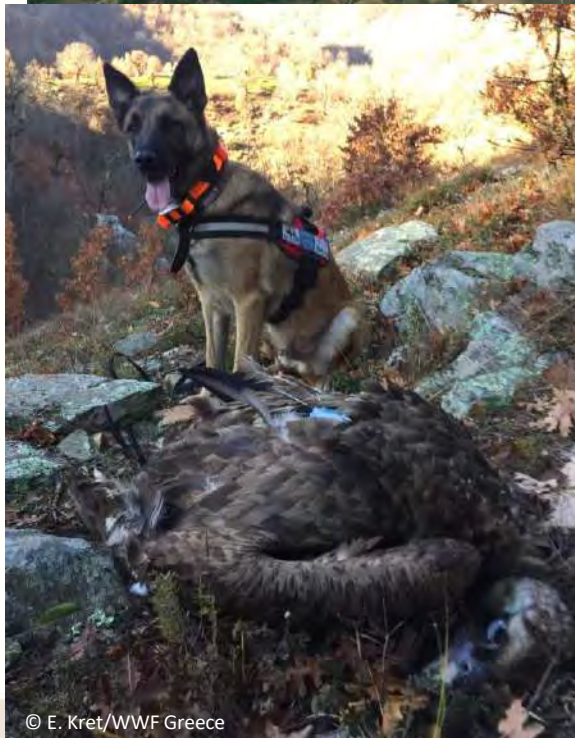




Authority presence



Higher efficiency of poison incident detecting



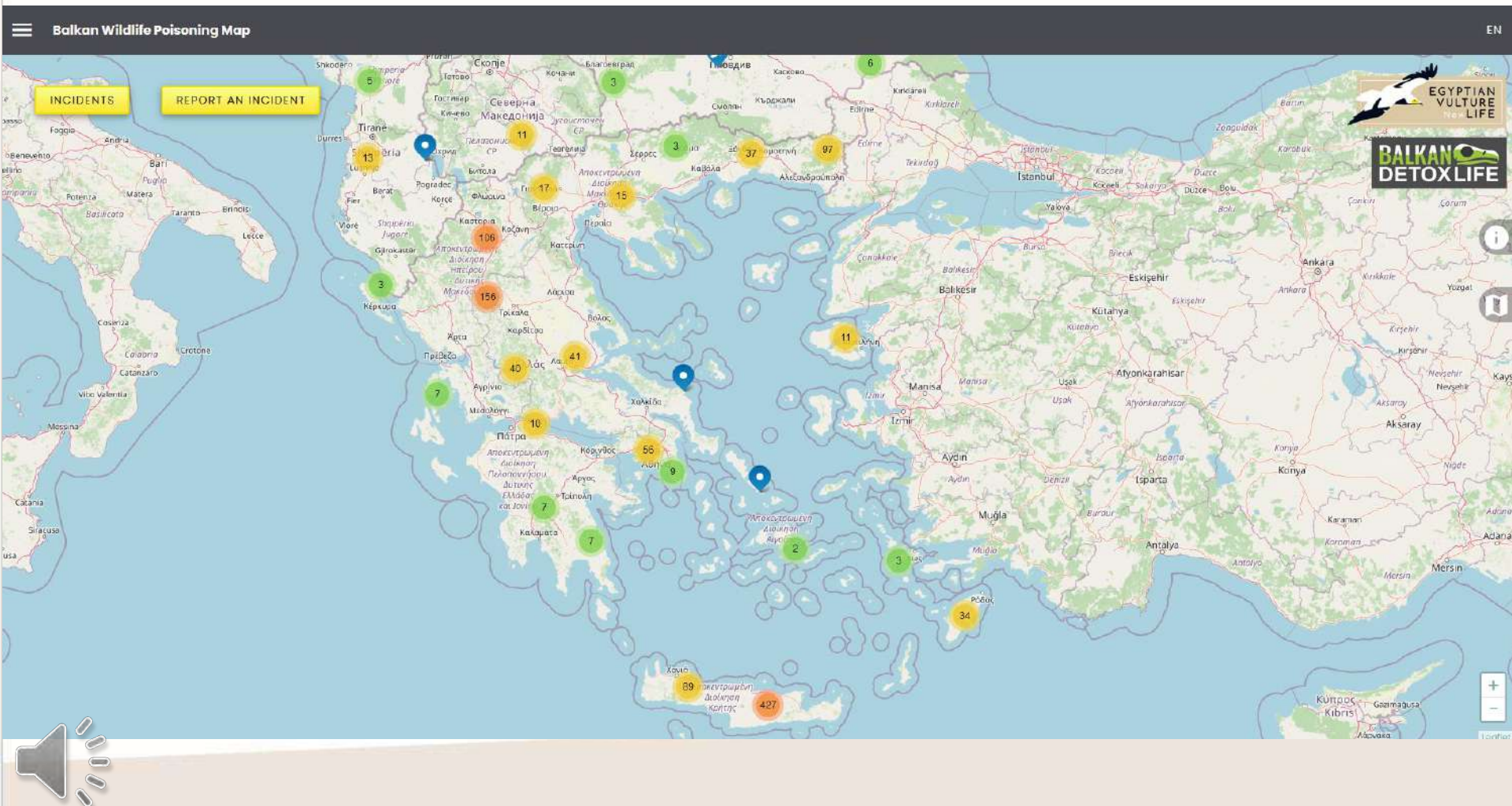
Dog Units multiply!



- NHMC
- Hunting Federations
- NECCA
- More to come!

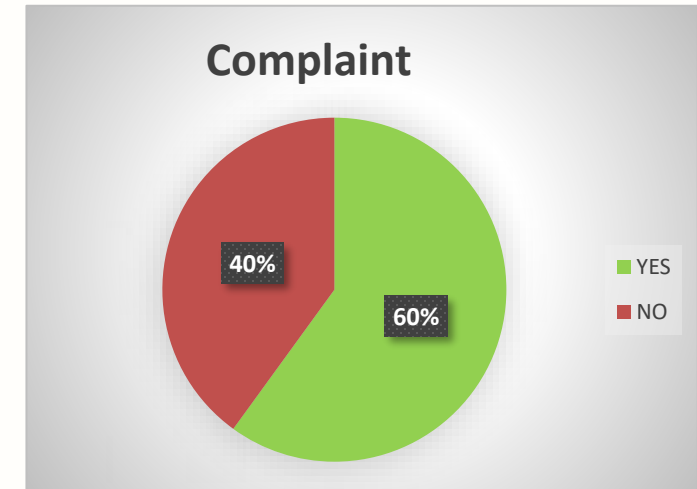


- Gathered online Balkan Poison DB and map
- ✓ Data on poison events in Greece and rest of the Balkans.



Lessons learned from first dog units

BUT



Cases in the court: 0!!

Dog units are just a tool that facilitates the work!

Need for sufficient involvement of governmental relevant authorities and proper incident investigation →
Final aim: take the culprit to court!





Thank you
for your
attention!

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BIRD PROTECTION AND
STUDY SOCIETY OF SERBIA



EURONATUR



© MU of Southern Peloponnese Protected Areas/NECCA

Dogs battling the crime of poison baits in Greece:
Results of the Antipoison Canine Units (A.C.U.) of
the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency of Greece (N.E.C.C.A.)

Dimitris Vavylis
ACU Coordinator


Larisa, 26 February 2025

LIFE ARCPROM International Conference



Natural
Environment
and Climate
Change Agency

N.E.C.C.A.

 d.vavylis@necca.gov.gr

Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency of Greece - NECCA

- The year 2020 marks a milestone for the management of Protected Areas (PAs) in Greece with the publication of Law 4685/2020 (Government Gazette A92/7.5.2020), the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (N.E.C.C.A.) is established.
- The pre-existing 36 Management Bodies of Protected Areas,, are integrated into N.E.C.C.A. as 24 Protected Area Management Units (PAMUs) operating at a department level. Along with the Decentralized Administrations, Regions and Municipalities, they will now comprise the PA Management System at the regional level.
- As a central level authority of the National System of Governance of PAs, N.E.C.C.A is charged with coordinating a series of actions, projects and procedures regarding: the implementation of national policies set by the MEEN for the management of PAs in Greece, biodiversity conservation, promotion and implementation of sustainable development actions and climate change mitigation.



Actions against poison baits



© K. Zorbas/NECCA

- Among Agency's top priorities
- Actions against poison baits have been included in the Three-Year Action Plan of the Agency and implemented with the support of own funds. LIFE ARCPROM and of TIESP Operational Programme
- Creation of a dedicated working group with Board decision
- The actions against poison baits will continue at the next programming period – Approved actions of 2.350.000€ (EU NSRF FUND 2021-2027 - ΠΕΚΑ)

Important milestones



August 2021:

- Action Plan for three vulture species: Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) (MD ΥΠΕΝ/ΔΔΦΠΒ/68086/2149)

May 2022:

- NECCA integrates in its Three-year Action Plan the action "Control of the illegal use of poison baits".
- Estimated cost: 1.000.000 Euro
Funding source: TIESP Operational Programme 2014-2020.

June 2022-May 2023:

- Staff members of NECCA participate in the Wildlife Crime Academy organized within the framework of the Project LIFE BalkanDetox by Vulture Conservation Foundation in collaboration with the Junta de Andalucía, the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge and Hellenic Ornithological Society/BirdLife Greece

August 2022:

- Joint Ministerial Decision on Local Action Plans to combat the use of poison baits (Υ.Π.ΕΝ./ΔΔΔ/83415/2715/2022 (ΦΕΚ 4459/Β/22-8-2022))

December 2022 – February 2023:

- NECCA establishes 7 Antipoison Canine Units

February 2023:

- NECCA after public procurement assigns to BirdLife Greece the implementation of the project: "Outreach, general public awareness campaign and training of targeted groups to address the illegal use of poison baits"
- Estimated cost: 200.000 Euro
Funding source: TIESP Operational Programme 2014-2020 .

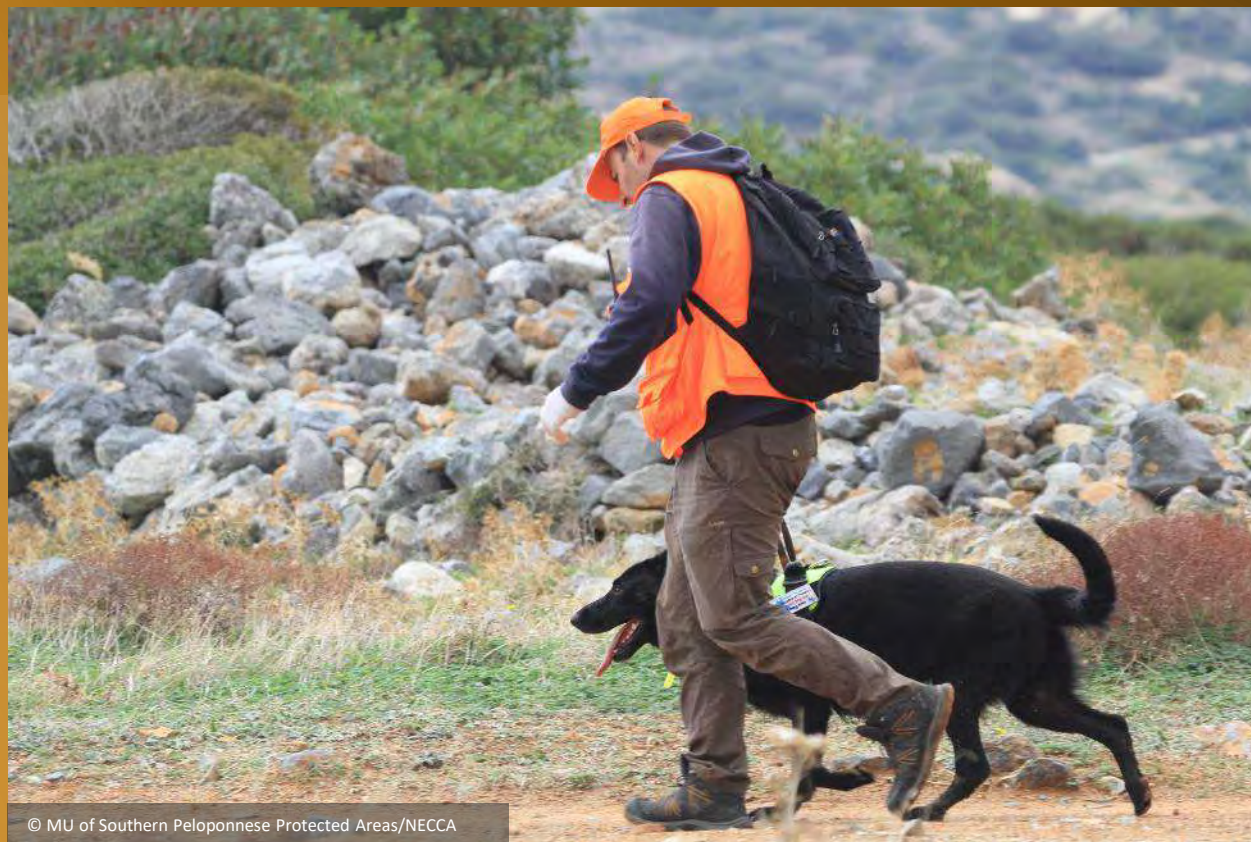


2024→ The Antipoison Canine Units are fully operational and patrolling the Greek countryside



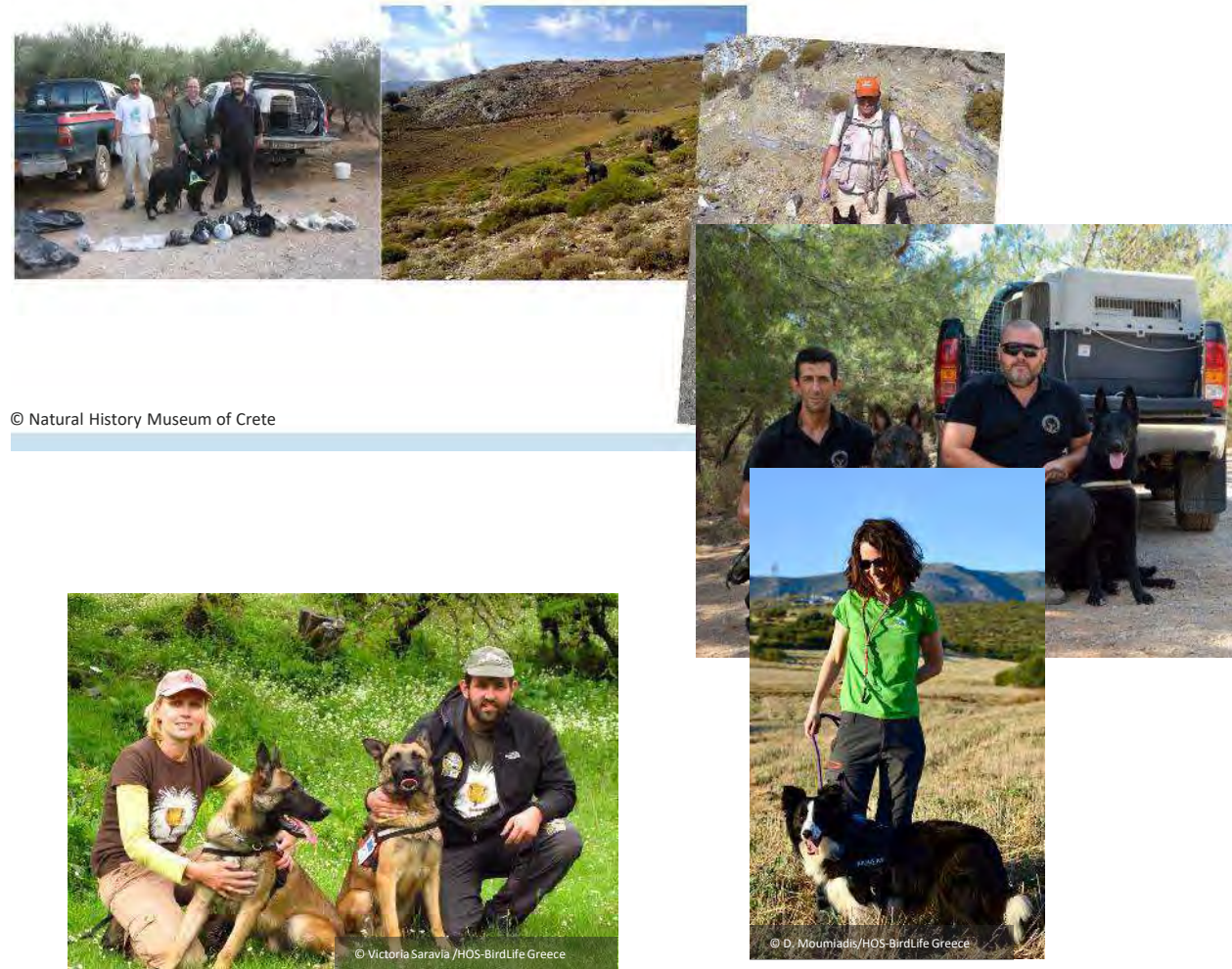
The specially trained dogs
as a tool in the fight against
poison baits

Antipoison Canine Units



A short history of A.C.U.s in Greece

- ❑ October 2011 & 2012, Crete & Meteora, “European Canine Team”, within the framework of the Project LIFE “Innovative actions against illegal poisoning in EU Mediterranean pilot areas”
- ❑ March 2014, creation of the first Greek A.C.U.s, for HOS/BirdLife Greece & WWF Greece, Project LIFE “The Return of the Neophron”
- ❑ 2016, the first A.C.U.s of Crete, with the funding of A.G. Leventis Foundation, operated by the A’ Hunting Federation of Crete and Dodecanese and the Natural History Museum of Crete
- ❑ 2017, the first dog trained in Greece, for HOS/BirdLife Greece



A short history of A.C.U.s in Greece

- 2022-2023, N.E.C.C.A. establishes seven A.C.U. funded by own funds, LIFE ARCPROM and TIESP Operational Programme



Natural
Environment
and Climate
Change Agency
N.E.C.C.A.



OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
Transport Infrastructure, Environment
and Sustainable Development
Co-funded by Greece and the European Union

NSRF
2014-2020
programme for development



© NECCA



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ACU of Greece

- ✓ 2011, 1st units of Crete and Meteora,
- ✓ 2023, NECCA's 7 ACUs are fully operational

In 2024, at least 17 A.C.U. operate in Greece

- ✓ 2014, the first Greek ACU, LIFE «The Return of the Neophron» for Hellenic Ornithological Society and WWF-Greece.

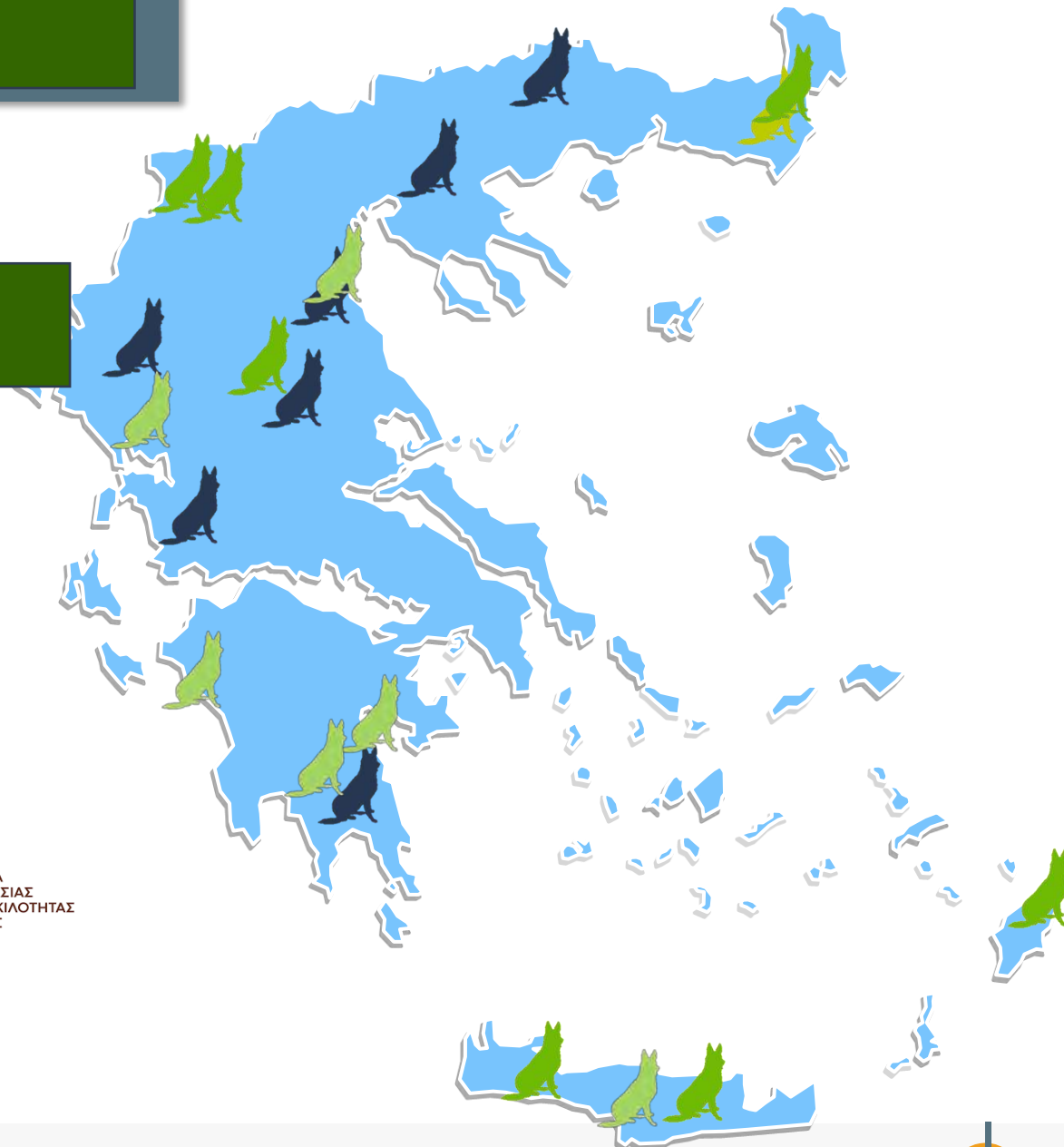
NECCA's ACUs



ACUs of private bodies



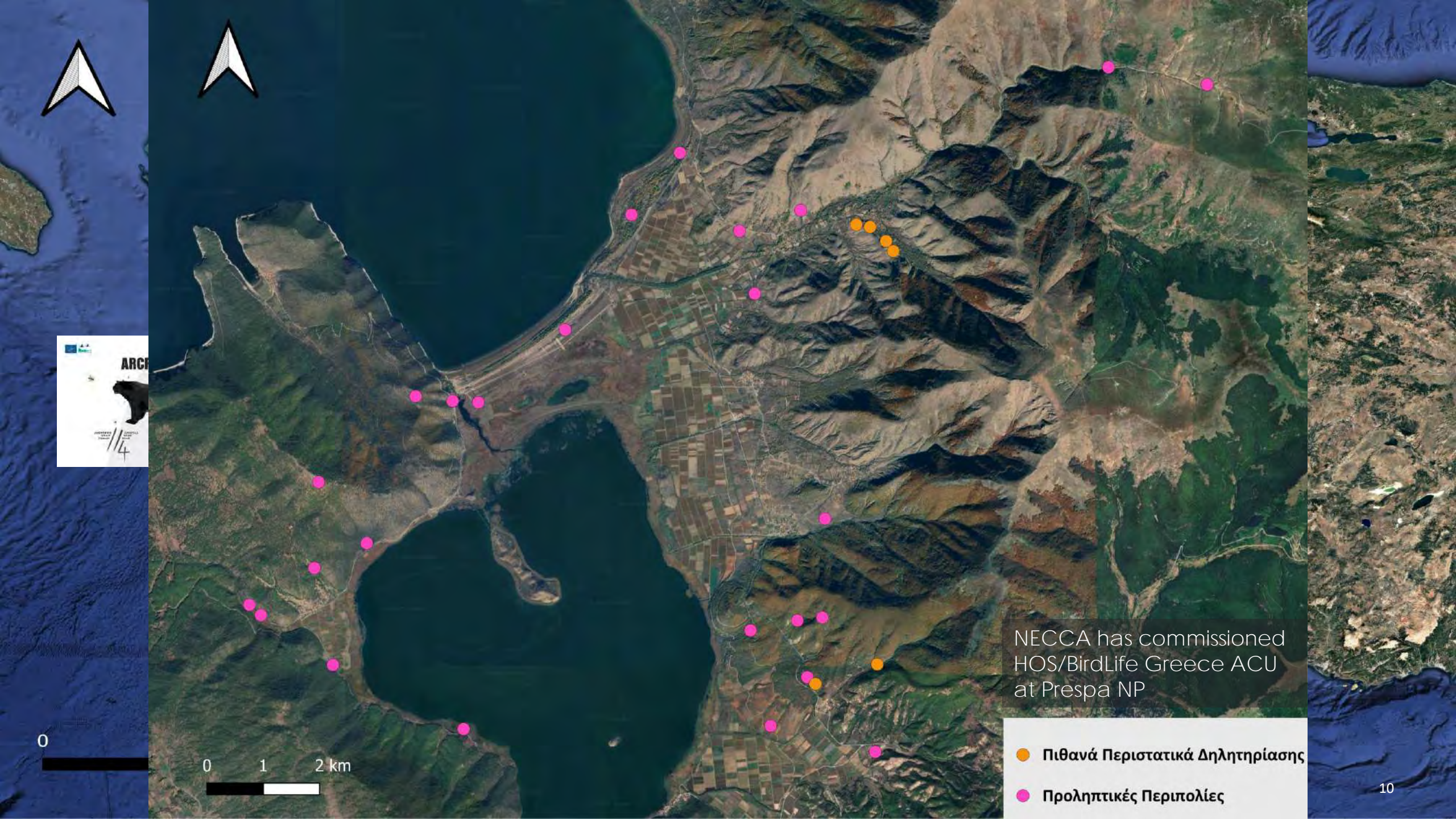
ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ
ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ
ΒΙΟΠΟΙΚΙΛΟΤΗΤΑΣ
ΘΡΑΚΗΣ



ACU results 2024

- 39 poisoning incidents
- 269 patrols
- 783 km by the handlers and 1.139 km by the dogs
- 134 dead animals (presumed poisoned)
- 80 feral animals
- 54 wild animals (one Bear)
- 255 poison baits!

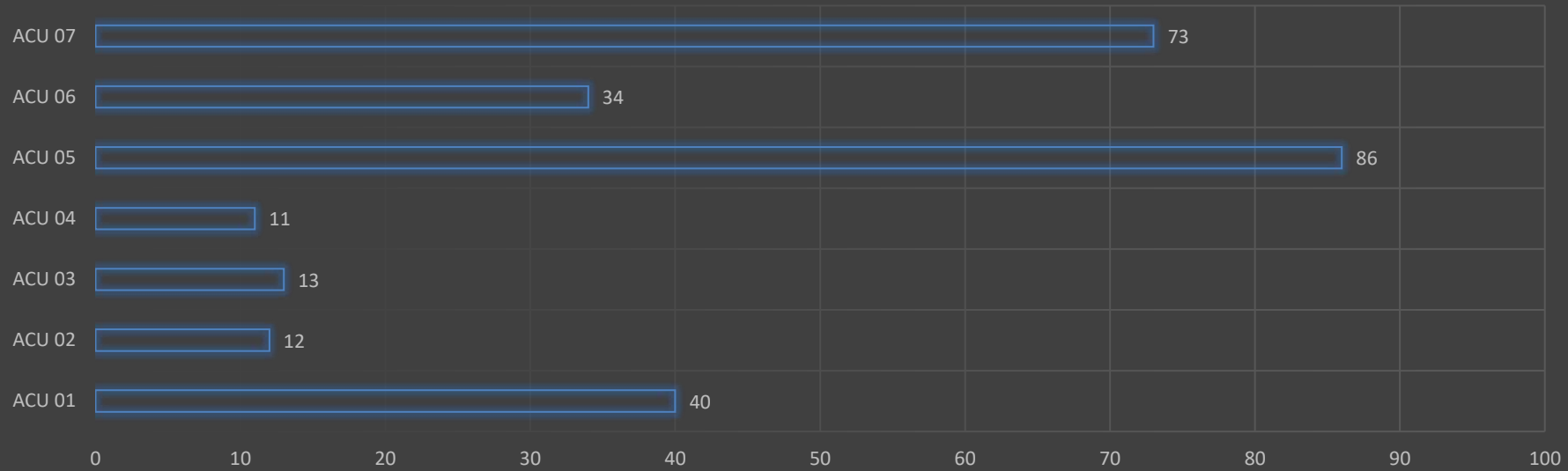




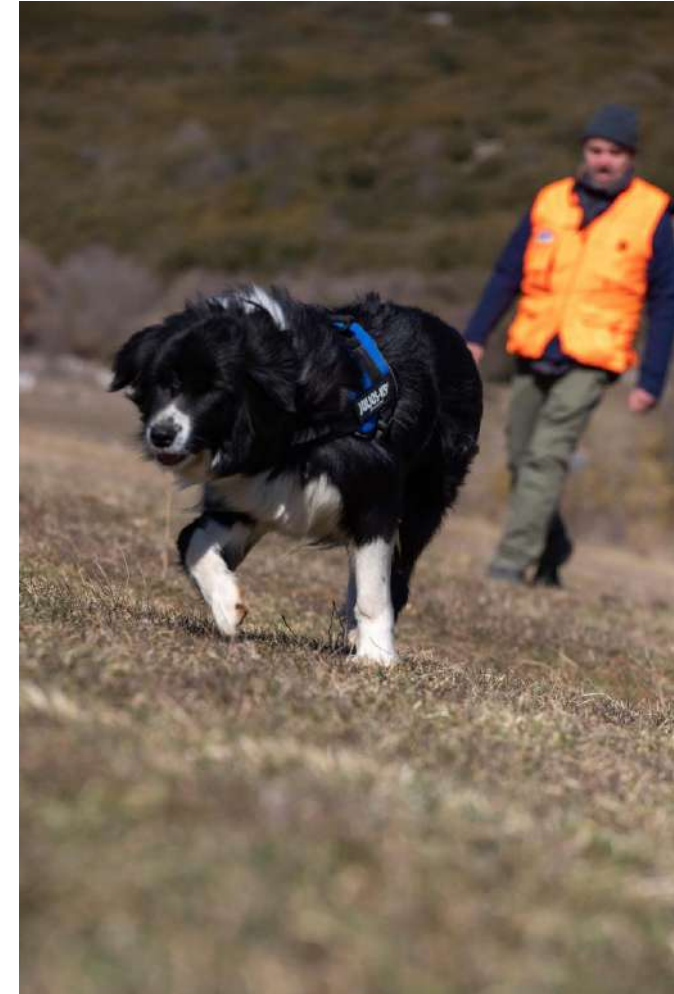
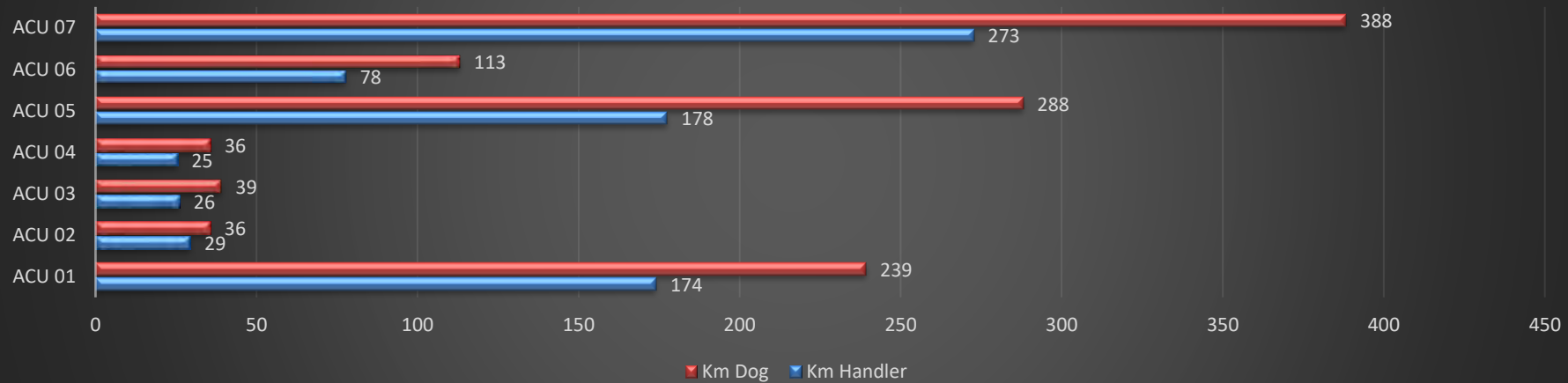
NECCA has commissioned
HOS/BirdLife Greece ACU
at Prespa NP

- Πιθανά Περιστατικά Δηλητηρίασης
- Προληπτικές Περιπολίες

Patrols per ACU

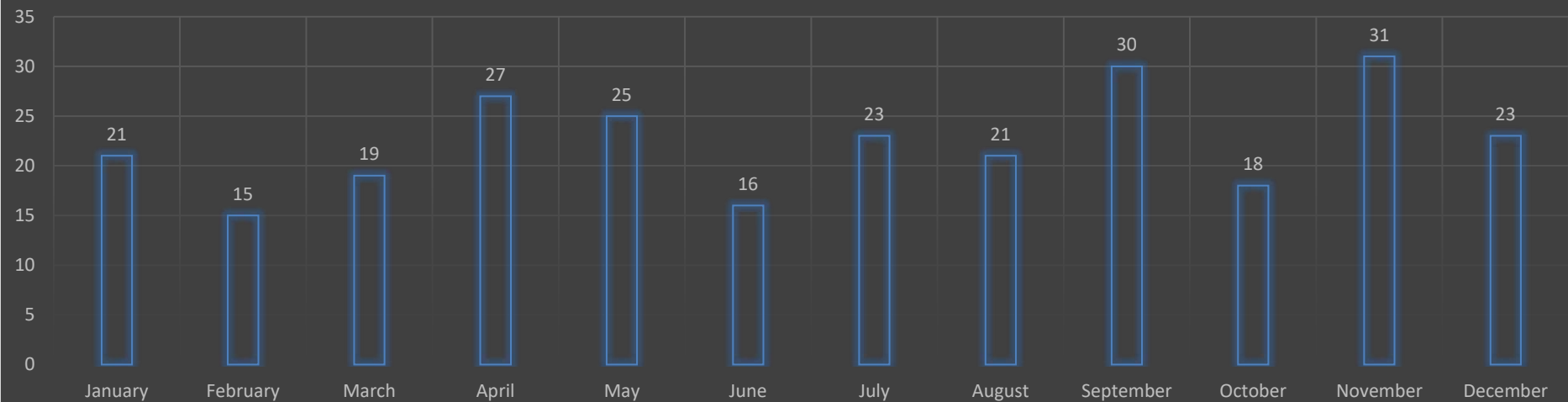


Km per ACU

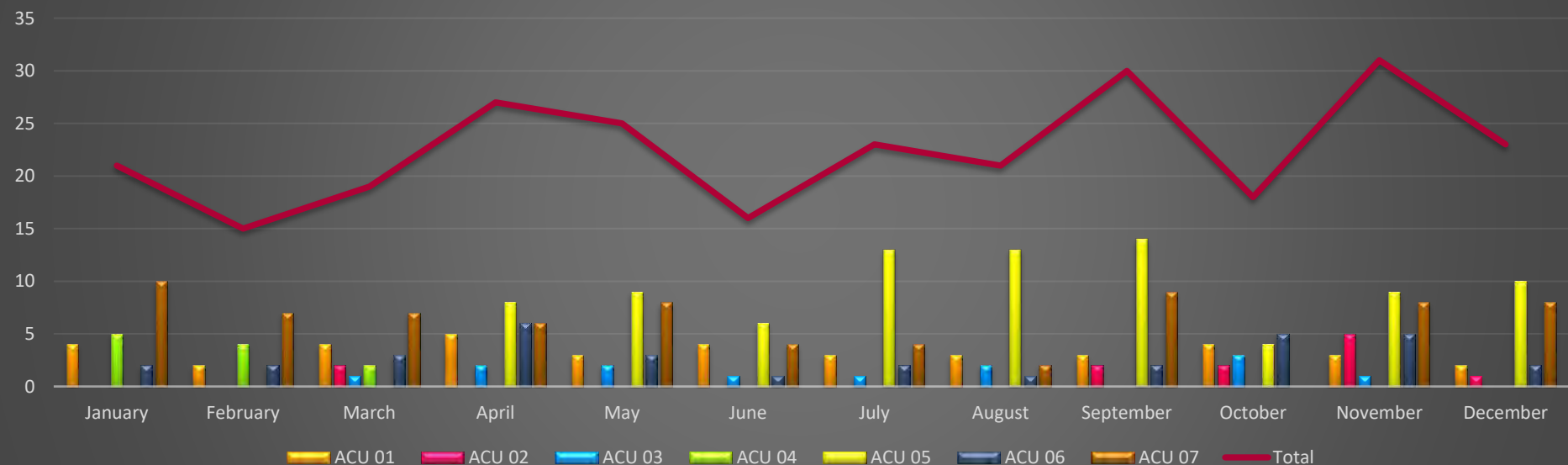


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Patrols per month



Patrols per month/ACU



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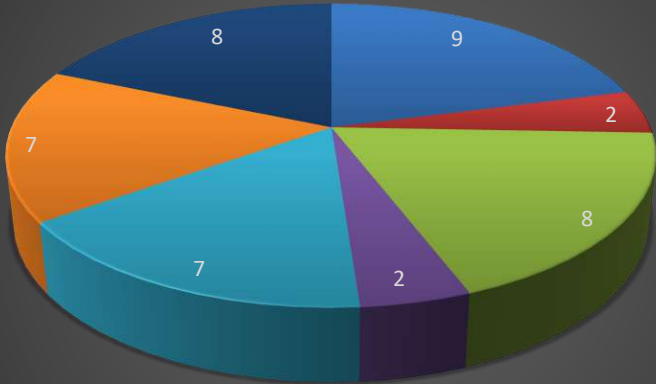


©E.Kret/SPBT



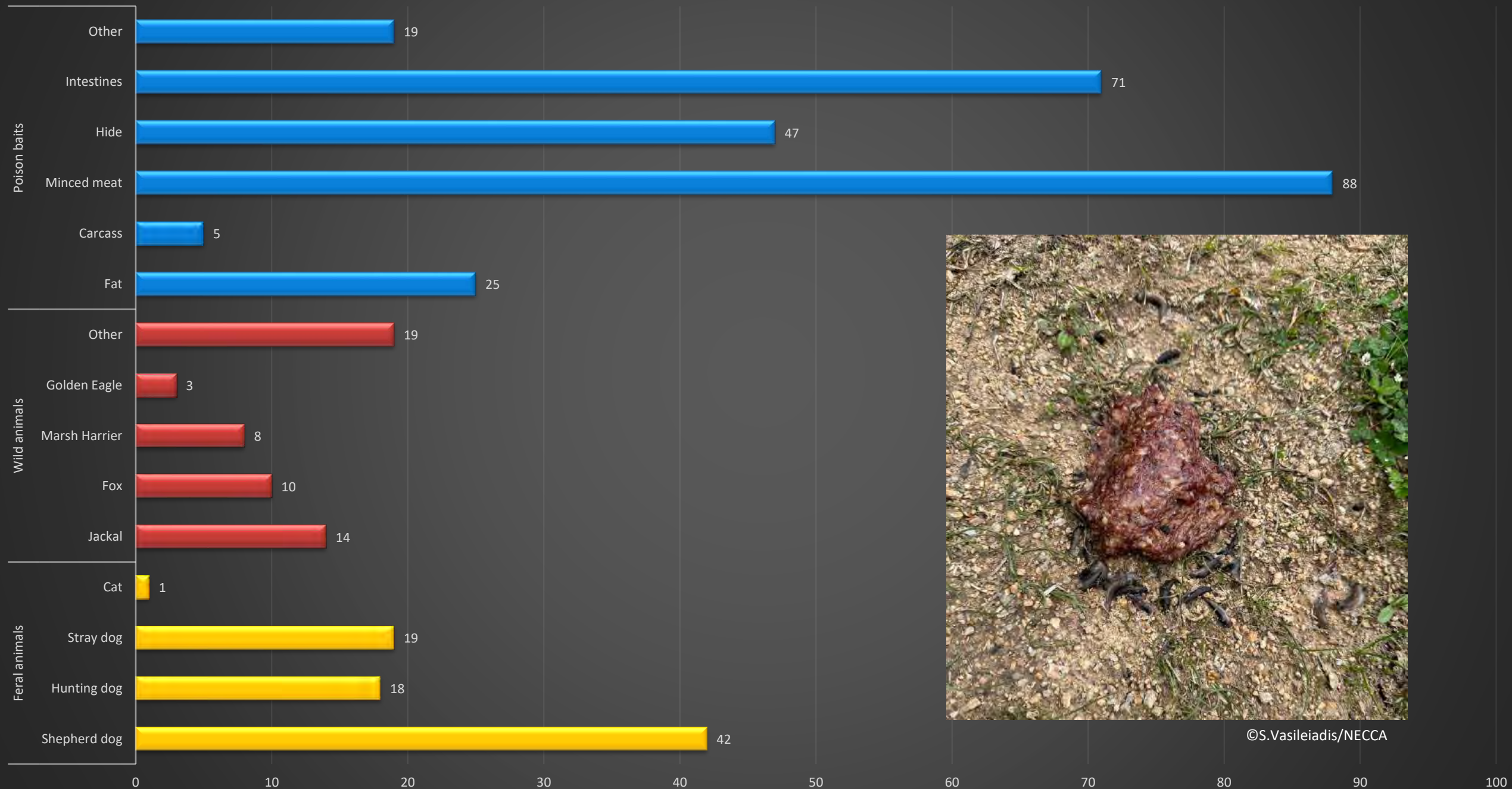
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No of incidents per ACU



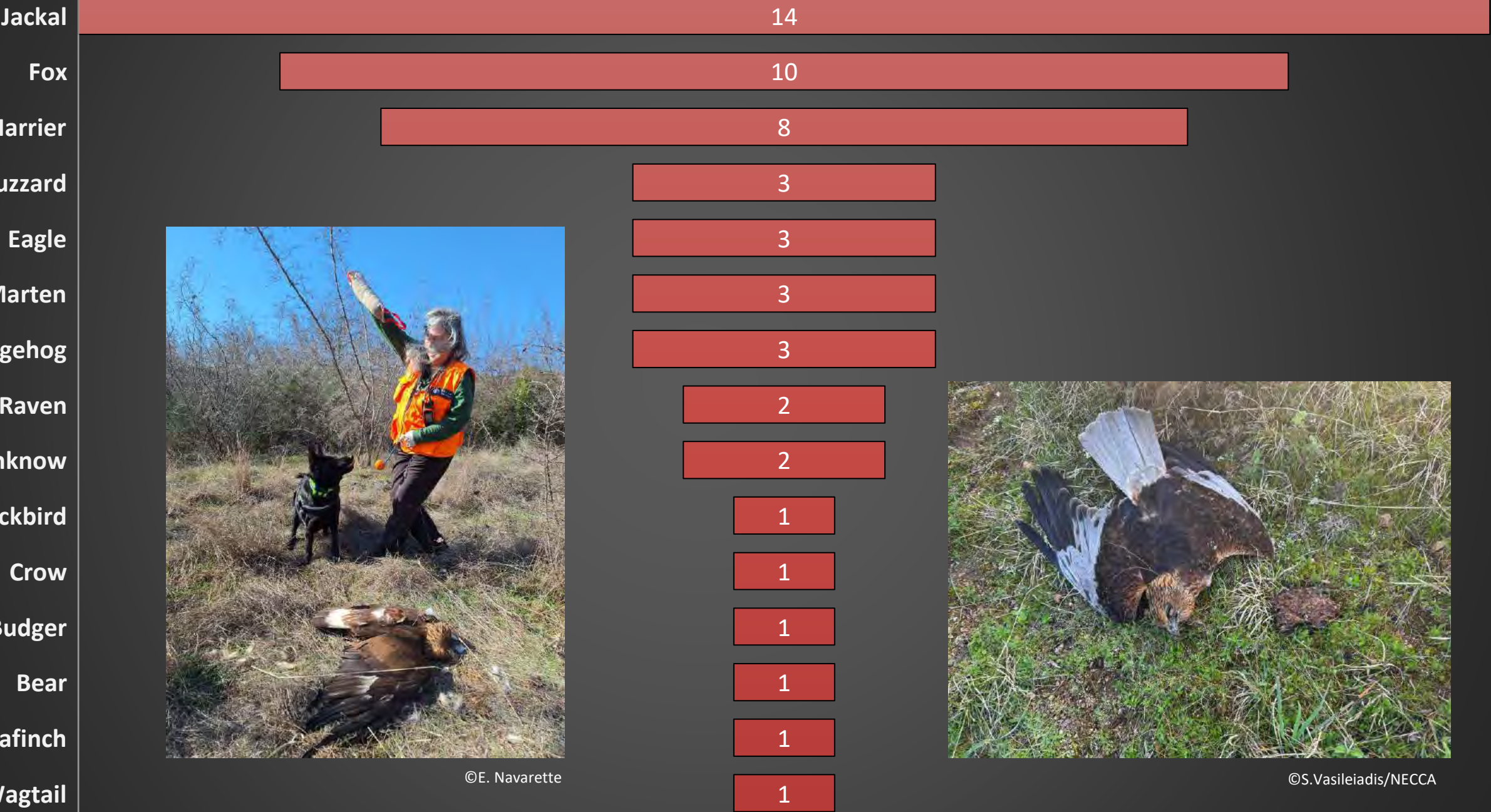
ACU 01
ACU 02
ACU 03
ACU 04
ACU 05
ACU 06
ACU 07

Animal species and bait types



©S.Vasileiadis/NECCA

Wild animals



©E. Navarette



©S.Vasileiadis/NECCA

Case studies of investigation of poison bait incidents in Greece



© D. Anastopoulos/NECCA

Case Study 1 – The Diaselo Incident



Case Study 1 – The Diaselo Incident

→ 16/03/24 (afternoon) - Notification



→ Intel gathering

→ Notification of Forestry Service of Trikala

→ !Big public holiday days (Clean Monday weekend)!

→ 17/03/24 - Reconnaissance visit by NECCA's Olympus ACU



→ 30 poison baits, 10 dogs, 1 Crow, 1 Blackbird

Case Study 1 – The Diaselo Incident

- 18/03/24 - Joint operation by two NECCA's ACU (Thessaly & Olympus)
- Forestry Service aware but without available personnel
- The dogs where not used because.....
- The poison baits where so many that were everywhere, visible to the human eye and effort should be focused in collecting them
- 105 poison baits located and collected!
- Additionally, a Marsh Harrier, 2 dogs and suspicious cow carcass were located



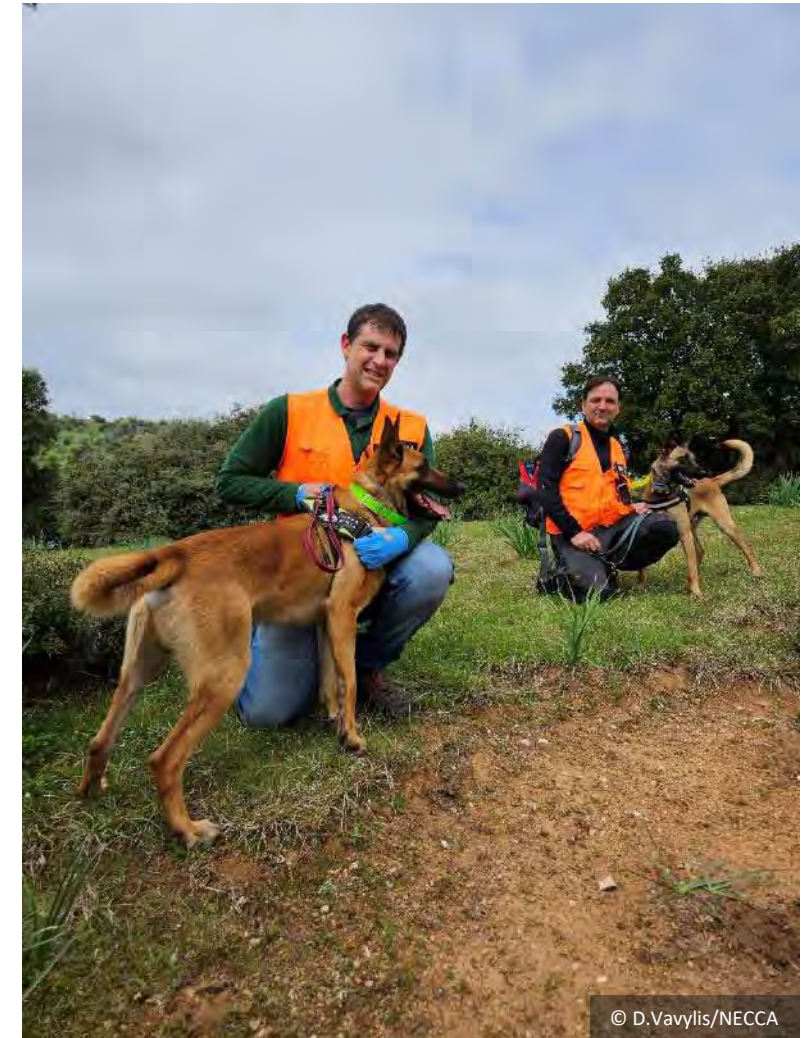
Case Study 1 – The Diaselo Incident

- 19/03/24 - Meeting at the Forestry Service of Trikala
- 20/03/24 - Joint operation of Forestry Service of Trikala, Forestry Service of Larisa and two NECCA.s A.C.U
- Additional 58 baits located and one Buzzards
- One cigarette bud was found and collected (the area was remote without “normal” human presence)
- 4x4 car tracks were identified (“narrow” wheel)



Case Study 1 – The Diaselo Incident

- 27/03/24 - Additional “cleaning” visit of two NECCA's A.C.U
- 9 baits were located by the dogs in less obvious places
- One bait located inside a bush indicating the method of disposal (thrown away from distance)



Case Study 1 – The Diaselo Incident

Aftermath

- 203 poison baits located and removed from the field.
- The largest number ever recorded in a single incident in Greece
- 16 animals were found dead
- All findings were located along 2km of a remote dirt road
- Samples sent for analysis
- Complaint launched by Forestry Service of Larissa
- Questioning in progress



Case Study 1 – The Diaselo Incident

Pros and Cons

Pros

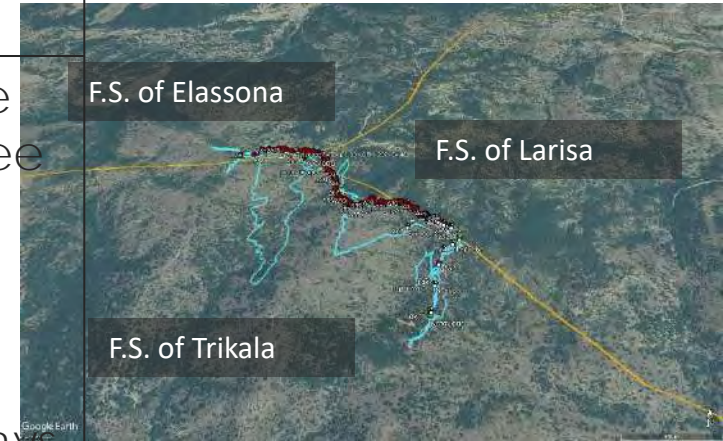
- Massive amount of poisoned baits removed from the field
- Handled entirely by state agencies
- Multiple surveys despite national holiday
- Protocols followed
- Samples were taken and sent to analysis
- Evidences located
- Investigation and questioning in process
- Largely disseminated in the press



© D.Vavylis/NECCA

Cons

- Area located at the “intersection” of three forestry services responsibility
- Forestry services understaffed, especially on holidays
- Forestry service in charge dealt for the first time with poison baits crime → NECCA gave guidelines
- Limited capacity of CSI/field investigation
- Toxicological analysis takes long time



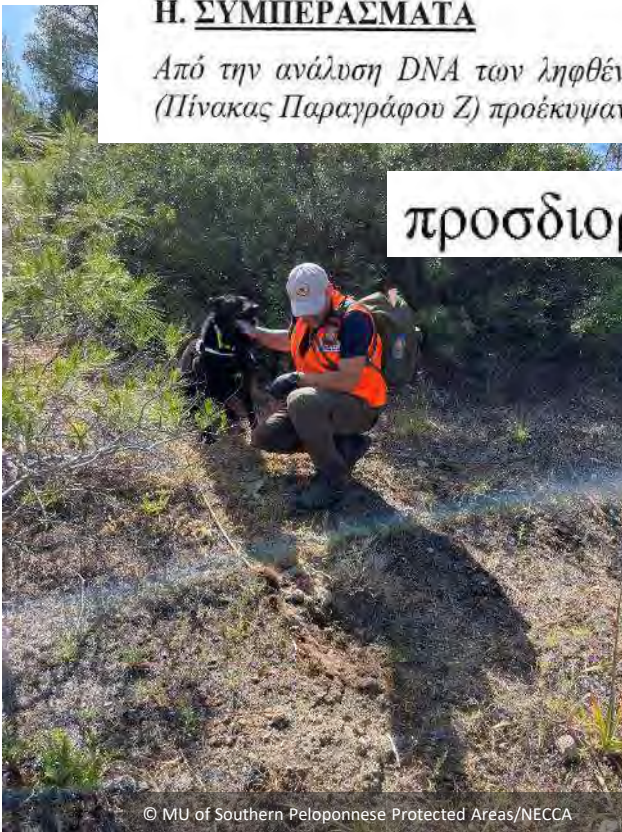
Case Study 1 – The Megara 2023 Incident

A.C.U. is an effective tools that help the investigation, but it needs synergies

Η. ΣΥΜΠΕΡΑΣΜΑΤΑ

Από την ανάλυση DNA των ληφθέντων δειγμάτων με τη μέθοδο των αυτοσωμικών STR (Πίνακας Παραγράφου Ζ) προέκυψαν τα εξής αποτελέσματα:

προσδιορίστηκε γενετικός τύπος STR,



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© MU of Southern Peloponnese Protected Areas/NECCA



Η ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ

Κοινωνία

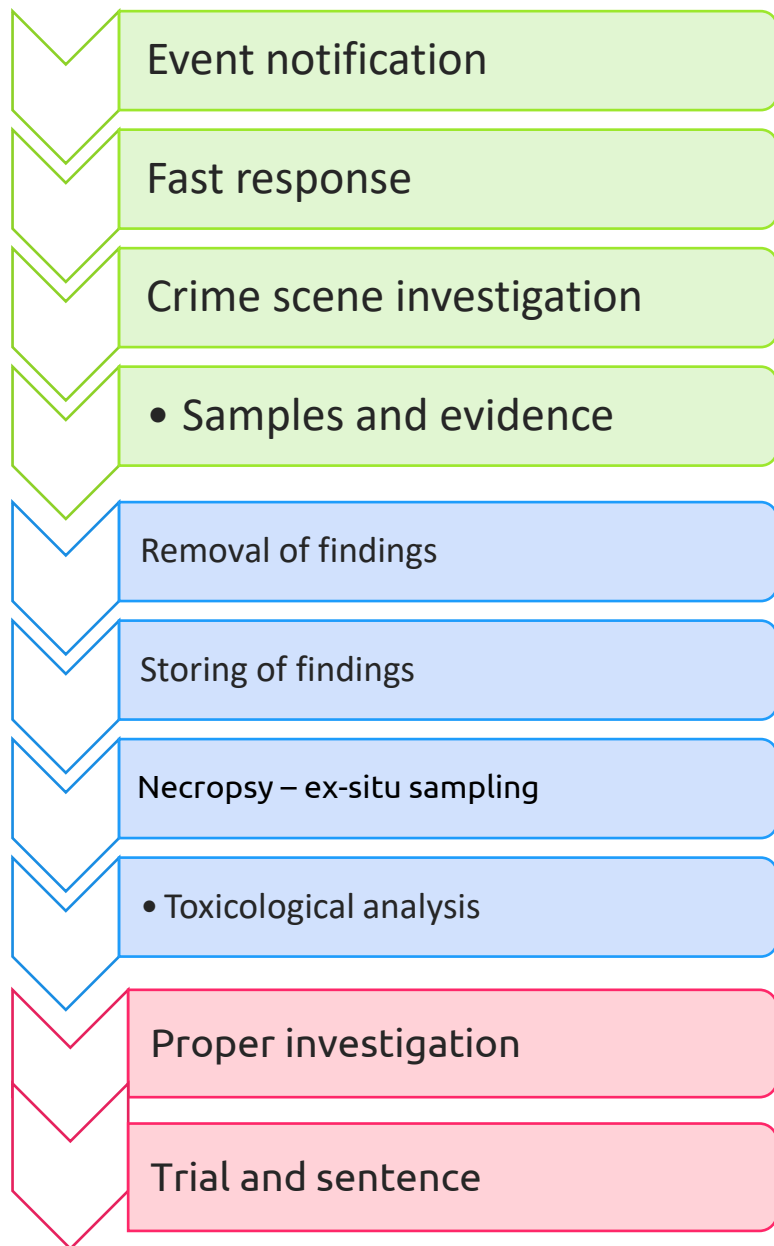
Ψάχνουν με... CSI τον δολοφόνο άγριων ζώων στα Μέγαρα

Ανάλυση DNA χρησιμοποιήθηκε για πρώτη φορά στη χώρα μας για να διαλευκανθεί περιστατικό θανάτωσης άγριας ζωής

2' 24" χρόνος ανάγνωσης



© Δημόσιος τομέας/ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΑΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑ



In the loving
memory of Jago!





Scan or visit <https://antipoison.necca.gov.gr/en/>



N.E.C.C.A.

LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768 LIFE ARCPROM

Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe



**LIFE
ARCPROM**



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**FEBRUARY 25-26-27, 2025
LARISSA, GREECE**

In the context of the LIFE PROJECT
“ARCPROM: Improving human-bear coexistence
in 4 National Parks of South Europe”

FINAL EVENT:
Outcomes of the LIFE ARCPROM Project
Advancing Knowledge and Practices
for Human-Bear Coexistence



**WORKING DOGS AND BEAR MANAGEMENT: THE
FORMATION OF THE PILOT KBD UNIT IN GREECE. LESSONS
LEARNED AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.**

Athanasios Korakis, NECCA

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Karelian Bear Dogs as bear management tool

The use of KBDs as an aversive conditioning tool (reactive management) was developed by Carrie Hunt and the Wind River Bear Institute, USA. Since then, KBD teams are used in a variety of incidents, in many natural areas with bear conflicts in USA and Canada. In more recent years they are used in Japan, as well as in Europe.



Karelian Bear
Dog (Karjalankarhukoira)
Group 5, Spitz and Primitive
dogs, Section 2 Nordic Hunting
Dogs, FCI.

Originated in Finland, hunter by
instinct- hold large game at bay.

Independent, courageous,
careful and relatively friendly with
humans, difficult with other dogs
and other animals.



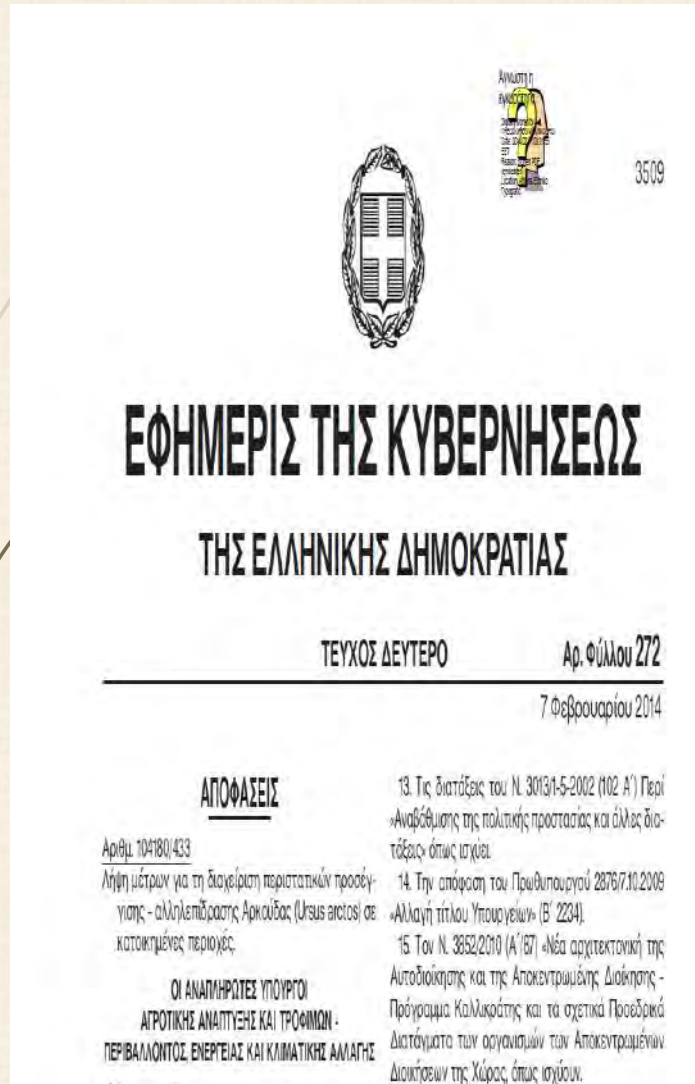
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Human bear conflicts - Legislation in Greece



LARISSA 26/02/25



Legislation to manage bear incidents.

Common Ministerial Decision 104180/433 Gaz. 272/ 07-02-2014.

Incident evaluation. Operation & Intervention Protocols.

The idea to add and test this “tool” was formulated.

Factors that made it possible:

Right place: Northern Pindos National Park.

Right time: Funding programs were expected to be launched.

Right people: People that believed in it. People eager to do it. People that accepted and supported it.

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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.



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National Operational Program for Environment and Infrastructures

2019: 1st Tender Notice (no interest)
Visit to Trento, Italy.

2020: 2nd Tender Announcement -
Contract signing Nov 2020.

2021: 4 puppies coming to Greece
Oct 2021.

2023: Completion of the contract -
team operation.



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.



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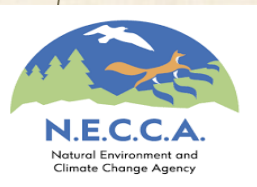
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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Lessons/Issues from training

- Start the training and connection in the youngest possible age.
- Even if you see that a dog is doing well don't count on having a winner.
- Have a back up dog (s).
- If you see a strange behavior, get the training backwards.
- For better results train in the area of the target species.
- Use the best available tools to train the dogs. Try to get more.
- Communicate with the dog when you are calm.



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.



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Adele



Athene



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Majority of the work with KBDs so far involved
Tracking



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Majority of the work with KBDs so far involved
Tracking (dead cubs' incident)



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Majority of the work with KBDs so far involved
Tracking (bear crossing incidents in the Egnatia Highway)



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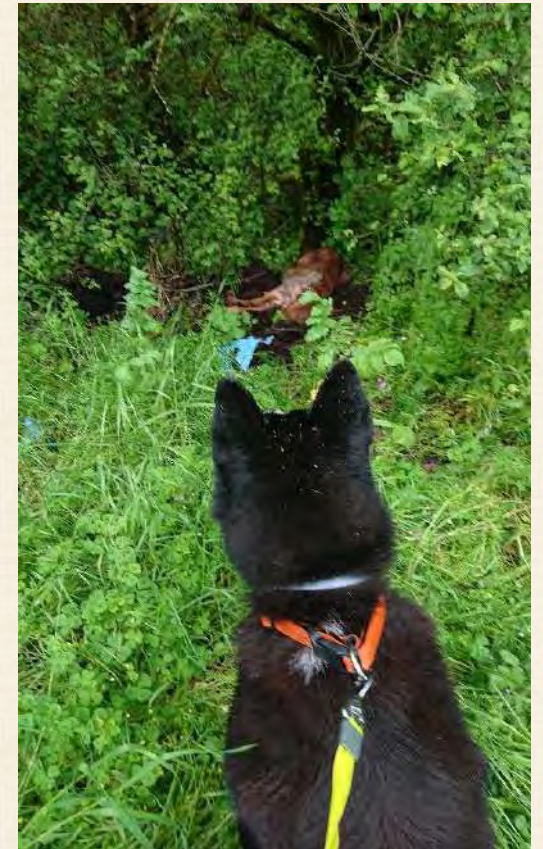
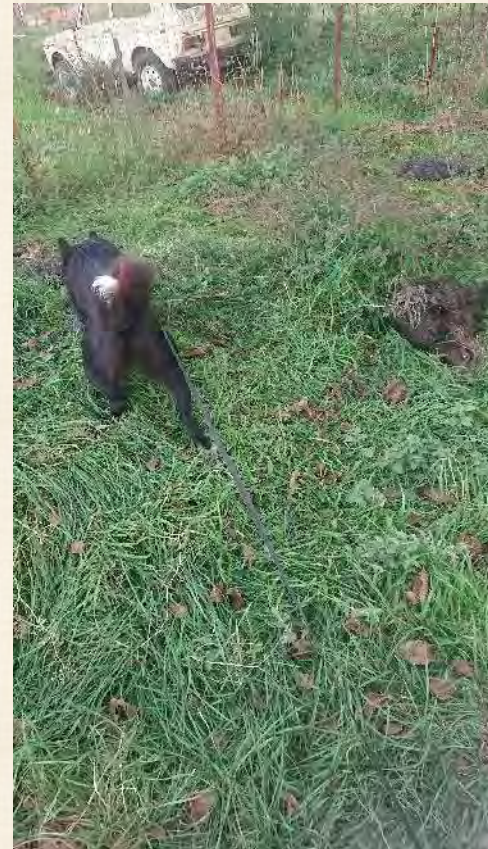
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Majority of the work with KBDs so far involved
Tracking (human related food sources)



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

**Majority of the work with KBDs so far involved
Tracking (human related food sources)**



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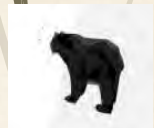


LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768 LIFE ARCPROM

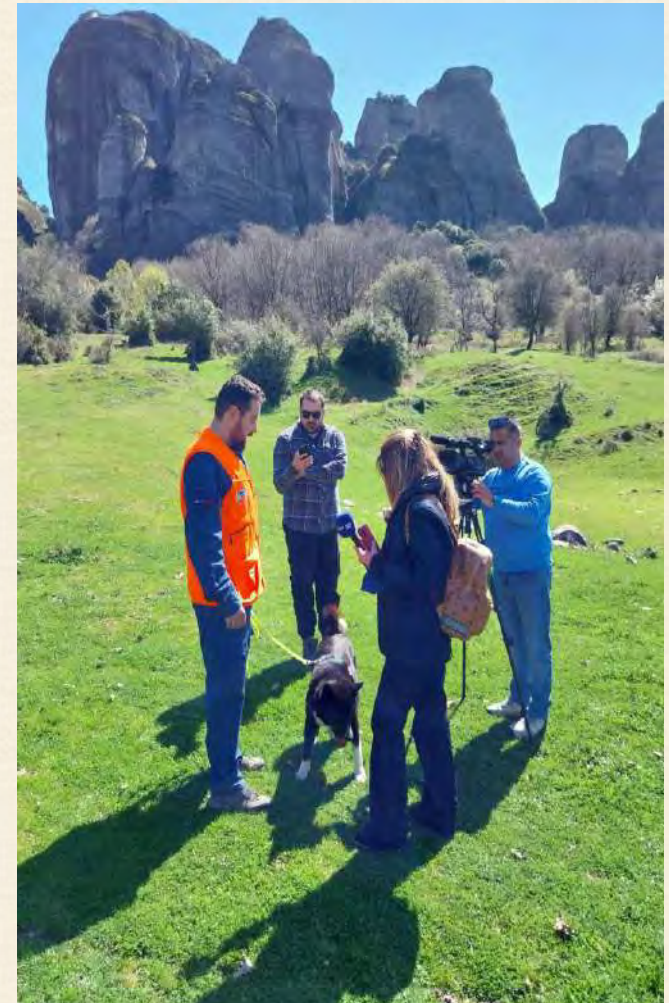
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Information/ Awareness/ Connection with the public



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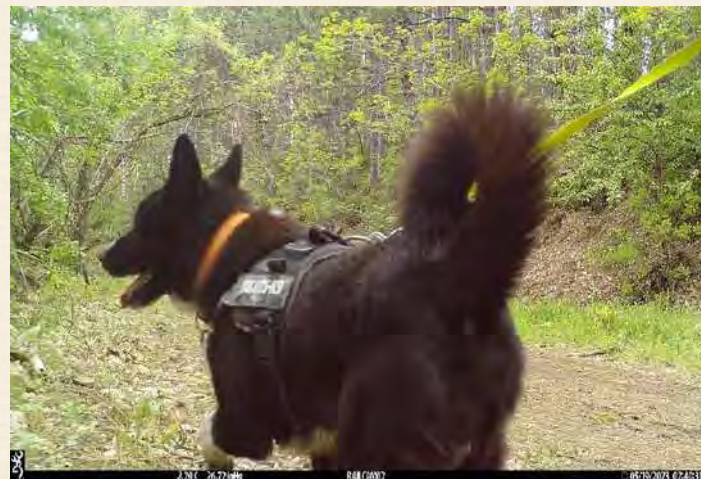
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Lessons/Issues from the field



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Lessons/Issues from the field



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Not yet !

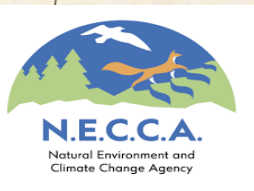
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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Lessons/Issues from the office

- Never underestimate the damage and delays caused by bureaucracy and legislative material!
- Problems in all areas (working regime, flexibility in working hours, use of cars and equipment, difficulty to get to a case in an acceptable time span, involvement in other time-consuming unrelated fields, etc).
- Efforts from the Organization, but the serious changes need to come through many different Ministries and/or other forms of Government.
- Many changes in relatively short time.
- To get the maximum result from the Dog teams, the working regime must be close to the Greek Police K9 regime.



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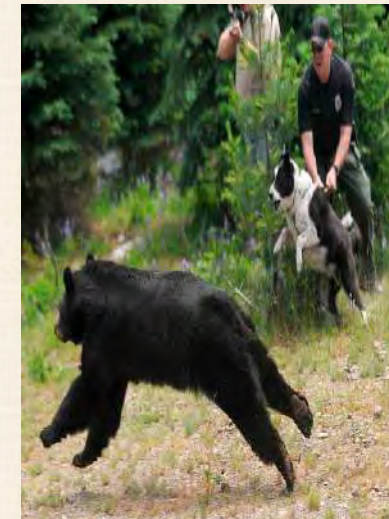
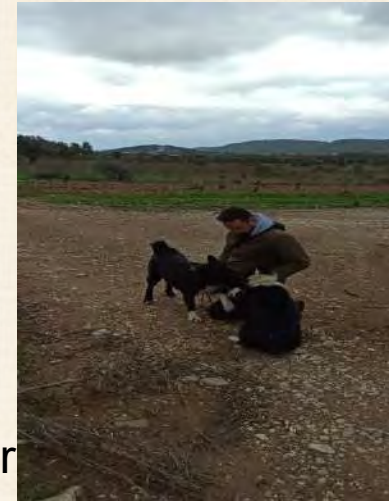
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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Lessons

- The handlers' effort & commitment is enormous.
- Handling skills are learned but prerequisite must be the interest and passion.
- Dogs aren't equipment, they can't be shelved and used when we like. (365/24/7)
- Training and meeting the breed's needs is very important. KBDs are not like other working dogs. They are independent hunters by nature. Training never stops.
- The line between "control" and "hunt" is very thin.
- The "hunt" can be unpredictable and dangerous for dogs as well as personnel.
- Each incident is unique. Depends on many different variables (environment, animals, handlers, human factor, this exact day, etc).



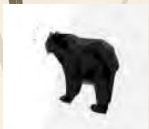
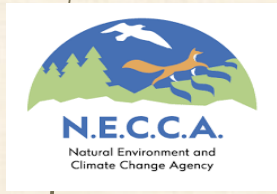
LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768 LIFE ARCPROM

Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Lessons

- Not all conflicts are solved with dogs! Or just using the dogs!
- The use of dogs is primarily a **reactive management tool** and should not be considered that it can replace proper proactive management.
- Strengthening & specialization of the operational capacity of personnel of competent authorities and bodies is crucial. Addition of the proper equipment.
- Improvement of Legislation.



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Lessons/ Future prospects

Better management of bear-human interaction incidents. The KBDs can:

- Track and find bear signs. Investigate conflict sites identifying the bear's movements. Locate orphaned cubs, injured or dead animals.
- Help address the root cause in a conflict situation.
- Determine that there is a bear in the area, way before humans.
- Help "teach" bears to avoid human areas.
- Provide a way to connect with the public, improving attitudes and opinions. The public trusts the dogs better. Obtain more information directly.
- Offer a sense of safety and relief. It is a practical solution that can be appreciated.



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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

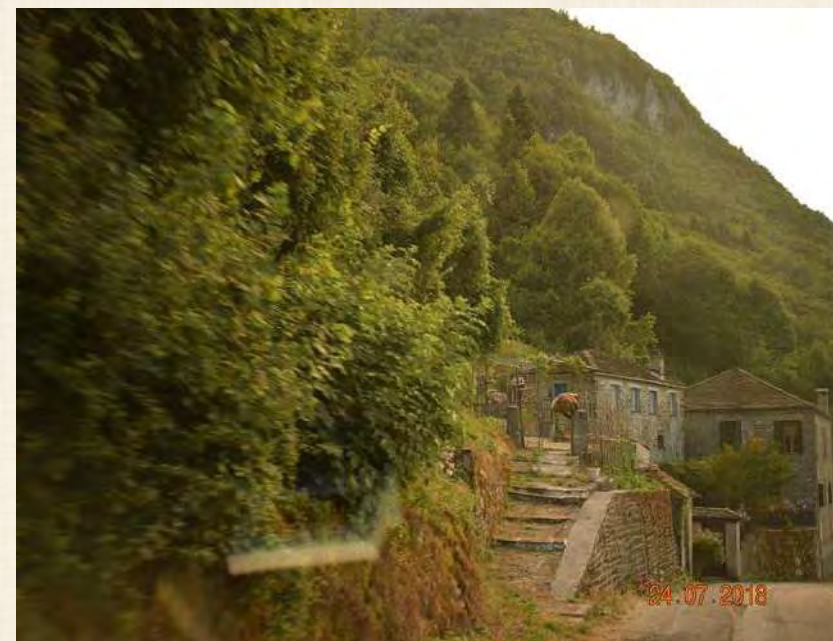
Formation of the pilot Karelian Bear Dog Unit in Greece.

Future prospects

The conflicts will not stop. On the contrary. Forming good bases on proactive and reactive management will help promote coexistence.



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As a follow up NECCA is planning to create and operate more KBD teams in future.

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Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National Parks of South Europe

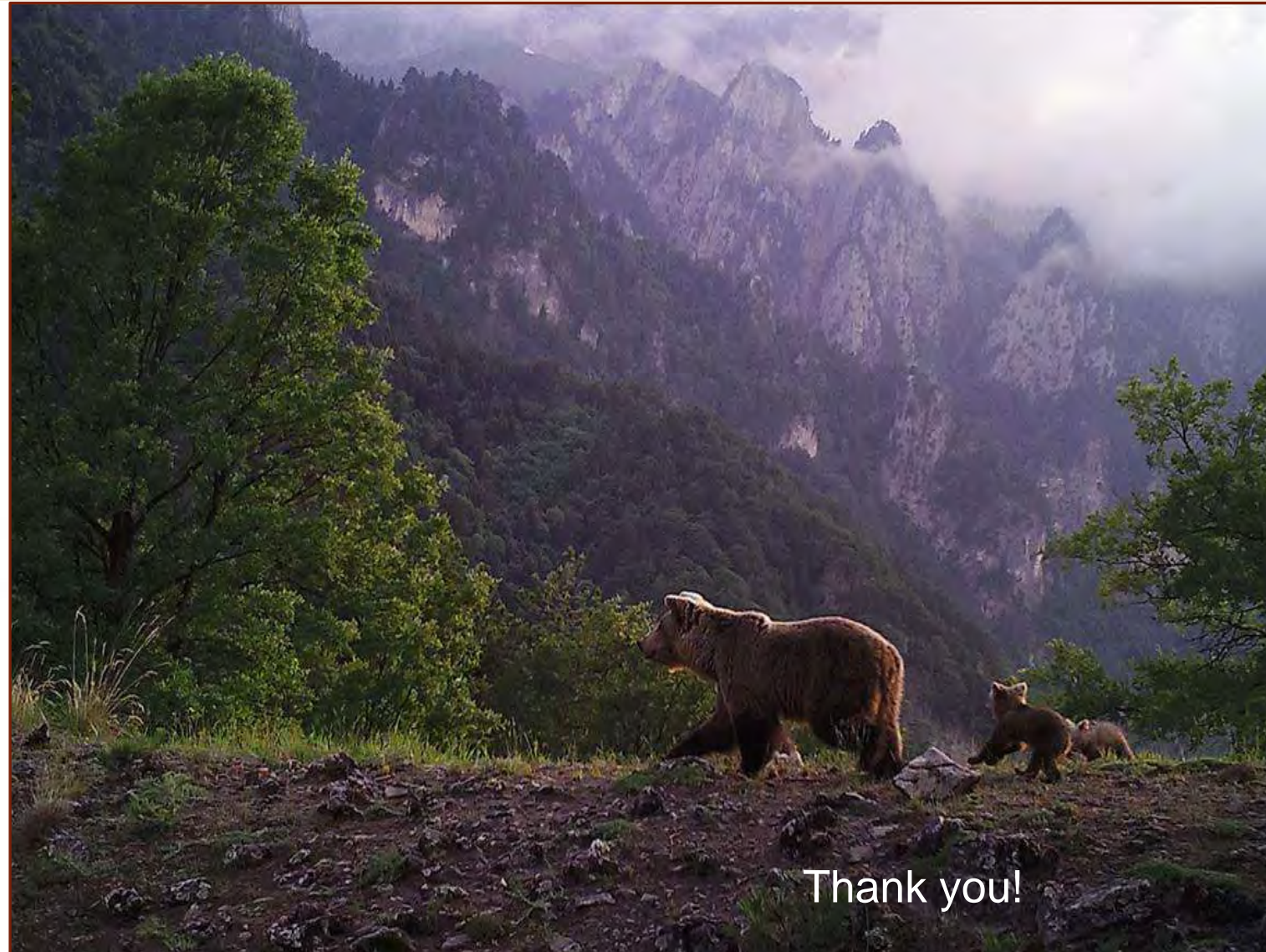


INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

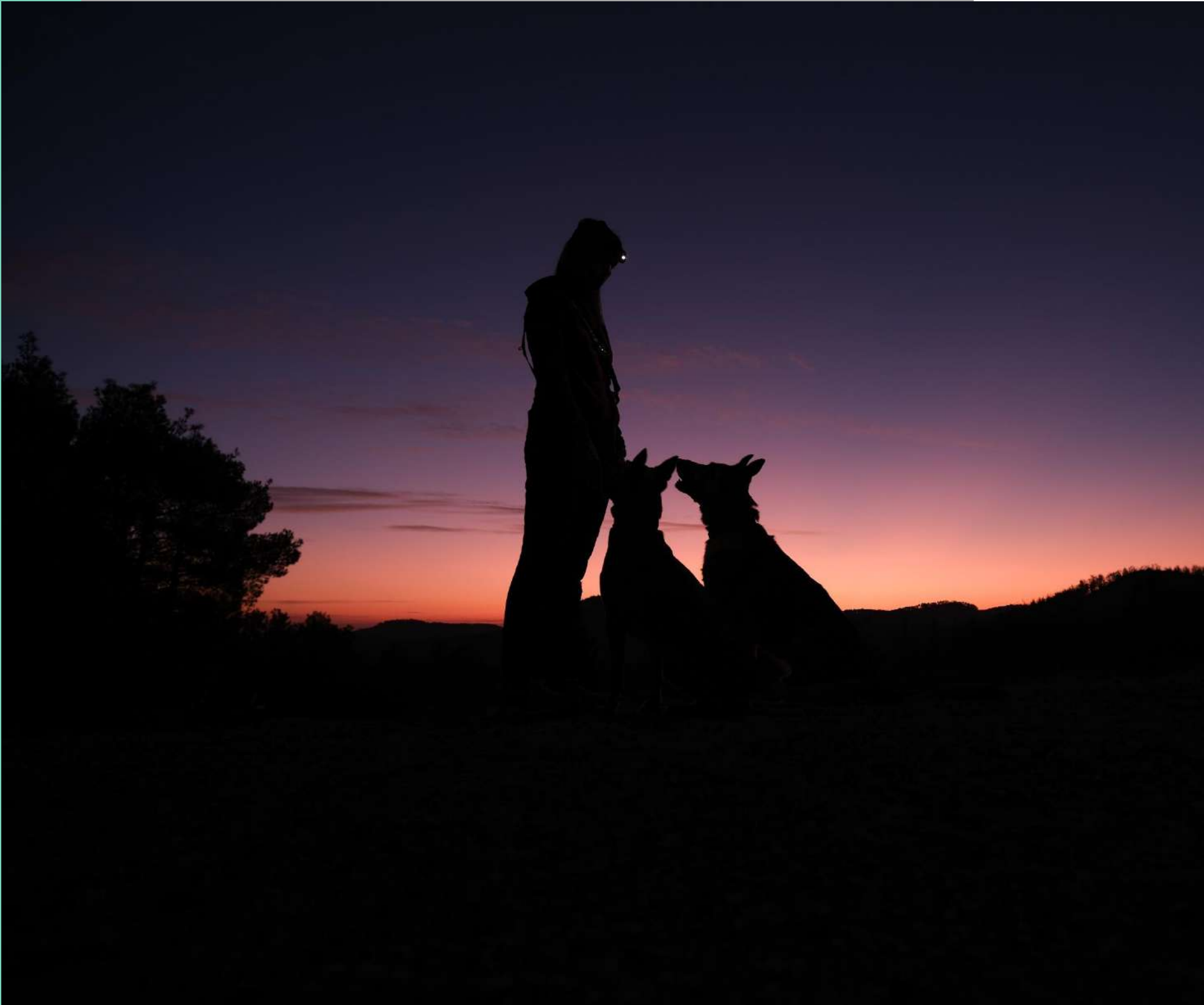
FEBRUARY 25-26-27, 2025
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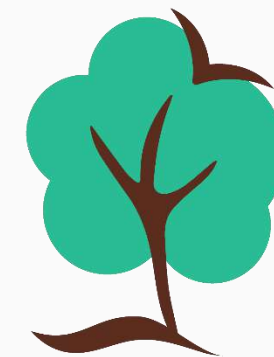


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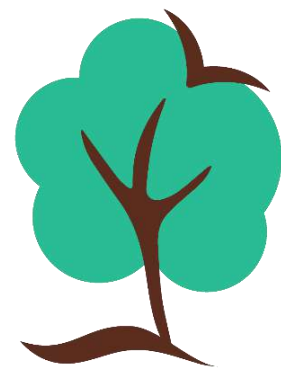
Dog skills for biodiversity conservation

Elzbieta Kret



**SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
BIODIVERSITY OF
THRACE**

LIFE ARCPROM International Conference: February 25–26–27, 2025



SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
BIODIVERSITY OF
THRACE

Preserving Nature

To protect and preserve the biodiversity of Thrace, **overall**, with a clear focus on birds of prey.

Engaging the locals

To promote sustainable rural development and reduce land abandonment among young people in Thrace.

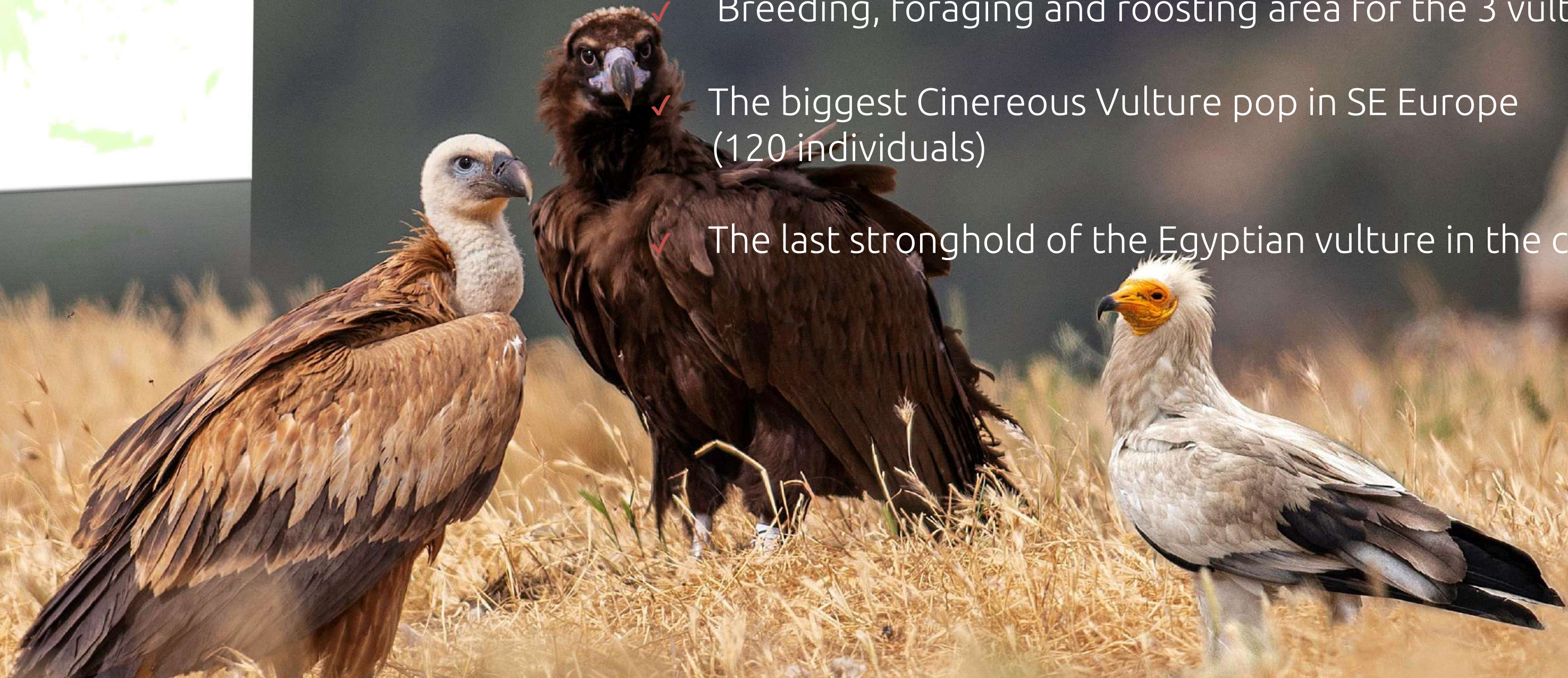
SPBT is committed to preserving Thrace's unique biodiversity.

Birds of prey are essential indicators of the region's ecological health.

Our activities support both nature conservation and rural economic development.

Ecological value of Thrace

- ✓ A crucial habitat for the survival of rare birds of prey
- ✓ A combination of forests and rural landscape constitutes the necessary habitat
- ✓ Breeding, foraging and roosting area for the 3 vulture species
- ✓ The biggest Cinereous Vulture pop in SE Europe (120 individuals)
- ✓ The last stronghold of the Egyptian vulture in the country





History....



LIFE16 NAT/BG/00874



Meet the TEAM

KIKO

Breed:- German shepherd and malinois

DOB:- September 2012

Lives for:- Chasing cats

Detects:- Poison baits and animals

RECENTLY RETIRED

ELA

Breed:- Just human

DOB:- November 1981

Lives for:- Dogs and dancing

Detects:- Absolutely nothing!

DALTON

Breed:- Malinois

DOB:- November 2019

Lives for:- Ball

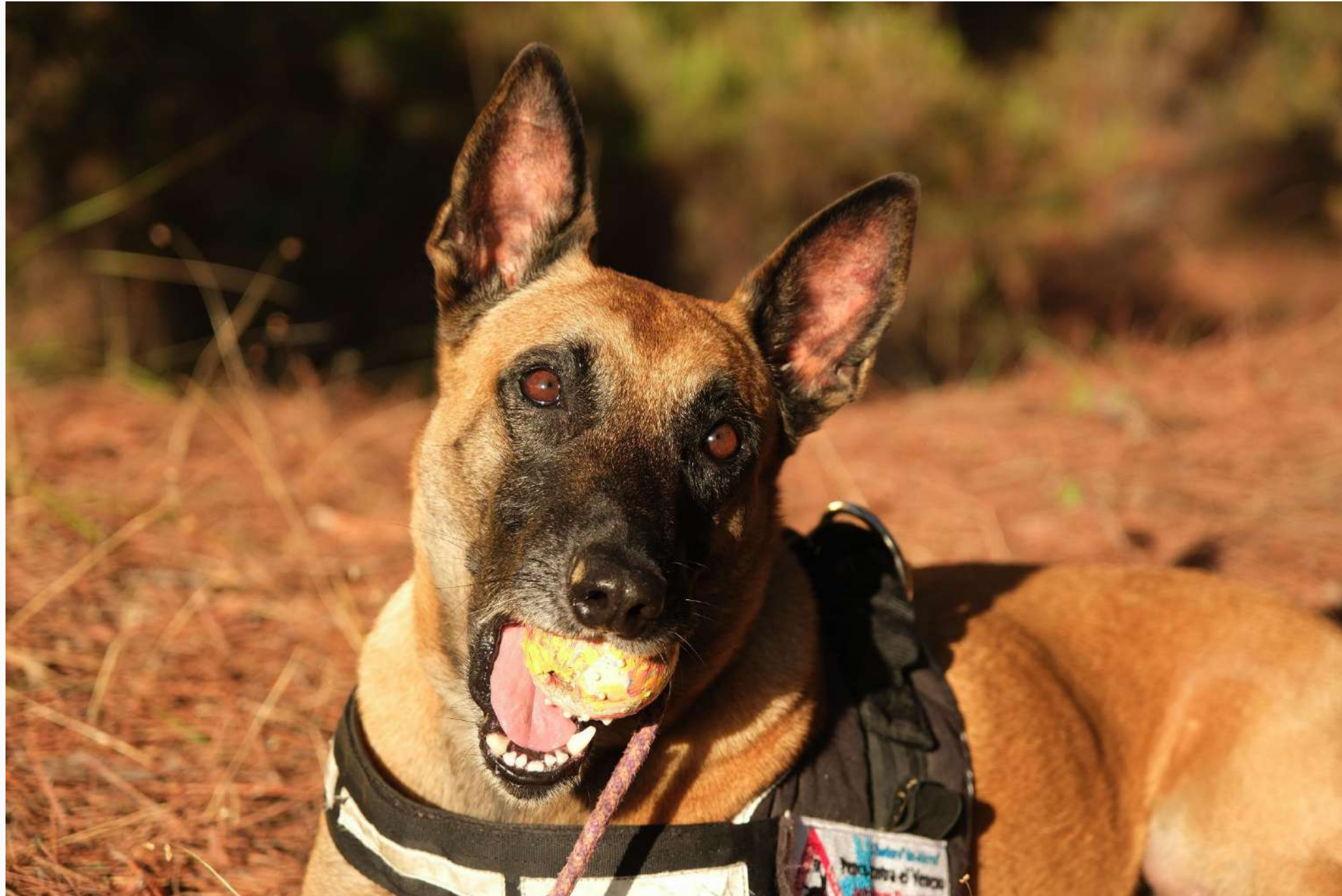
Detects:- Poison baits and animals

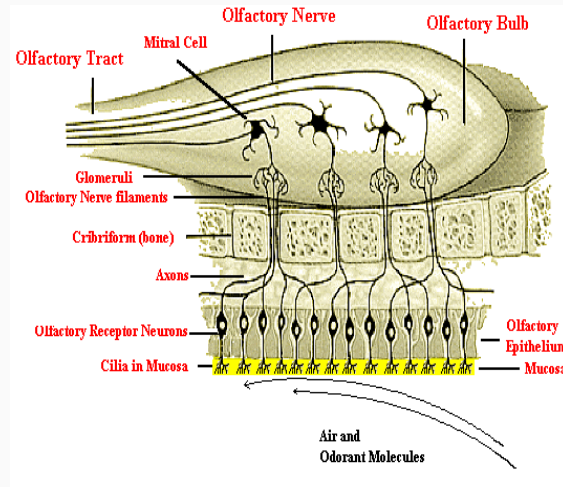
Bat and bird carcass



It's all about fun and teamwork!

Importance to be in tune with your dogs.. there will always be something new to learn





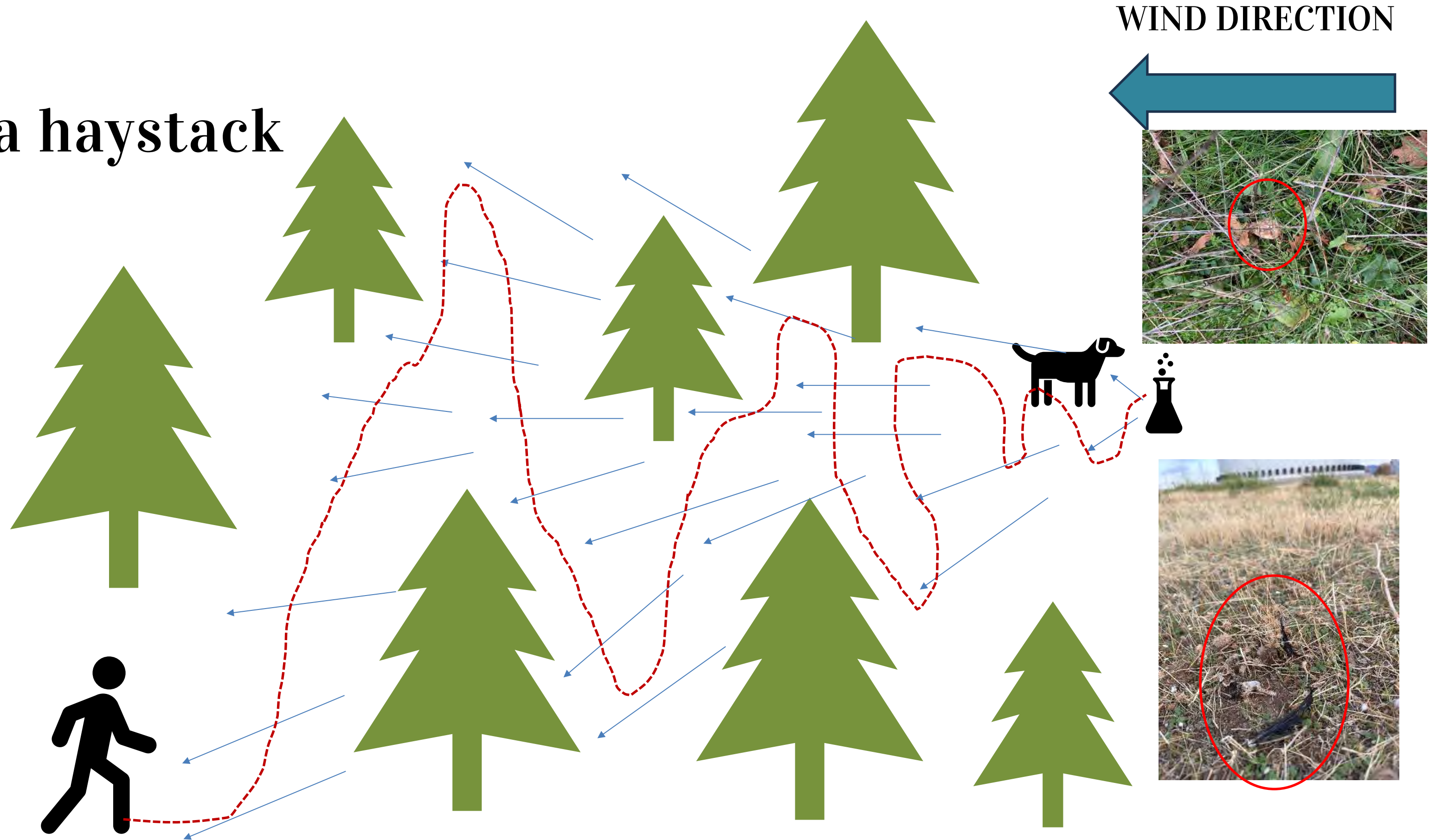
**125-220 million olfactory receptors
(humans only 5 million)**

TRAINING

1. Motivation and reinforcement
 2. Training with a just one or large number of odours
 3. During the work the dog has to rely on its memory of the trained odours
 4. Wide range of possible natural situations – avoidance of habituation
-



Needle in a haystack



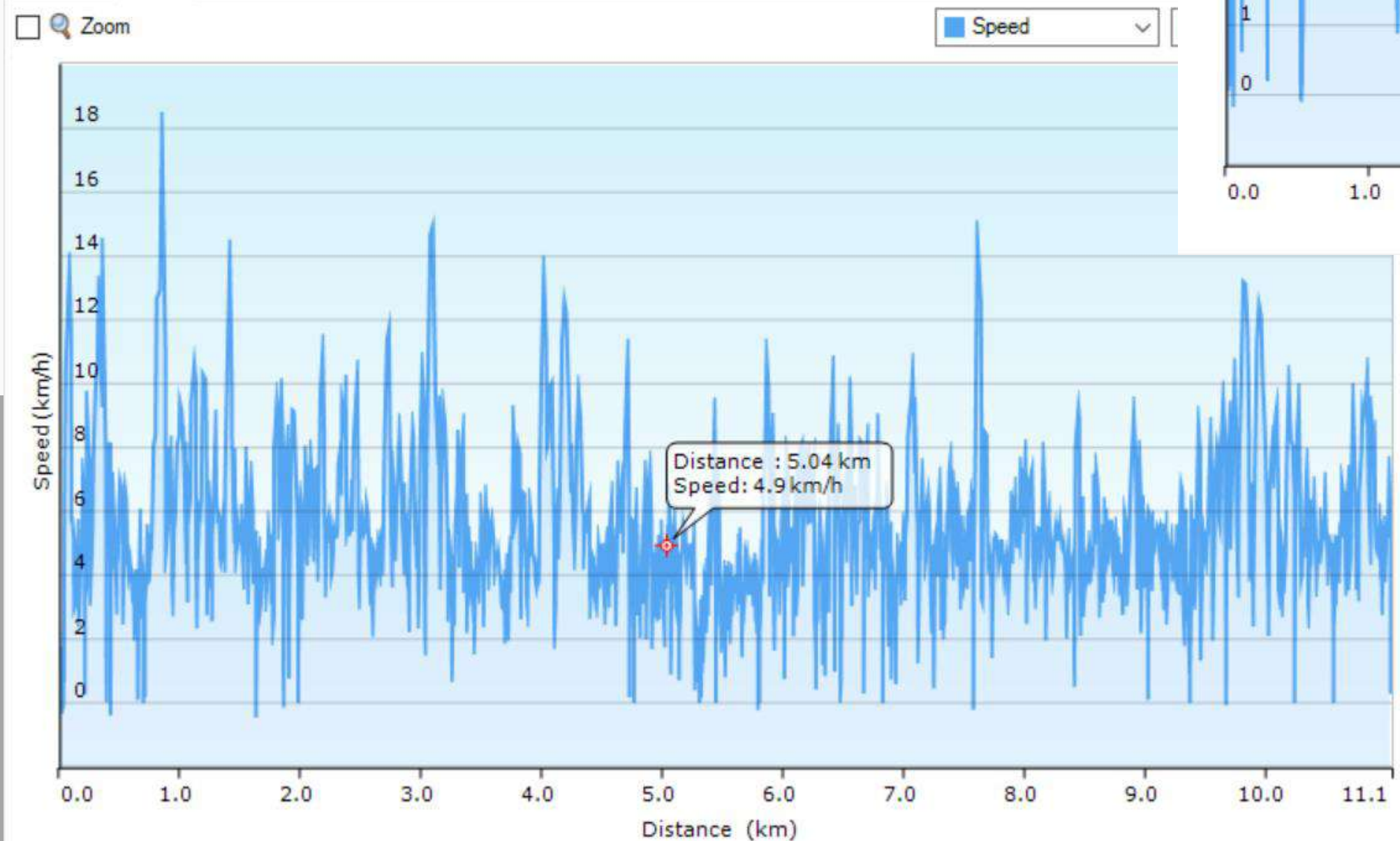
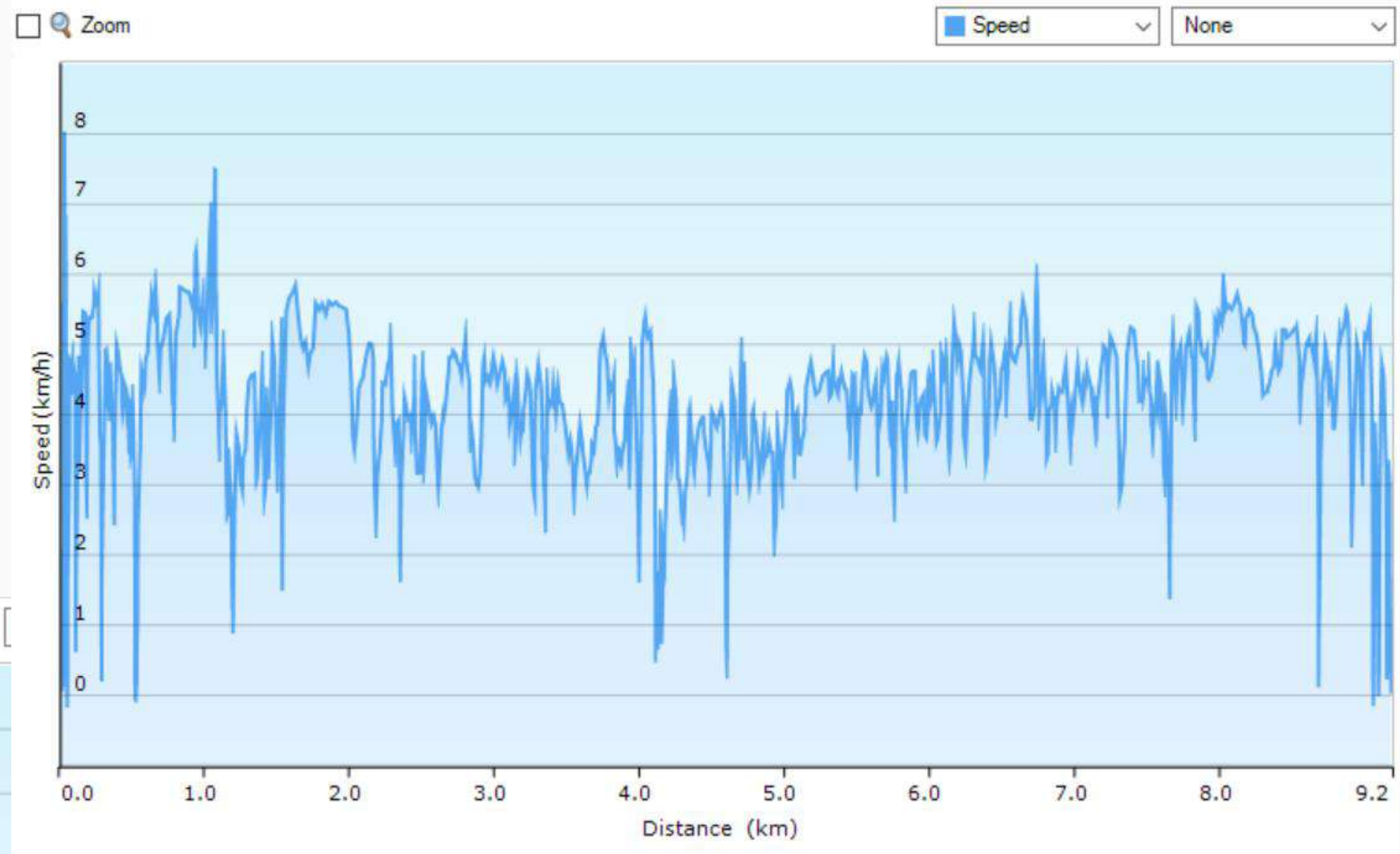
The dog identifies the direction of the scent source by comparing its intensity



Human

How fast we walk....

Dog

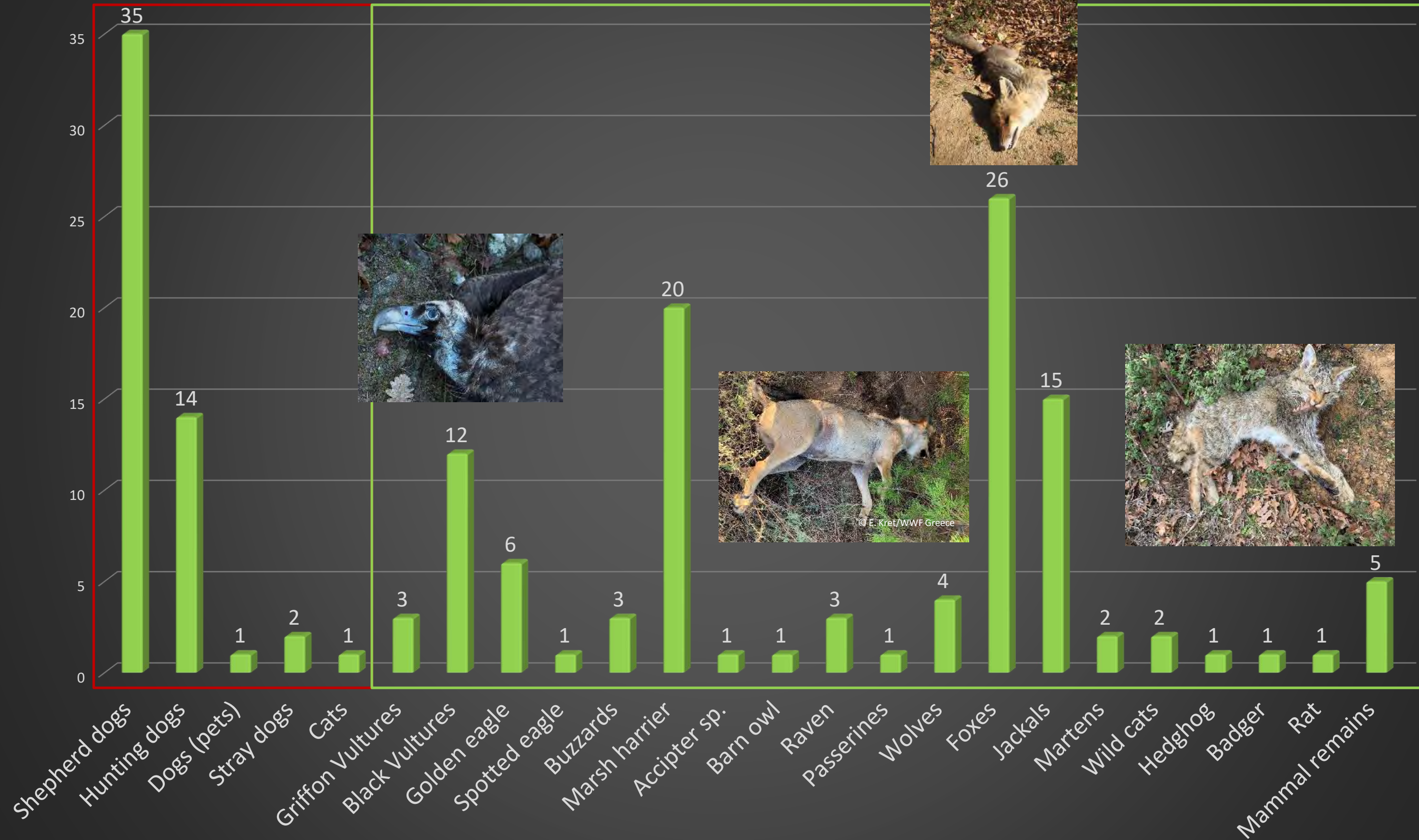


2014-.....

170 poison animals
120 poison baits

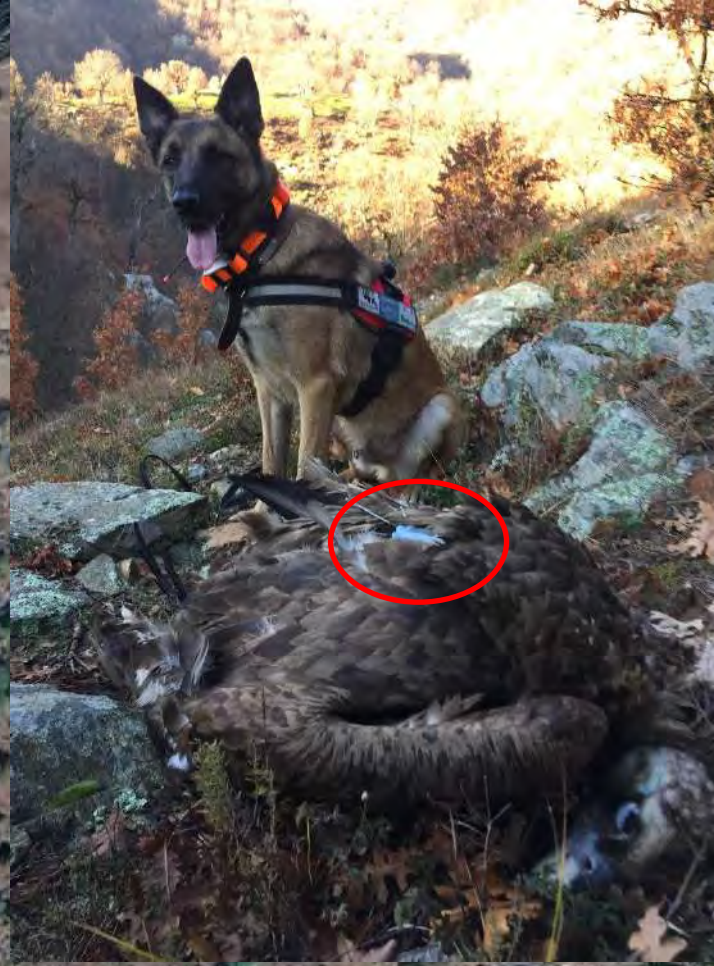


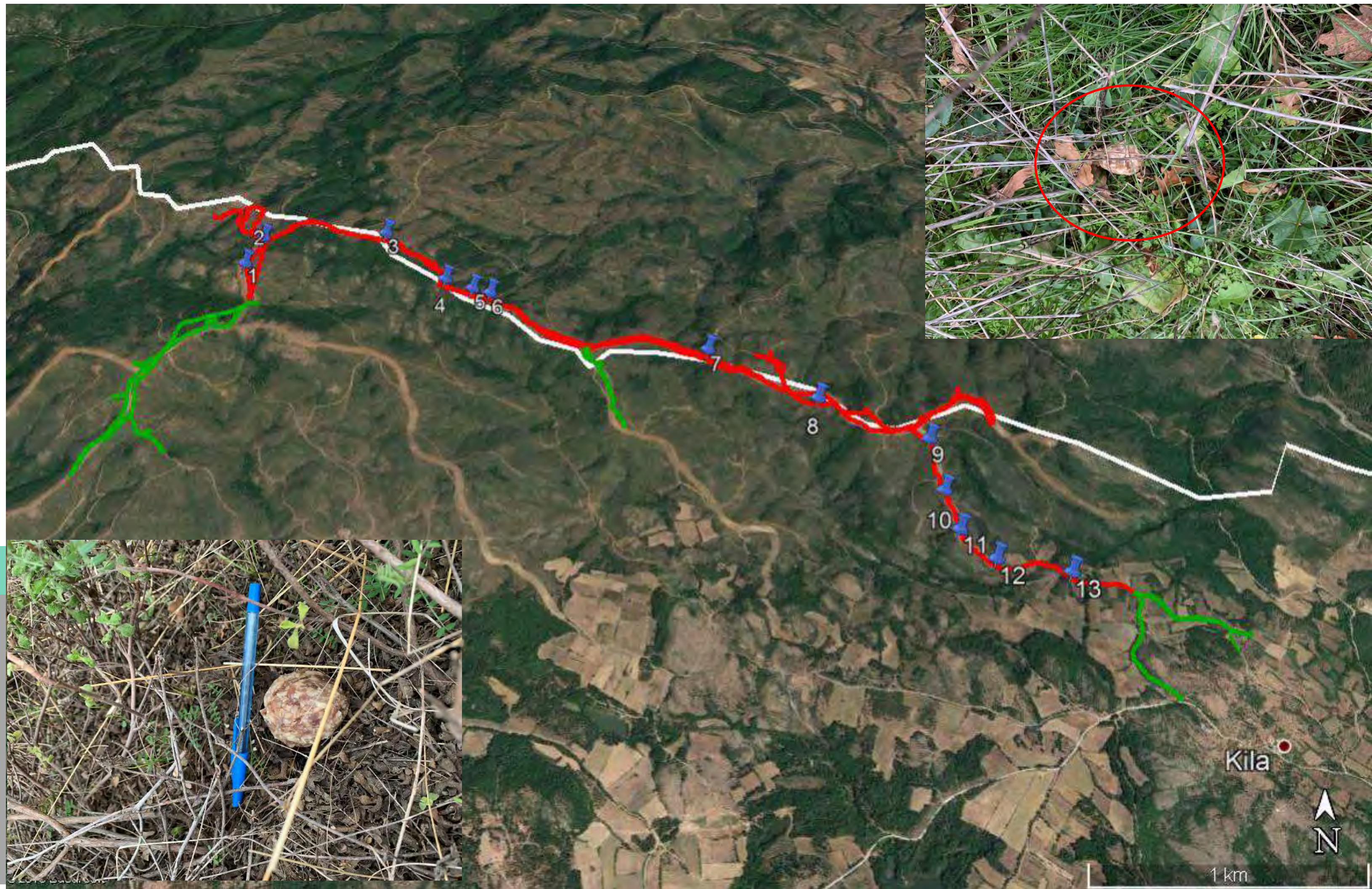
Poison animals



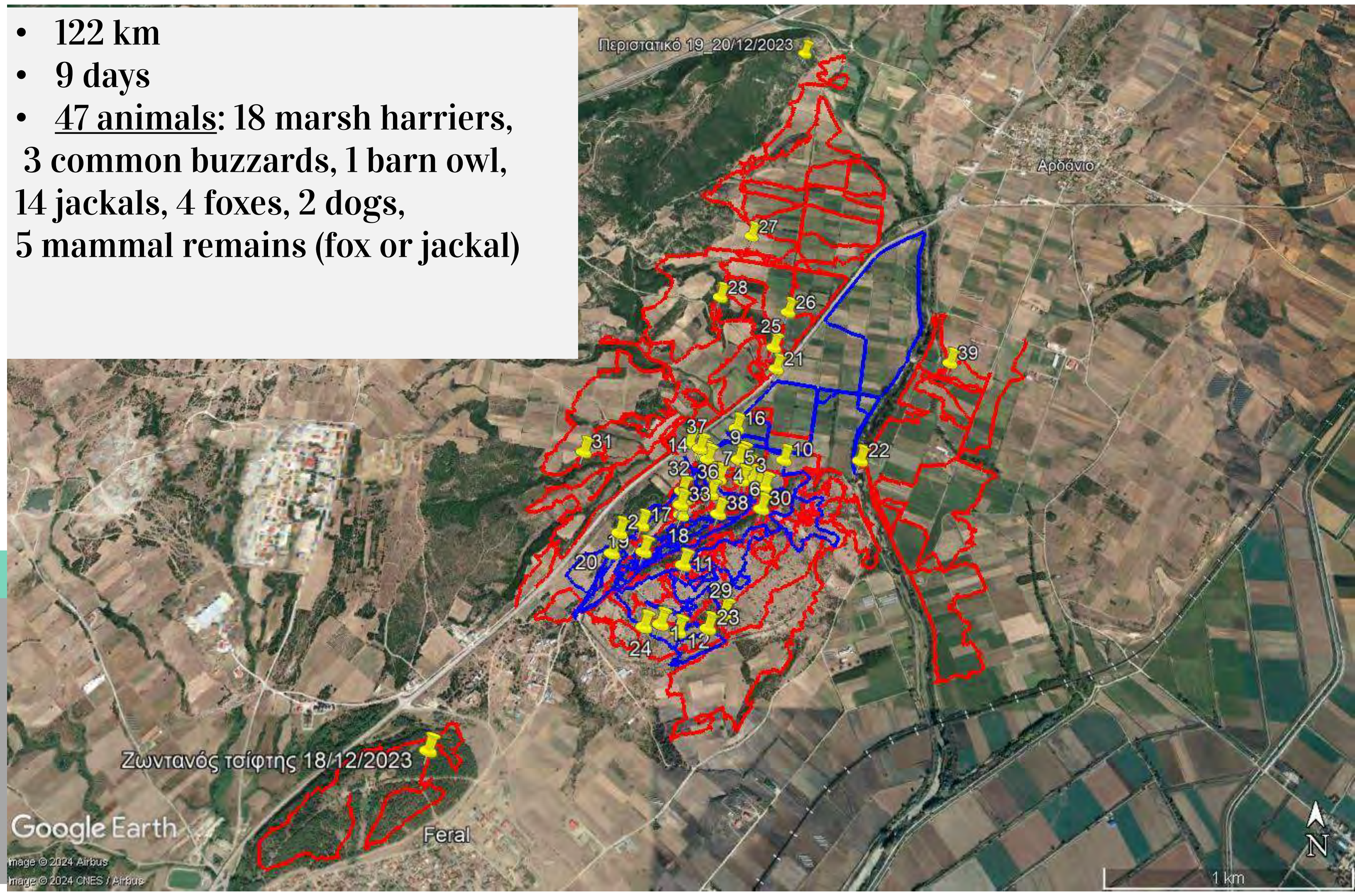


Possible poison bait



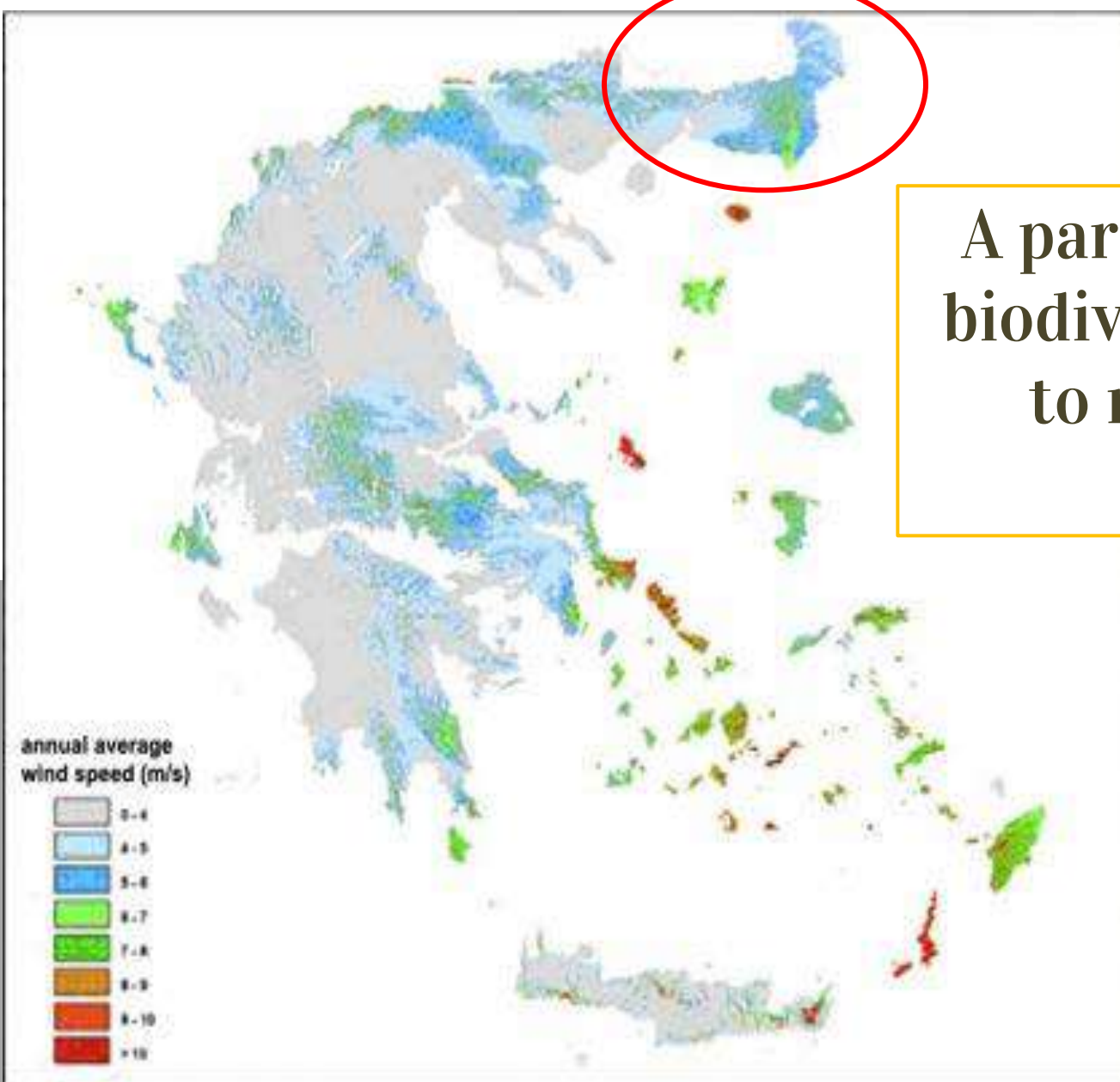


- 122 km
- 9 days
- 47 animals: 18 marsh harriers,
3 common buzzards, 1 barn owl,
14 jackals, 4 foxes, 2 dogs,
5 mammal remains (fox or jackal)

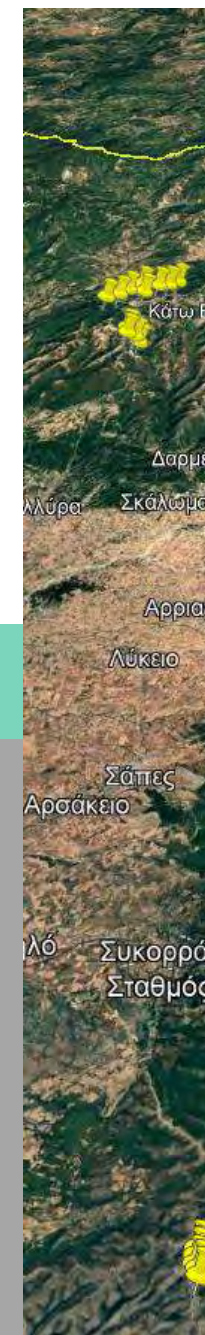




One of the highest wind capacity in mainland Greece

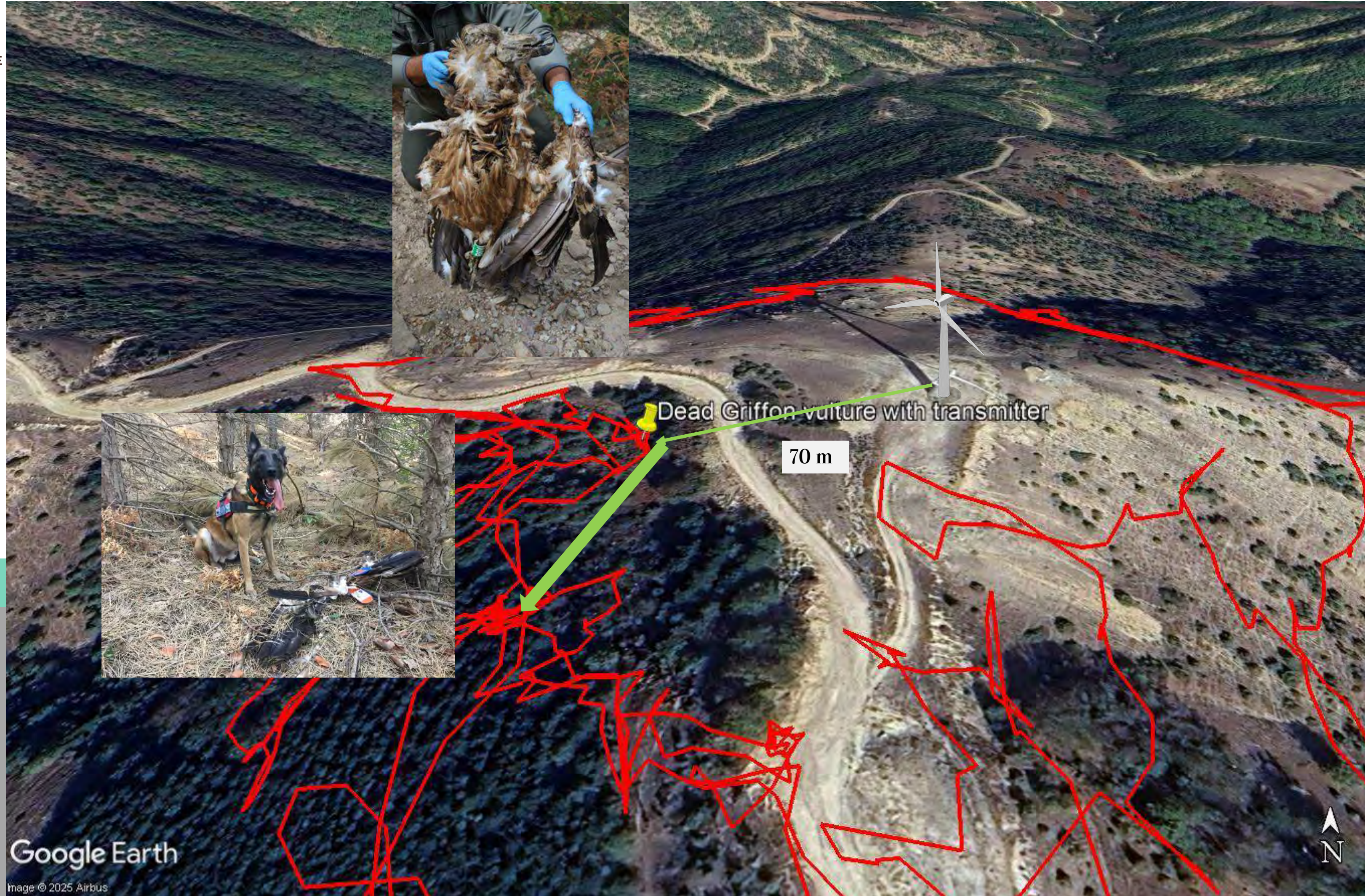


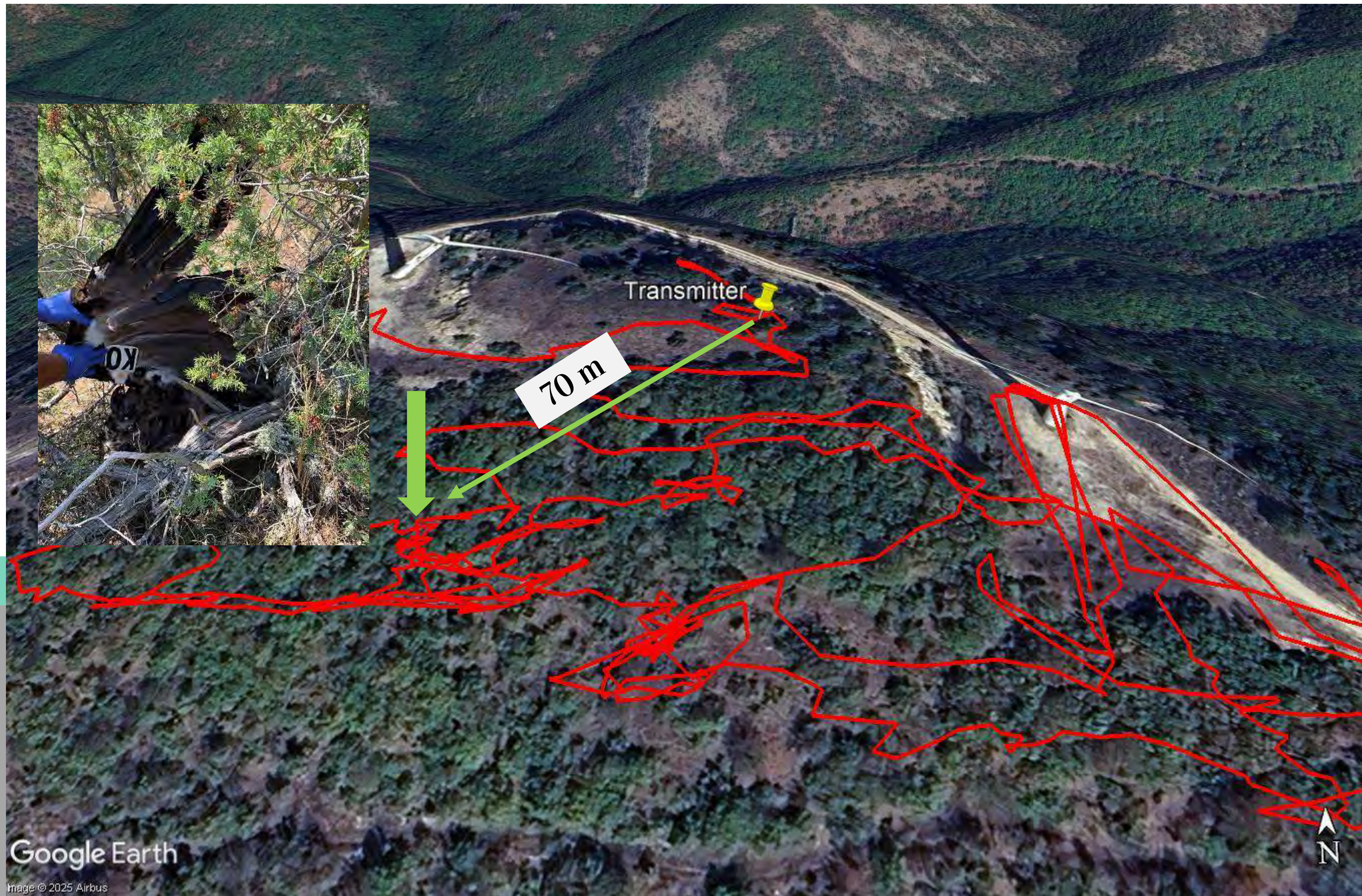
A paradox of enhancing
biodiversity loss in order
to mitigate climate
change?



Species	Number of individuals 2008-2024
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	6
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	9
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	4
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	3
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	6
<i>Aquila pennata</i>	2
<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	1
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1
<i>Accipiter spp.</i>	1
Total	36

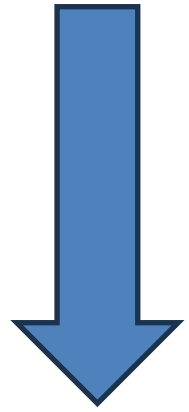






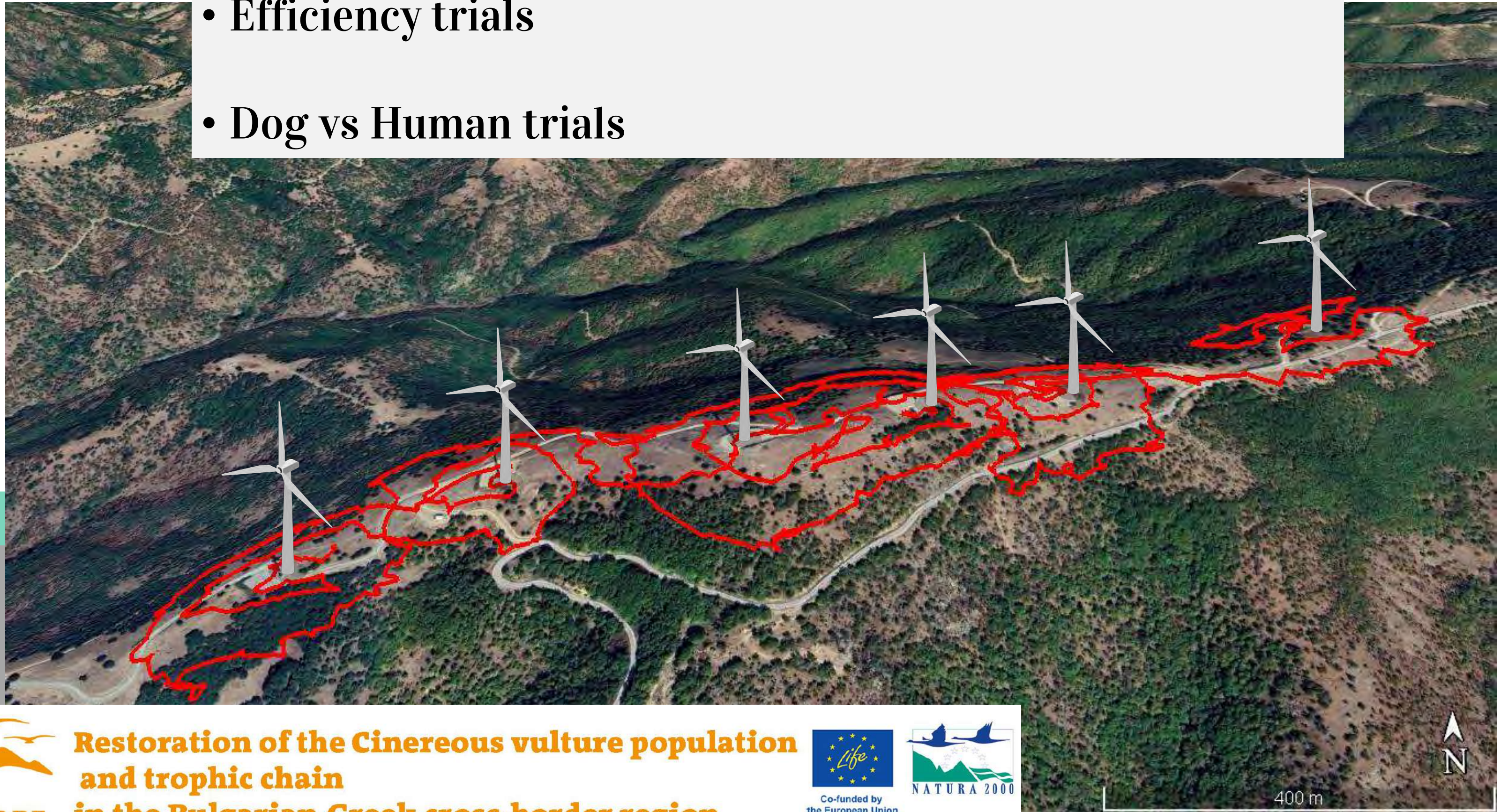


July 2024



July 2027

- Systematic monitoring of 2 wind parks (12 wind turbines)
- Efficiency trials
- Dog vs Human trials



Covering up to 200 m around
each wind turbine

20-25 minutes per wind turbine





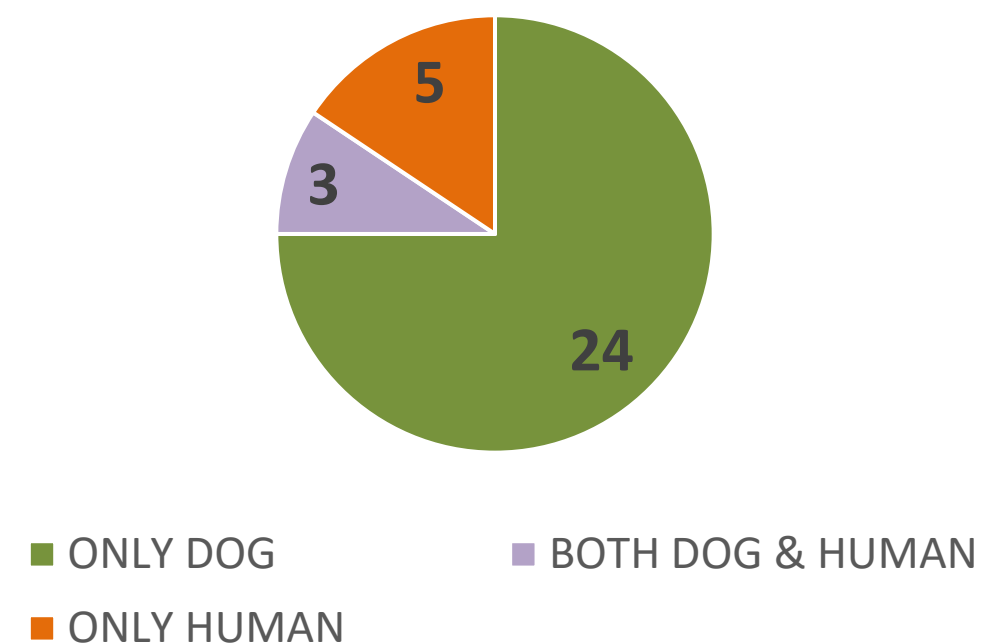


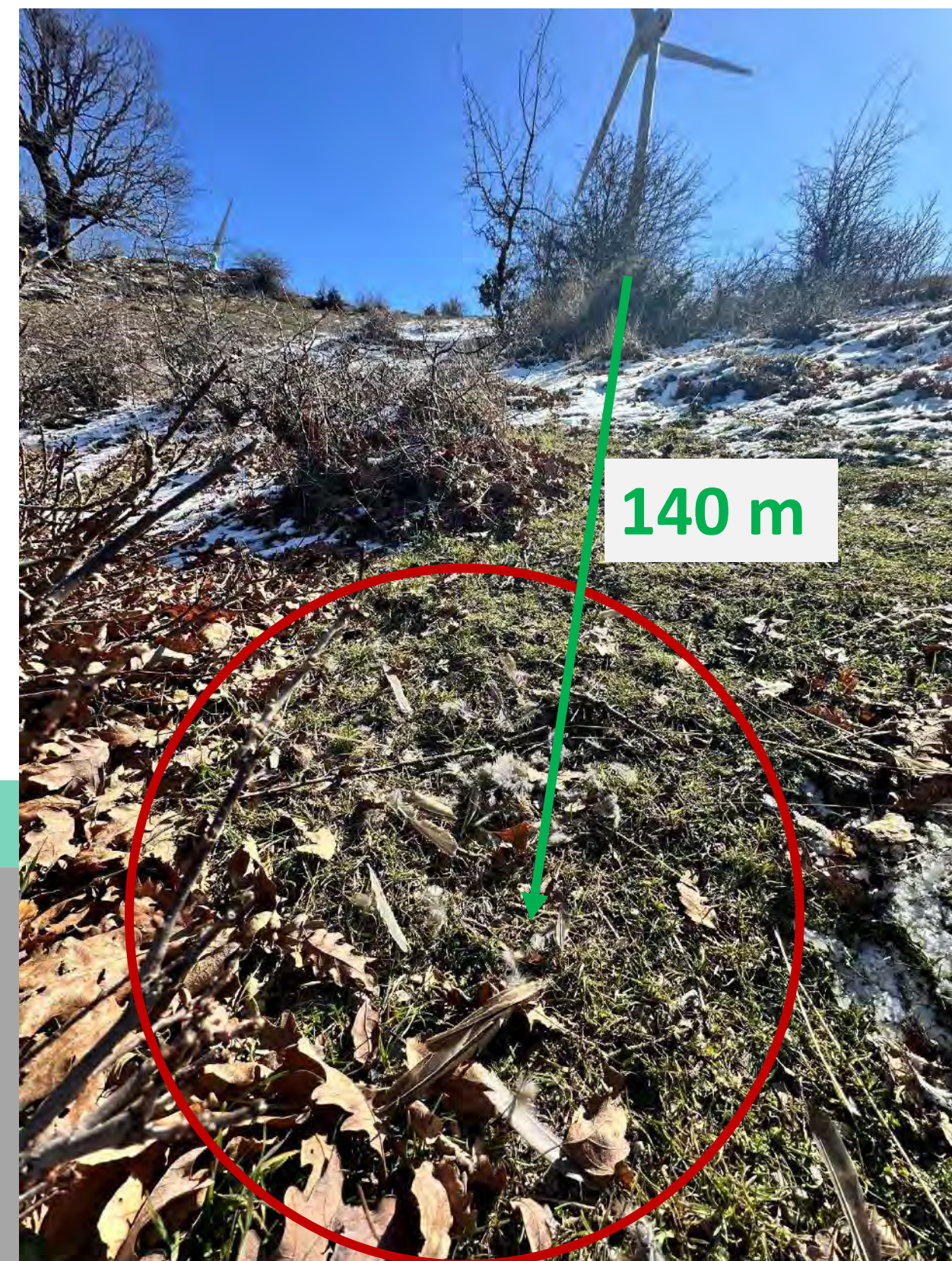
Detecting various parts of bat and bird carcasses, including wing(s) only, skeletal remains, and feather spots



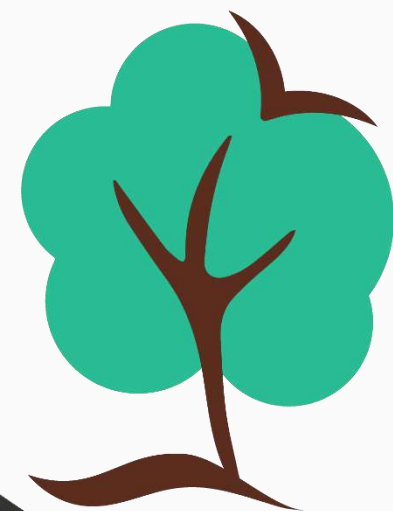
Superior efficiency and effectiveness in locating bat and small bird carcasses compared to traditional human visual survey.....ME

Number of dog and human findings

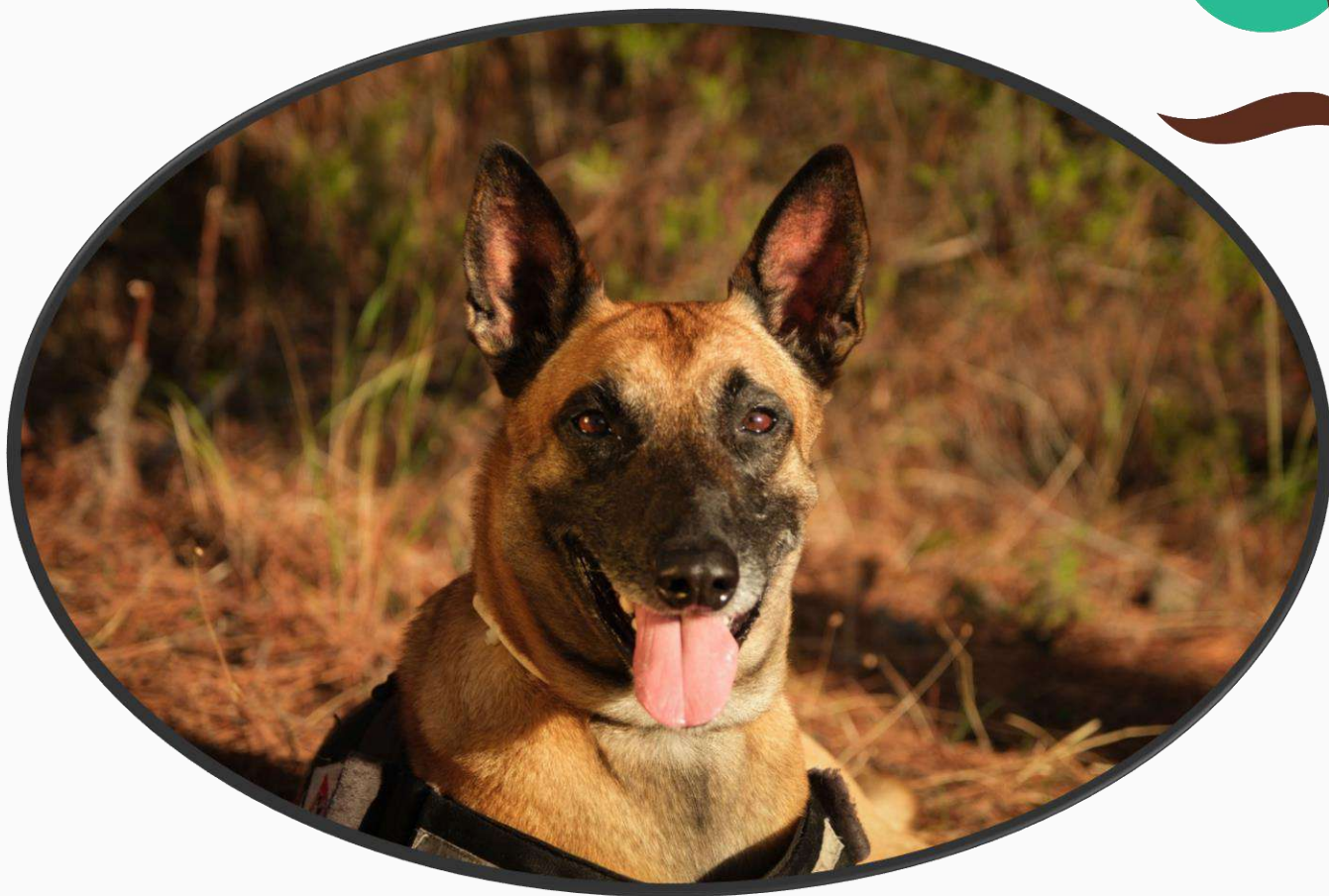








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THRACE



www.spbt.gr

Thank you

Dadia, 68400 Soufli

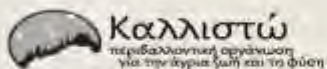


[@spbt.gr](https://www.instagram.com/spbt.gr)



Livestock Guardian Dogs; Establishment and operation of a high- performance LGDs network under Life ARCPROM project

Alexios Giannakopoulos, PhD LGD Expert-University
Of Thessaly, Veterinary Faculty, Microbiology &
Parasitology Lab



Πανεπιστήμιο
Θεσσαλίας



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ



ARCPROM project: Team Work



Charalampos Billinis-UTH
Dimitris Chatzopoulos-UTH
Giota Argiraki-UTH
Garyfallenia Tsinopoulou-UTH
Thannasis Siasios-UTH
Elpida Grigoriadou
Korakis Thannasis-NECCA

Thanos Tragos- CALLISTO
Yorgos Mertzanis-CALLISTO
Spyros Psaroudas-CALLISTO
Vaios Koutis-CALLISTO
Rena Chatzimixail-CALLISTO
Giannis Tsaknakis-CALLISTO
Iliopoulos Yorgos-CALLISTO
Pavlos Tsirikas-CALLISTO
Maria Psaralexi-CALLISTO
Glykeria Koytsodonti-CALLISTO
Effie Gelastopoulou-CALLISTO
Giorgos Lazarou-CALLISTO
Vaggelis Theodosiadis-CALLISTO
Stefanos Kyriakidis-CALLISTO
Chastas Giorgos-CALLISTO-UTH

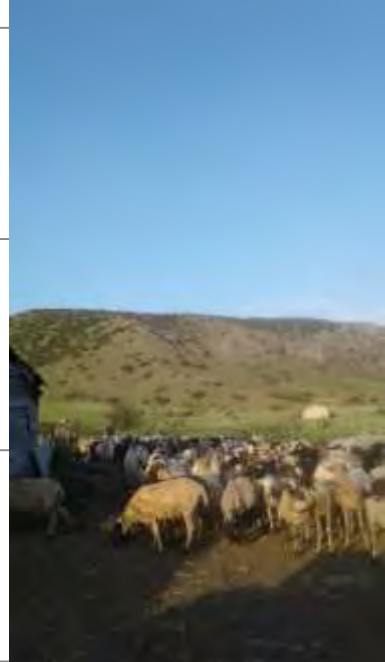
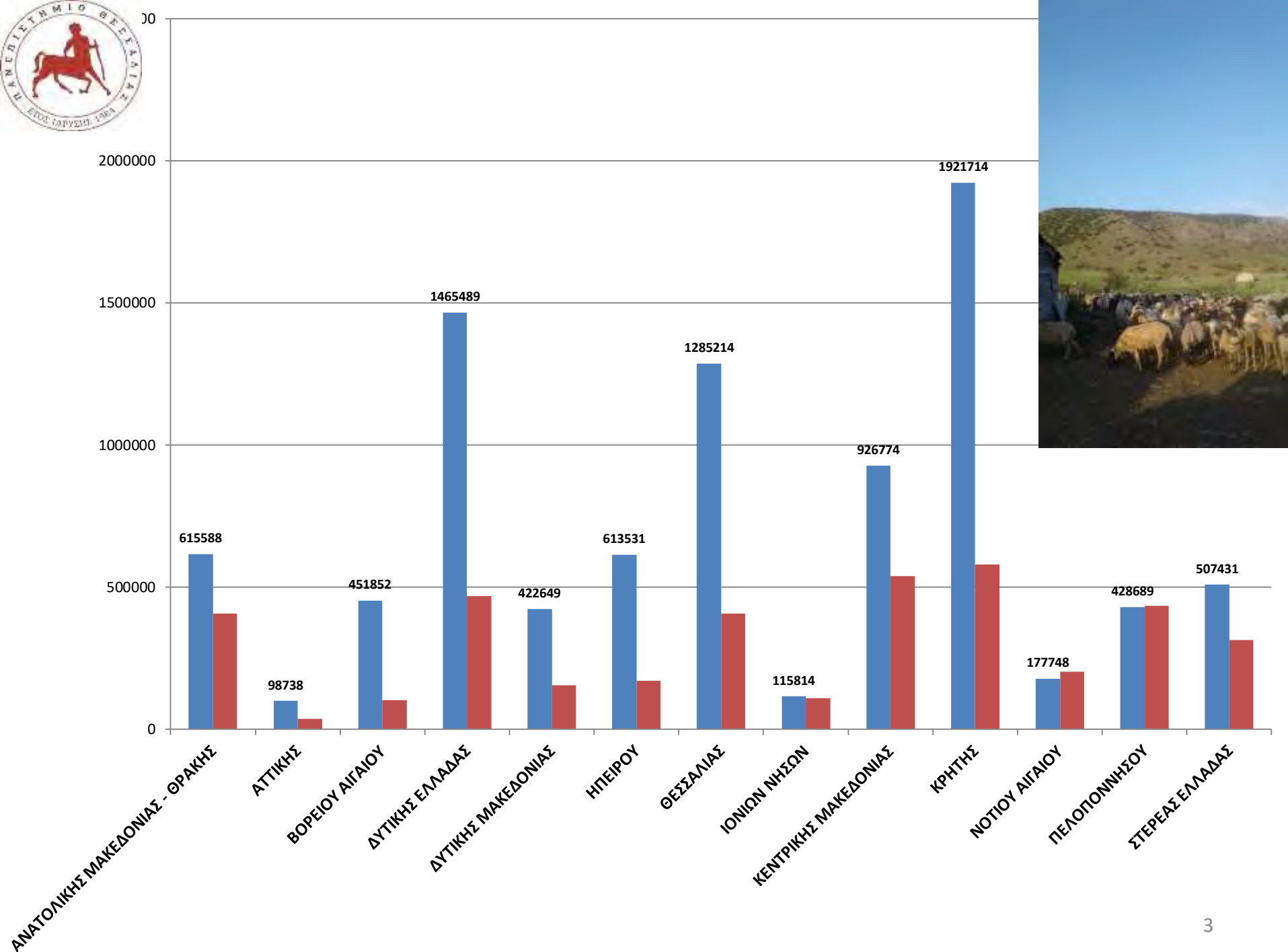
Elpida Grigoriadou NECCA
Thanassis Korakis NECCA
Vavilis Dimitris NECCA
Vasia Margaritopoulou NECCA
John Vergos NECCA

Society for the Protection of Biodiversity
of Thrace



Ela Kret
Dora Skartsi
Lefteris Kapsalis





The real wealth of the country is produced in the field and in the factory...



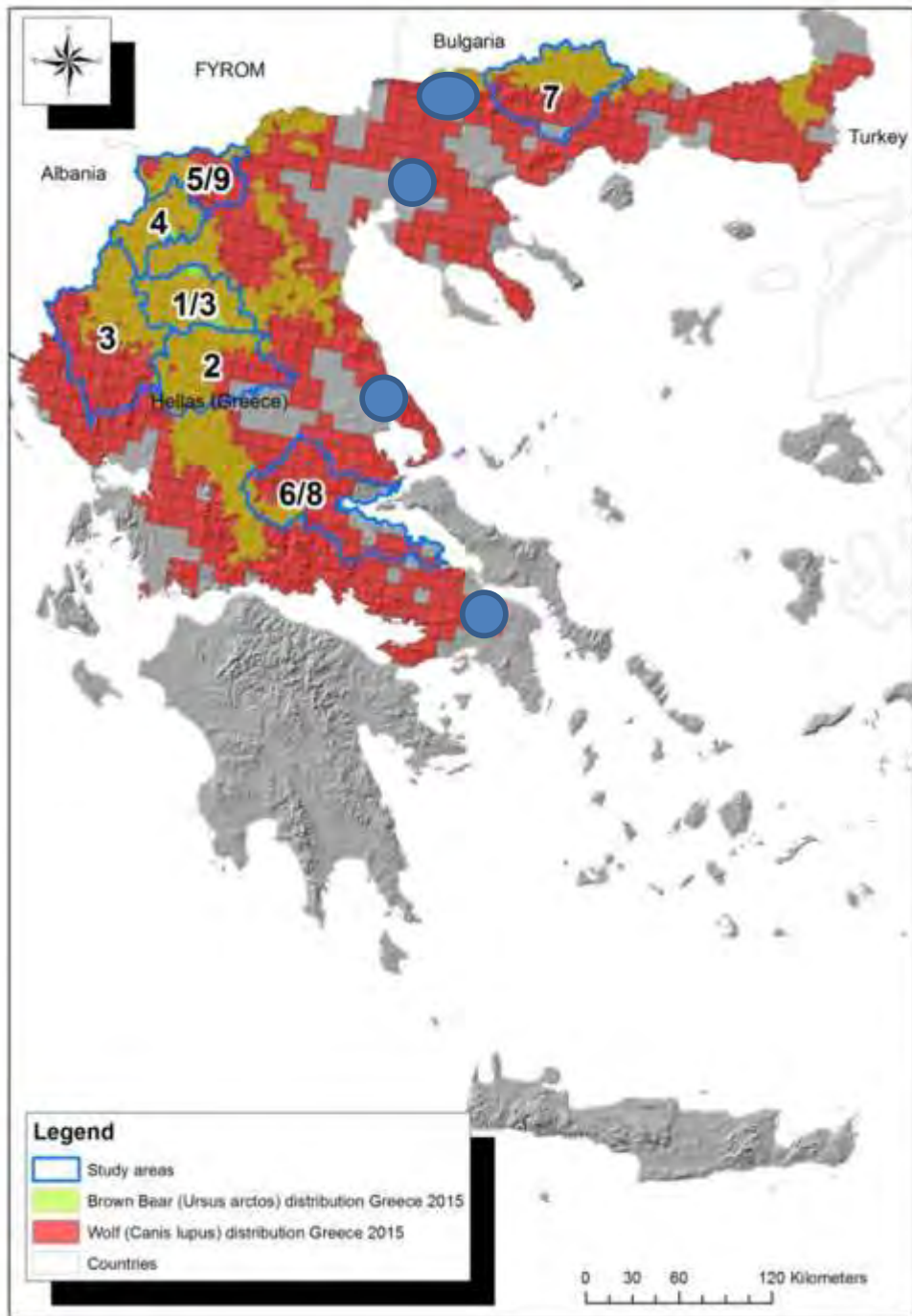
- Sheep and goat breeding - as a branch of primary production is of prominent importance, due to its long tradition and significant contribution to the national economy (1st Greece in number of goats bred)
- Production of dairy products, with a high degree of export activity (feta cheese, yogurt)
- It contributes decisively to regional agricultural development
- Maintaining the social fabric in the countryside
- Utilizes mountainous and disadvantaged areas
- It contributes 29.8% to the total agricultural production.



Basic problems of Greek animal husbandry



- Pasture regime-Division Grazing Plans
- Product price!!!
- Spatial planning for livestock units
- Lack of education
- Greek tribes
- Agricultural research
- Feed / production cost
- Diseases
- Product certification - quality added value



Action C8: Support to livestock farmers for exchanging Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs)

Aims, methods & means, sub-actions & tasks

- This action aims to reduce livestock losses caused by brown bears attacks, through the extensive use of effective Livestock Guardian Dogs.
- The main object of the action is the establishment, operation and later supervise a Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) Owners Network for the exchange, donation & dissemination of LGDs among breeders.
- UTH team members will perform visits to farmers, in order to evaluate the phenotypic and behavioral characteristics of LGDs. The LGDs carrying the desirable features as well as their litters will be tagged for donation.
- Regular veterinary care will be provided to all dogs implicated on the action, to ensure the donation of healthy individuals. Emergencies will also be addressed.
- The action will be undertaken in the National Parks of Prespes and Rodopi.
- **At least 30 puppies and 4 adult dogs will be enrolled on the action, as a core of LGDs Network**

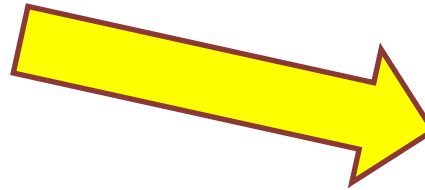


In Greece, the traditional shepherd breeds are the Hellenic Shepherd, the Epirus Molossus and the White Greek Sheepdog with the first being more widespread.

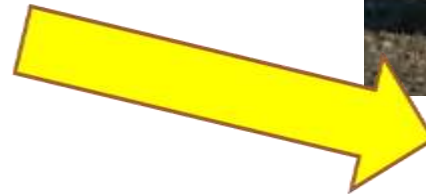
Hellenic Shepherd



Epirus Molossus



White Greek Sheepdog



Action C8: Support to livestock farmers for exchanging Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs)

Beneficiary Responsible: UTH

Timetable

Start

End

Apr 2020

Sep 2023

Deliverables

GIS data analyses reporting owners and dogs donated

Deadline

12/2023

Milestones

Completion of 34 LGD's donation to farm breeders through the network established

Deadline

10/2023



Action C8: Support to livestock farmers for exchanging Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs)

- **Action C8 information on incidents of bear damages on livestock or information about farmers that potentially want to participate in the action.**

Interviews with D. Chatzopoulos with Livestock breeders -Rodopi NP



Interviews with Livestock breeder-Prespes NP



Action C8: Support to livestock farmers for exchanging Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs)

Interviews with Livestock breeders In Rodopi NP



Action C8: Support to livestock farmers for exchanging Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs)

- ▶ **RMNP:** Some livestock breeders that have been approached for the interviews under action A2 have shown interest in participating to the LGD network.
- ▶ **UTH team veterinarians** performed scheduled visits on farms, providing regular veterinary care (vaccinations, anti-parasitic preventive medications, and short treatments) in all dogs that have been enrolled in the project.



► **UTH team** : Excellent cooperation with the Prespes & Rodopi National Parks in order to develop and/or help to the extension of the Livestock breeder network

National Park of Prespes

a/a	Village/ Region
1.	Lefkonas
2.	Brontero
3.	Agios Germanos
4.	Agios Germanos
5.	Agios Germanos
6.	Kallithea
7.	Agios Germanos
8.	Krystallopigi



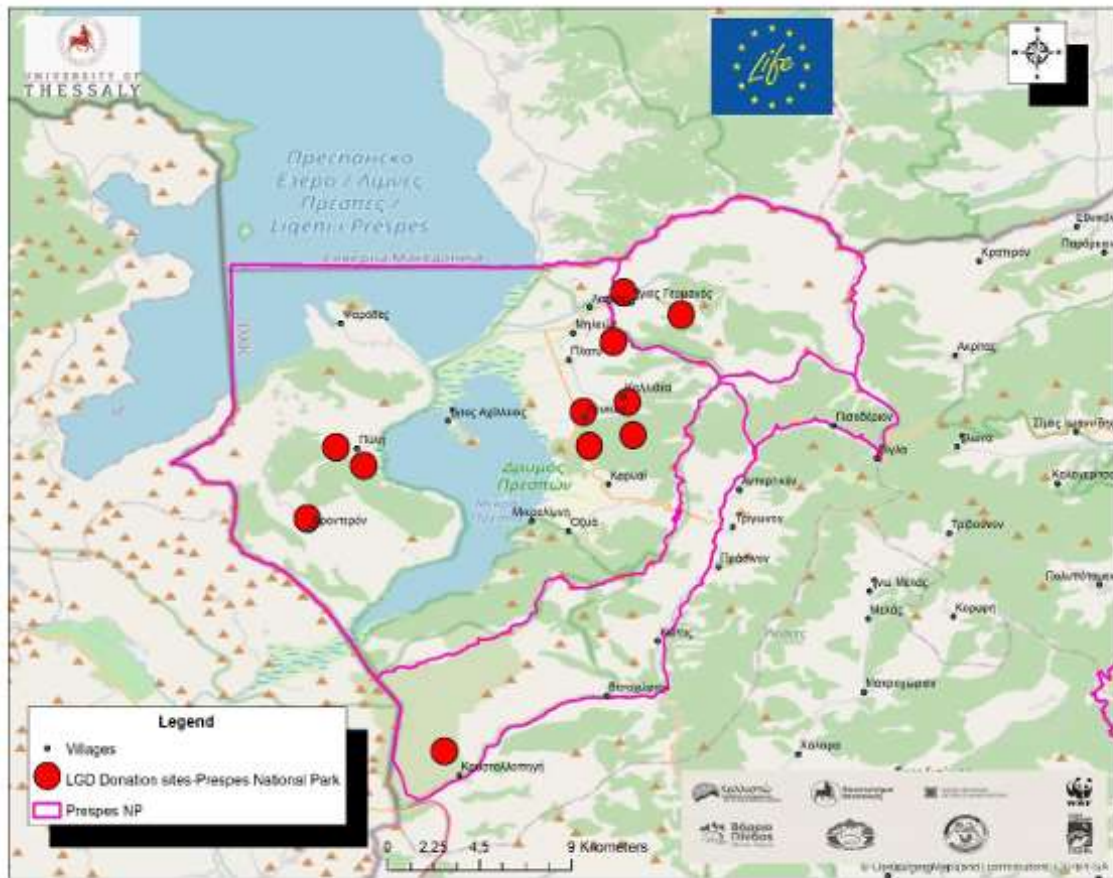
By the end of the action:

- 41 breeders had joined the network
- Operating within the boundaries of the Prespa National Park (n=11)
- Rodopi Mountain Range National Park (n=30)
- **The total number of LGDs provided to these beneficiaries was 62, significantly exceeding the 35 originally planned under the program.**

However, as many livestock farmers continued to experience losses of LGDs due to carnivore attacks or other reasons, UTH made efforts to immediately replace LGDs removed from the herds whenever possible.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) methodology, specifically ArcGIS 10.1 software (ESRI; Redlands, CA, USA), was used to geographically represent and map the donated LGDs.





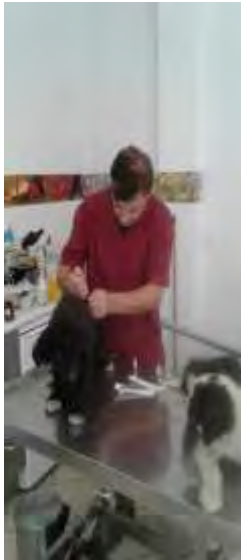
Geographical distribution of livestock farms and producers joined in the network in the area of the Prespa National Park n=12



Action C8: Support to livestock farmers for exchanging Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs)

a/a	Village/ Region
1.	Kimmeria
2.	Stavroupoli
3.	Leivaditis
4.	Drama
5.	Ptelea
6.	Ptelea
7.	Dimario

a/a	Village/ Region
8.	Dimario
9.	Ptelea
10.	Dimario
11.	Ptelea
12.	Ptelea
13.	Ptelea
14.	Ptelea





Geographical distribution of livestock farms and producers joined in the network in the area of Rodopi National Park n=50



Network Goals

- Networking with other breeders - getting to know each other with the aim of continuing to exchange when the project is over.
 - Veterinary support and consulting for productive animals
 - Training and counseling to increase the efficiency of LGdogs
 - Training in innovative attack prevention techniques
- Finding financial tools (In the group there are Farmers, Animal Husbandry, Veterinarians, Economists)
- Connection with the decision-making centers (Ministry of Agriculture, Environment-ELGA-) for the exercise of discretionary pressure!!!
 - Social connection with other groups and professionals



What we have learned in the last 20 years with LGD's shepherds and breeders -problems- solutions- impasses

- Any breeder who has productive animals and herding dogs and we and they must understand that these are two different breeds
- I have a flock of sheep and a flock of shepherds which have different needs, time availability, peculiarities, etc.

Collaboration models

- People learn best when they are in a safe, friendly environment where they feel accepted and their feelings, goals and life circumstances are taken into account.
- We are the "experts_A_LGD team" for some issues with dogs
- Sheepkeepers are "experts_B" about their lives, their families and their animals
- "Combine A+ B that is LGD team knowledge and breeder knowledge!! We don't know everything!!!!



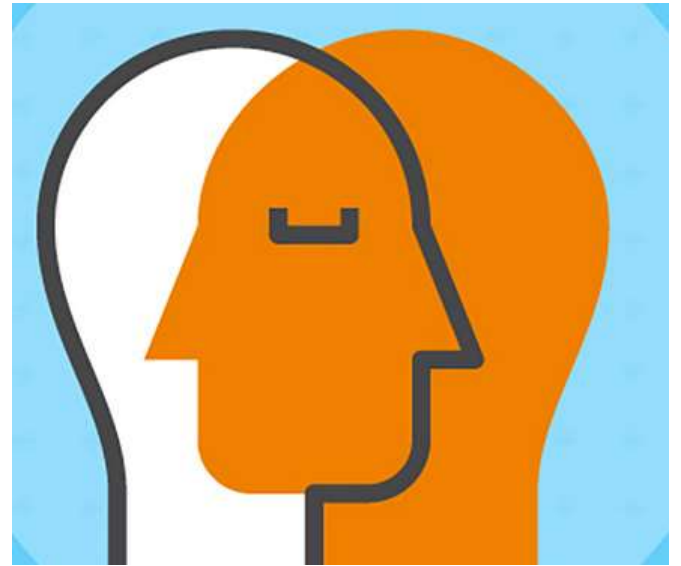
- Rules in communication are important for conveying the right messages and creating the climate of trust and developing the relationship
- Authenticity is important
- B.C. we are looking for a solution to his problem with the horse, we have the phone open 24/7, finding money through rural development programs



Empathy

"I've learned that
people will forget
what you said, people
will forget what you
did, but people will
never forget how you
made them feel."

- Maya Angelou



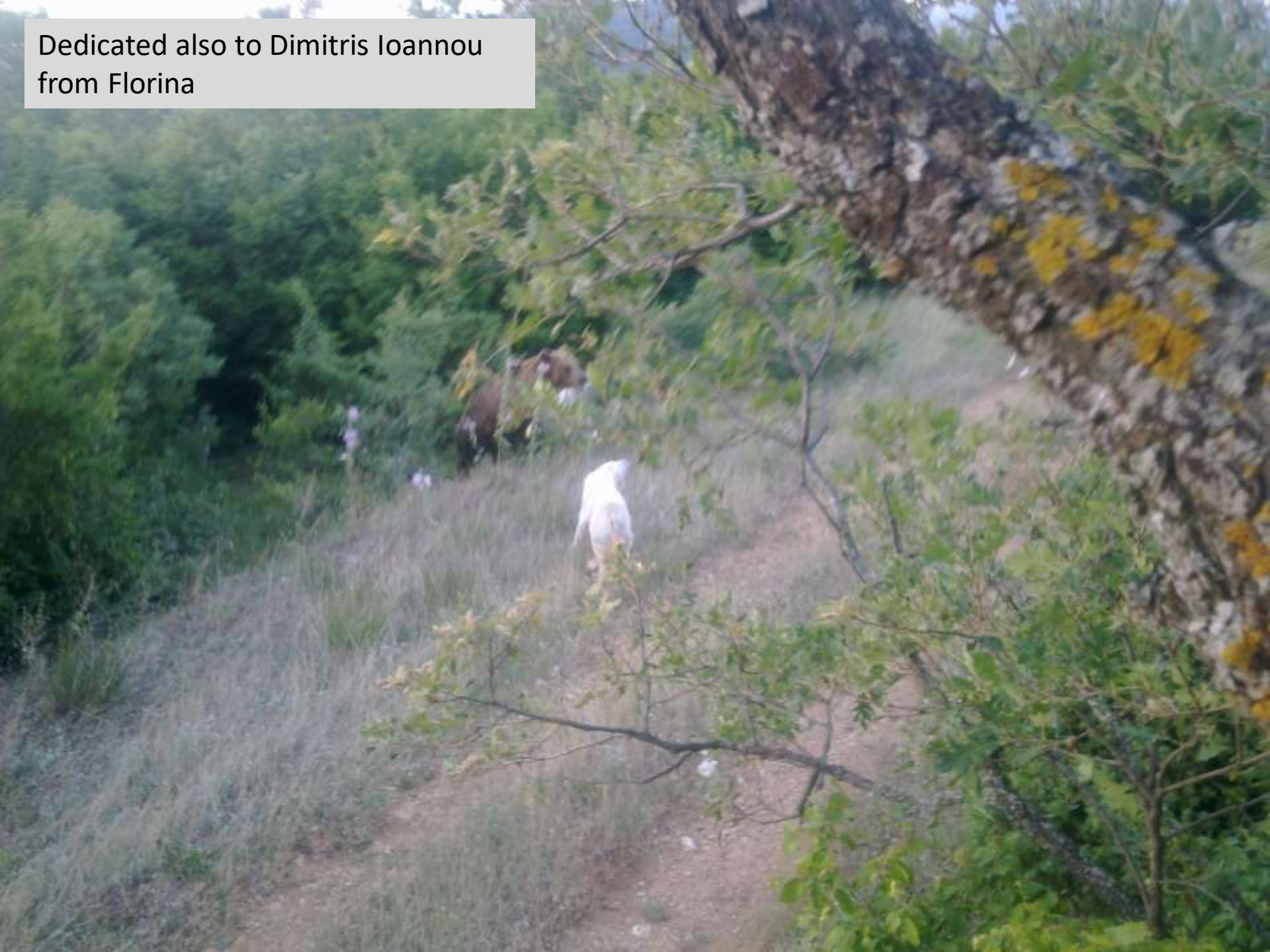


This effort is dedicated to the memory of Biologist and friend Kostantinos Godis who pioneered the propagation and preservation of the Greek herding dog breeds.



dedicated to the memory of
Apostolis Mpampanikas

Dedicated also to Dimitris Ioannou
from Florina







**LIFE
ARCPROM**



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**FEBRUARY 25-26-27, 2025
LARISSA, GREECE**

In the context of the LIFE PROJECT
“ARCPROM: Improving human-bear coexistence
in 4 National Parks of South Europe”

FINAL EVENT:
Outcomes of the LIFE ARCPROM Project
Advancing Knowledge and Practices
for Human-Bear Coexistence



SESSION 7 16:45-18:30

Environmental Education as a
Framework for Wildlife Protection
and Conservation/ Volunteering
and Awareness Raising Activities

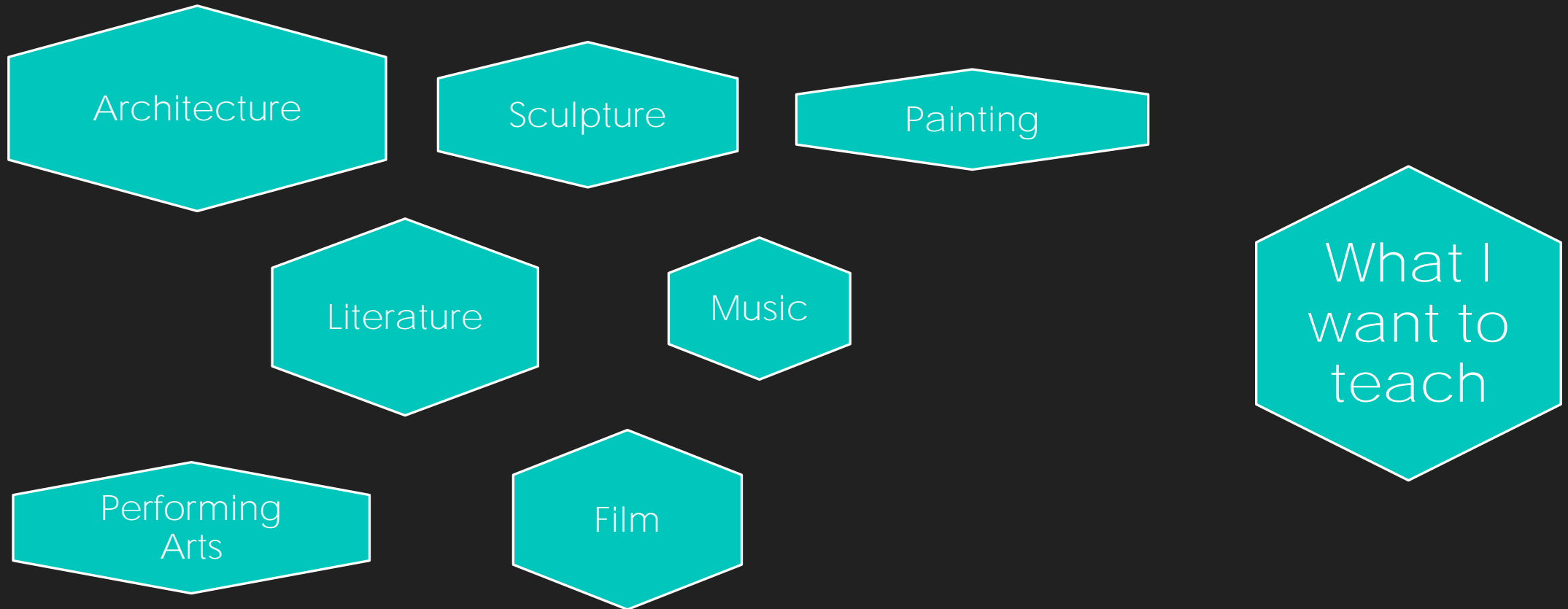
Teaching approaches in effective environmental culture and awareness through art.



Evita Aggeli

Pre- school educator, **M.A.**, Puppeteer – Puppet Therapist, Certified Adult Trainer
LBSC associate
Director of Vissinokipos- Art and Education Workshop

Arts and Education



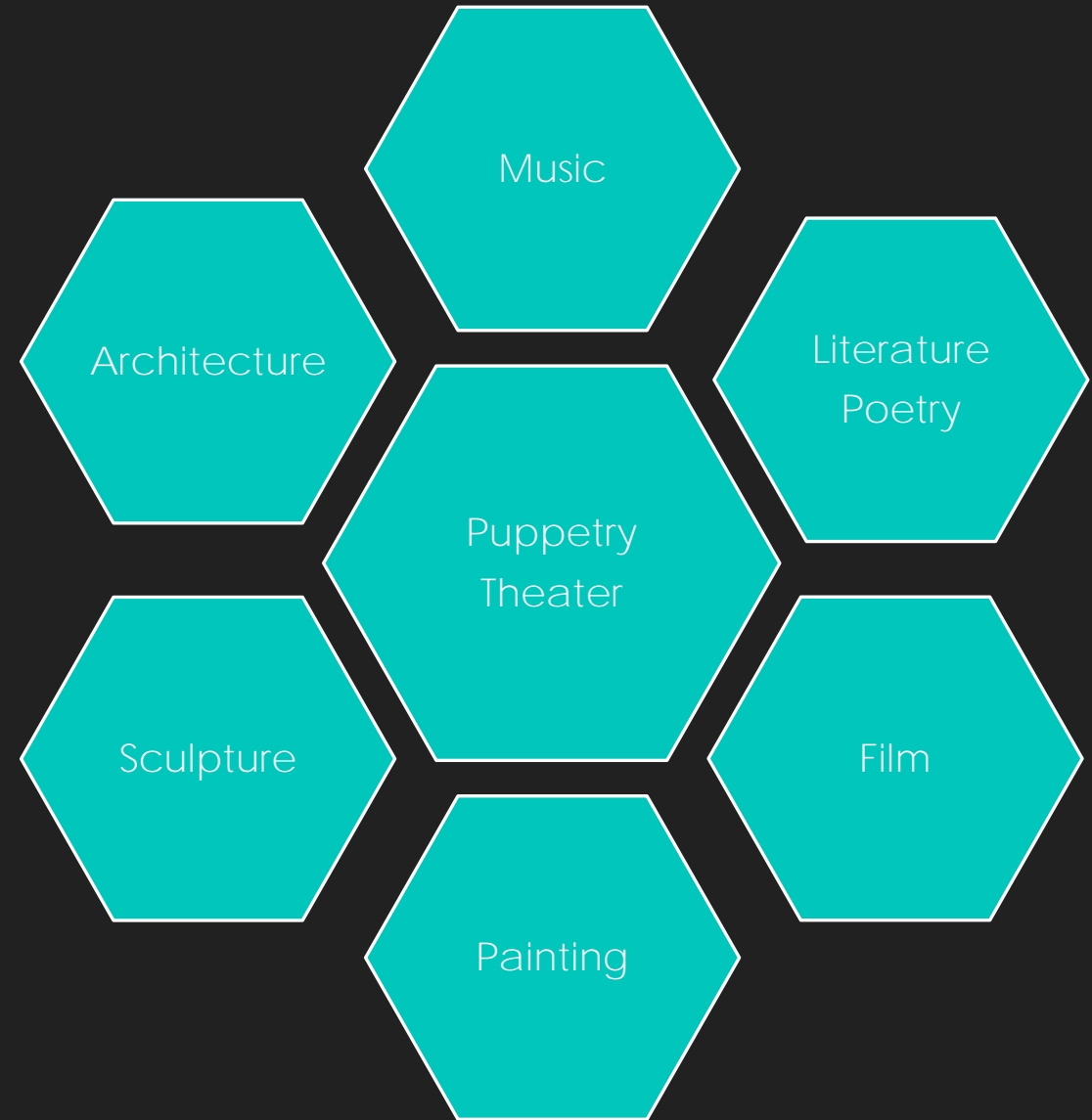
Why we use art



- experiential way of learning
- Active involvement
- Motivation for further study/ research
- Work individually, in couples and teams
- Adapts in diversity/ plurality of class
(ex. Cognitive level, skills, idiosyncrasy)
- Nourish empathy and critical thinking

Puppetry

A complex form of art



Puppetry provides children with opportunities to achieve the following educational goals:

- To develop creative expression
- To stimulate and enhance imagination
- To develop spontaneous oral expression
- To improve speech, enunciation and voice projection
- To practice writing skills, become more fluent in oral reading
- To appreciate the value of literature
- To develop coordination and sense of timing
- To gain self-esteem and self-confidence
- To release fears, aggressions and frustrations in acceptable ways through the stories they act out
- To develop social interaction skills and skills in problem solving
- To improve fine motor skills and sharpen listening skills
- To learn to cooperate and contribute to the whole team
- To observe the world through their senses
- To improve their memory and observation
- To complete the tasks they undertake.

The puppet in foreground of environmental education



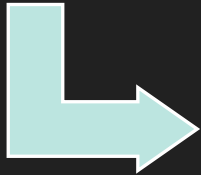
Let's play puppetry!

□ Puppet is any object, which through its movement acquires dramatic function- role.

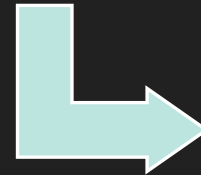


When the educator get involved in puppetry process

The students attend the live spectacle with interest



They experiment with puppets, reenact the story & they identify with the heroes



They give their own extensions, get issues & questions

Looking for suitable text

Fairy tales

Literature

Poetry

Song

Myths

True facts

Text selection is related to targeting/ purpose

The advantage of art is that with proper adaptation it can appeal to all ages



Examples from the Literary Texts of the 2nd High School

SEATTLE INDIAN

An old message for the
modern world

Subject: expropriation of
forests

True facts

IN THE BURNT PLACES

Poetry: Michalis Gkanas

Music: Lavrentis Machairitsas

Subject: Fires

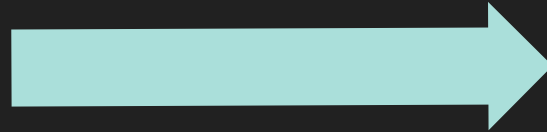
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGQmP9Iji84>



Methodology

The steps to make a puppetry text

Structure



Dramaturgy

Structure

1. Introduction of main character
2. Conflict- problem (with another character, with elements of nature ect)
3. Magic helper (other character)
4. Repetition and rhythm
5. Climax- zenith
6. Finale- moral solution



Dramaturgy

```
graph LR; A[Dramaturgy] --> B[Heroes]; A --> C[Scenes]; A --> D[Music Rythm]; A --> E[Props Scenography];
```

Heroes

Scenes

Music
Rythm

Props
Scenography

Lesson Plan- It's your turn!

- Theme/ purpose
- Text
- Scenes
- Heroes
- Music
- Scenography



The brown bear example

Life Bear Smart Coribors,

University of Thessaly

*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Laboratory of Microbiology &
Parasitology*



Performance's purpose

- ❑ Bear's nutrition
- ❑ Living and reproduction
- ❑ Barrier of myths and prejudices



Become familiar with Mousouda (snout), the brown bear





Anti- hero, the bear hunter



Magic helper, the winter's bird



Connection and react after performance



LIFE BEAR SMART CORRIDORS

Ενίσχυση της βιωσιμότητας των καφέ αρκούδων στην Κεντρική Ιταλία και την Ελλάδα, μέσω της ανάπτυξης διαδρόμων συνύπαρξης με τον άνθρωπο
LIFE20NAT/NL/1107



18-10-23
25-10-23

Το Εργαστήριο Μικροβιολογίας & Παρασιτολογίας του **ΤΜΗΜΑΤΟΣ ΚΤΗΝΙΑΤΡΙΚΗΣ** του Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλίας σε συνεργασία με το Εργαστήρι Τέχνης & Εκπαίδευσης **ΒΥΣΣΙΝΟΚΗΠΟΣ** διοργανώνει εκδηλώσεις ενημέρωσης-ευαισθητοποίησης για την καφέ αρκούδα προς τους μαθητές της Α΄ θμιας εκπαίδευσης

ΠΑΡΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΘΕΑΤΡΟΥ ΚΟΥΚΛΑΣ
με τη συνοδεία ζωντανής μουσικής

ΗΒΟΥΧΙΑ...
θα ζυπνήσει η καφέ αρκούδα



ΚΕΙΜΕΝΟ-ΣΚΗΝΟΘΕΣΙΑ:
ΕΒΙΤΑ ΑΓΓΕΛΗ
ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΘΕΣΗ:
ΒΑΓΓΕΛΗΣ ΠΕΠΟΝΗΣ

ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΥΠΟΣΤΗΡΙΞΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΗΣ
ΒΙΒΛΙΟΘΗΚΗΣ ΚΑΛΑΜΠΑΚΑΣ



Thank you!

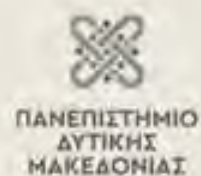
Evita Aggeli

aggelievita@gmail.com

vissinokipos.gr@gmail.com



Action E.5. Environmental Education Activities



01. The Action

02. The methodology

03. The Paths of Co-Existence

04. Dissemination

**Table of
content**

01.

The Action

Objective

- Identify, map & promote thematic bear trails in 3 National Parks:
 - Prespa NP & Rhodope Mountain Range NP (CALLISTO)
 - Majella NP (WWF)
- Enhance public awareness & conservation efforts through education.

Trail Delineation & Mapping

- Conducted in collaboration with NP staff.
- Trails designed for easy access, scenic beauty, & bear presence.
- Additional unmarked paths identified for flexible educational use with portable activity boxes.



Environmental Education

- Goal: Raise awareness about human-bear coexistence.
- Actions:
 - Orientation signs and Interpretation boards – Bear biology, conservation threats & habitat insights in the paths.
 - Informational leaflet for children and visitors. trail details & educational activities.
 - Educational guides for teachers with educational activities.
 - Workshops & guided visits – Engaging students, locals & visitors.

Impact: Promoting nature conservation, education & ecotourism, strengthening human-bear coexistence in protected areas.



The material

- 2 National Parks in Greece,
- 3 Coexistence Trails
 - 1 in Prespa National Park
 - 2 in Rodopi Mountain Range National Park,
- 2 Guides for educators with information and suggested activities (one for each national park),
- 2 Brochures for students and visitors (one for each national park),
- Activity Boxes Materials to enrich the visitor experience on the paths,
- Interpretive boards and Orientation Signs along the Coexistence Trails.



02.

The methodology

The environmental interpretation paths

- Help children and visitors to learn more about the environment.
- Develop their understanding and skills in addressing environmental challenges.

Through the Paths of Coexistence, we aim to:

- Inform, inspire, and encourage the development of critical thinking.
- Enable individuals to take action as active members of society.
- Support participation in decision-making processes regarding environmental quality issues.



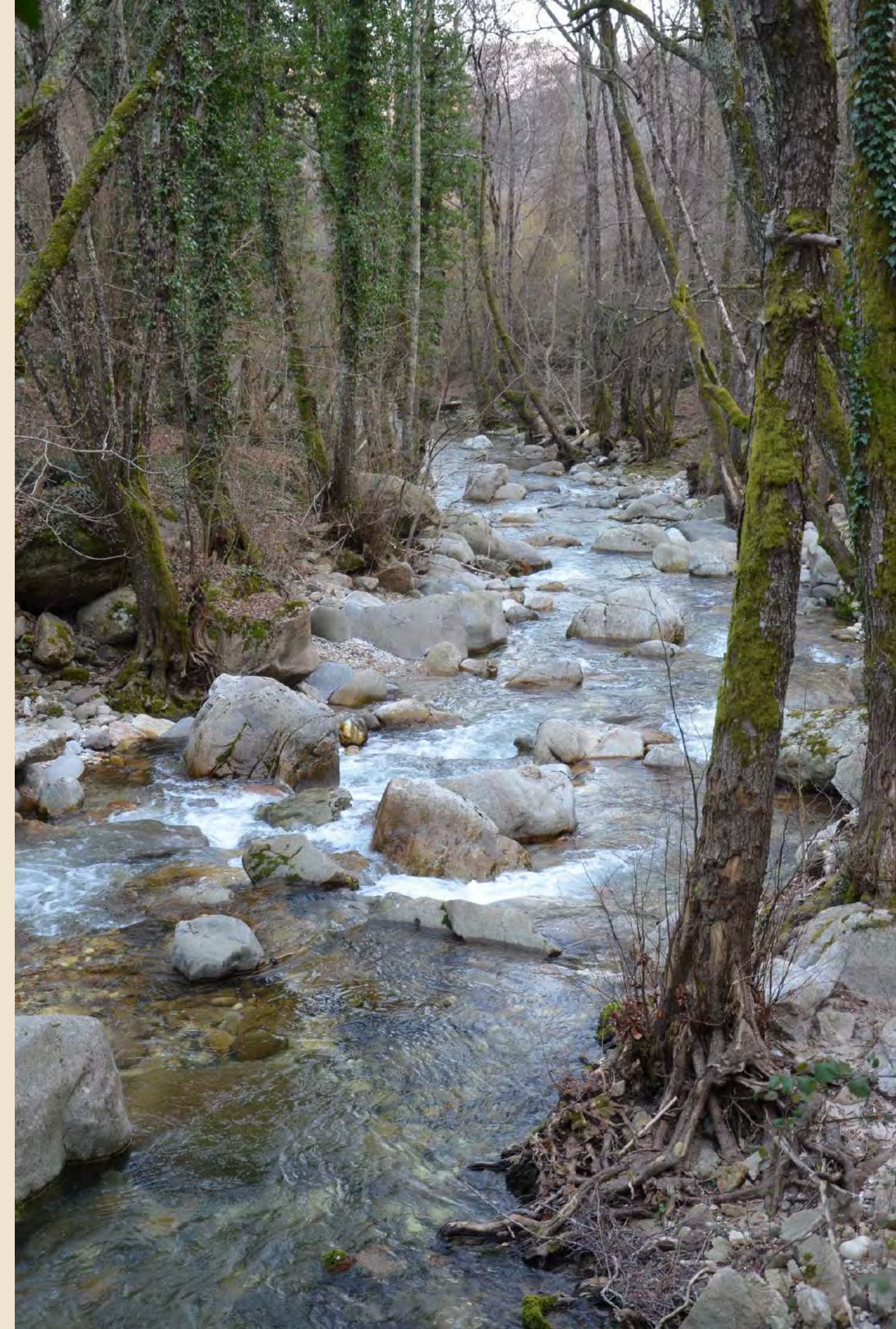
Field-based environmental education

involves:

- The creation of interpretive trails using existing ones.
- Contributing to environmental education processes.
- Enhancing educational opportunities.

Education for Coexistence, responds to reality and helps us to:

- Understand the complex and contradictory network of natural and social processes.
- Recognize how these processes continuously shape our environment.



The criteria for the selection of the Paths

1. Safety of Students/Visitors

- The trail must be safe, free from hazards (steep slopes, rivers, old wells, toxic waste, etc.).
- It should be wide, well-marked, and easy to follow.
- Avoid narrow or steep paths, especially for groups of 15+ students.



2. Accessibility

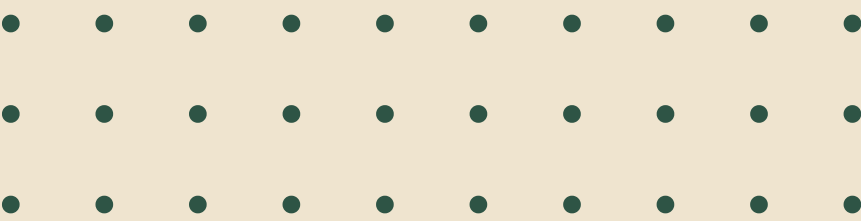
- The trail starts and ends near a paved road.
- It is easily accessible from main roads and close to urban areas.
- Proximity to schools reduces transport costs and allows more time for activities.

3. Trail Length

- Suitable for different age groups:
 - Shorter and easier for younger students.
 - Longer options for older students and visitors.
- Ideally, a flexible design with shorter and longer route options.
- Maximum length: 5 km, avoiding steep inclines to reduce fatigue.

4. Landscape Quality

- The trail should offer variety (forest, clearings, scenic views).
- It should provide shade but not be completely enclosed.
- Include resting spots, open areas for activities, and access to drinking water.
- Geologically interesting features (rock formations, cliffs) add value.

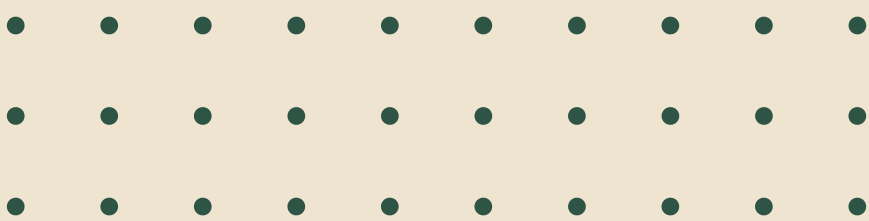


5. Habitats & Bear Presence

- The trail should pass through key bear habitats (oak forests, mixed woodlands, orchards).
- It should allow observation of wildlife and natural signs of bear activity.
- Diverse ecosystems enhance both educational and aesthetic experiences.

6. Human Presence

- Close to villages for cultural and historical context.
- Access to essential services (food, accommodation, safety).
- Passing through farmlands and grazing areas helps highlight human-wildlife interactions.



7. Integration with Regional Trails & Activities

- Usable for both short and long excursions.
- Connected to other trails.
- Supports sustainable tourism & environmental education.
- Aligns with regional tourism and conservation plans.
- Encourages student engagement and critical thinking through interactive activities.



The main subject of the educational material

The educational material focus on the bear and its coexistence with humans. The areas where the Paths of Coexistence were developed are landscapes shaped over thousands of years by continuous human presence and activity.

Traditional practices such as livestock farming, mountain agriculture, sustainable logging, and beekeeping, along with roads, streams, rivers, lakes, and settlements, have left a deep imprint on the landscape. Wildlife has adapted to these conditions.



03.

The Paths of Co-Existence

Oxia – Mikrolimni Trail

STARTING POINT: Oxia Settlement, altitude 855m.

TERMINATION: Mikrolimni Settlement

LENGTH: 4440 m.

AVERAGE WALKING TIME: 2 hours

AVERAGE DURATION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM: 4 hours

Our tour starts from the settlement of Oxia. We follow the uphill dirt road to the south, towards the slopes of the mountain, crossing meadows and old fields. We reach the boundaries of the forest, where we follow a wide path between oak and other deciduous trees. We find again the forest dirt road and after about 2.5 km we reach the meadow of Latsista. In front of us is the Lesser Prespa with its banks covered by an extensive reed bed, an important habitat for birds. As we approach the shores of the lake, we meet the lakeside path that connects Mikrolimni with the abandoned settlement of Kranies. If we were to continue to the left (or southwest) following the old road, after 2.2 km we would reach the ruins of the old settlement.

We continue to the right, cross the meadow of Latsista and go up the hill north of the meadow. The rest of the route, 1.3 km long, runs parallel to the shores, offering a beautiful view of the lake and of Vidronisi, while crossing the thin forest of junipers, a forest formation characteristic of the region. Our walking comes to its end at Mikrolimni, where we can again observe the birds and the fish in the reed beds around the small pier.

Kranies

Fruit bearing trees

Stork (Ciconia Ciconia)

Juniper Forest (Juniperetum excelsae)

Reed beds

Latsista

Mikrolimni

Termination

Forest of oaks

Bear (Ursus Arctos)

Starting point

Oxia

Herds

Beehives

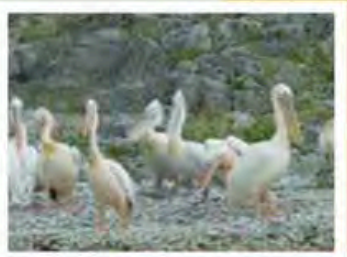
Fields

Church of Mikrolimni

Dalmatian Pelican (Pelecanus crispus)

Vidronisi

Mount Triklario



1st route: The trail of Prasinada

STARTING POINT: Settlement of Prasinada
LENGTH OF TRAIL: 6 km
AVERAGE WALKING TIME: 2 hours
AVERAGE PROGRAM DURATION: 4 hours

The trail starts from the Square of Prasinada. We follow the old road to the north and we descend into the valley among old farms and abandoned fields, which are being quickly forested today. Around us, we observe the remains of the old berms and dry-stone walls, while at the same time we enjoy the view of the valley with the rocky outcrops, the «Meteora» of Prasinada.

After walking 1,400 meters, we reach the Oxia (beech tree) stream, one of the many streams in the area that retains water all year round. We descend smoothly, until in the last part of the trail we move away from the stream for a while. We walk over the few mountainous fields that have remained in the area and end up on the asphalt, on the road to the Dipotama settlement.



Paranetsti - Dipotama

Starting point
Prasinada

Orchards



Monastery of the Transfiguration
of the Christ



Brown bear
(Ursus Arctos)

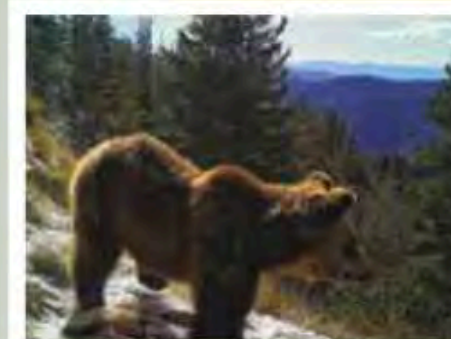
Riverine forest

Oxia (beech tree) stream

Oak forest

Termination

Fields



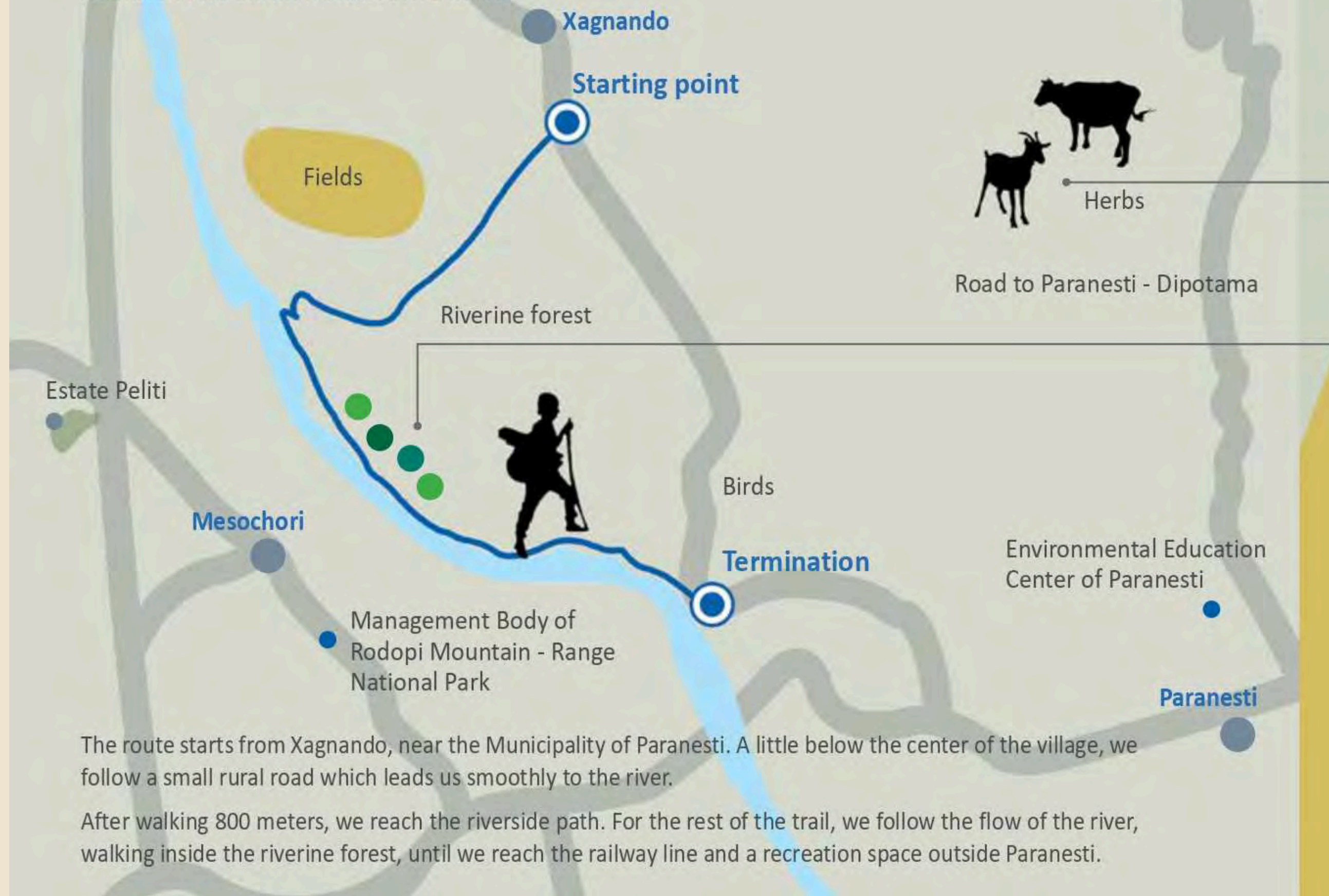
2nd route: In the riverine forest of Nestos

STARTING POINT: Settlement of Xagnando

LENGTH OF TRAIL: 2.2 km

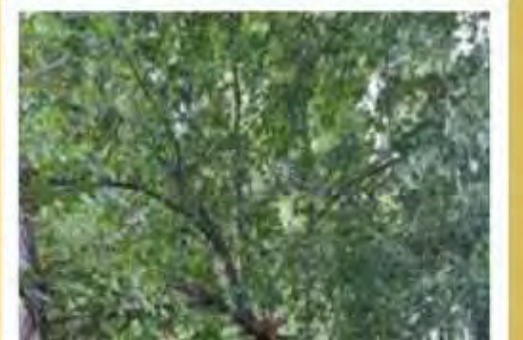
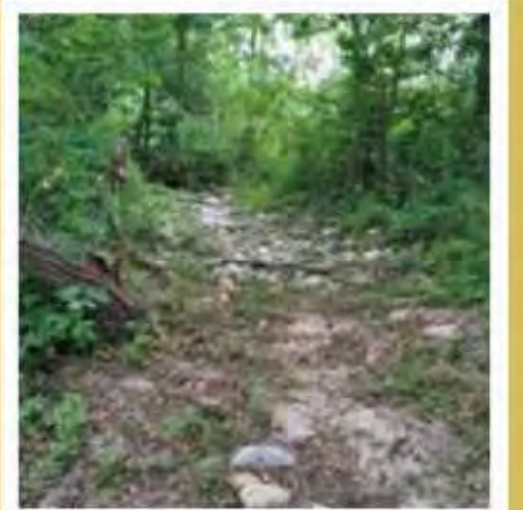
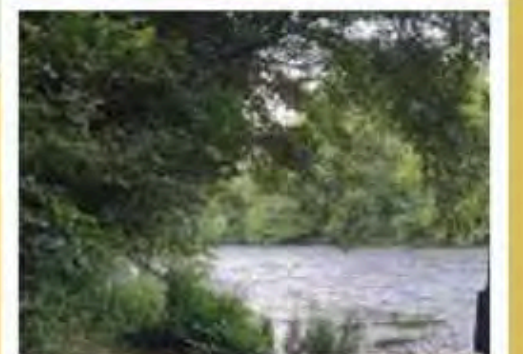
AVERAGE WALKING TIME: Approximately 1 hour

AVERAGE PROGRAM DURATION: 2 hours



The route starts from Xagnando, near the Municipality of Paranesti. A little below the center of the village, we follow a small rural road which leads us smoothly to the river.

After walking 800 meters, we reach the riverside path. For the rest of the trail, we follow the flow of the river, walking inside the riverine forest, until we reach the railway line and a recreation space outside Paranesti.



**The thematic
units of the Paths
of Coexistence**

1st route: The trail of Prasinada

1st Thematic unit: The place and the people

Prasinada, or Tzoura, as the settlement was called until 1927, is one of the few inhabited settlements that have remained in the mountains of Central Rodopi. After the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey, the Turkish-speaking Muslims left, and the settlement was inhabited by 37 families of Pontic origin. The latter engaged in agriculture, logging, and animal husbandry. The current inhabitants of the Rodopi Mountain-Range National Park are mostly refugees from Pontus and Asia Minor, as well as Pomaks, while the number of Thracians is smaller.

I look around for the remnants of another era: berms, dry-stone walls, stone roadways.

I imagine what the area would have looked like a hundred years ago.

2nd Thematic unit: The Bear in the forest

Crops and orchards are gradually giving way to the oak forest and other deciduous trees. This is an ideal place for the bear, as it can search for its food here, but also find hiding places to protect itself.

The Bear is the largest wild mammal on the European mountains. It is considered an animal with exceptional intelligence, memory, as well as curiosity. It is omnivorous but prefers plant foods such as fruits from

shrubs and from other fruit-bearing trees. In the past, due to the fragmentation of its habitats, the illegal hunting and poisoned baits, the bear population had reached dangerously low levels. Today, however, the population has begun to grow again. Although the conflict continues, we cannot but recognize that there is a long tradition of coexistence of the wildlife and the inhabitants of mountainous settlements.

On the way, I am looking for traces of the brown bear: footprints, excrement, broken branches, hairs on tree trunks. I note down -and sometimes try- food sources: fruit trees, blackberries, acorns, etc.

3rd Thematic unit: Rodopi Mountain Range: two countries, one goal

The protected area of the Rodopi Mountain Range was institutionally established in 2002. In 2009 it was designated as a National Park. Seven (7) areas of the National Park have been incorporated in the Pan-European Network of Protected Areas Natura 2000. The Rodopi Mountain Range Management Body is responsible for the management of the area. A visit to its headquarters in Mesochori of the Municipality of Paranești can answer many questions about its role and operation.

I think and discuss what is the best that can be done for the protection of nature and its coexistence with the people and the activities of the area.

2nd route: In the riverine forest of Nestos

1st Thematic unit: From crop cultivations to the riverine forest

The fields and the wildlife

The fields we see around us are nowadays covered with annual arable crops, corn and cereals.

In the past, we might have been able to see a wider variety of crops. The modern production patterns and the market have imposed greater uniformity on the agricultural crops, displacing the traditional varieties and replacing them with commercial hybrids, thus burdening the soil and the aquifer with fertilizers and pesticides.

Even so, the agricultural lands of the area remain a necessary and integral part of the landscape. Small mammals and tens of species of birds feed themselves there. Agricultural cultivations, especially when taking place in an innocuous manner, keep the land alive and protect it from erosion – the threat of which is escalated by climate change.

I identify the different crops around me. What nutriment does each of them give me?

2nd Thematic unit: Nestos, the life-giving power of the river

Nestos is the real protagonist of the area. A river that connects two countries, giving life to people, forests and wild animals.

It originates from Mount Rila in central Bulgaria, passes under the Rodopi Mountain Range, flows through the fertile valley from Paranești to Stavrúpoli and then enters the Straits of Nestos. After the village of Toxotes there begins the great plain of its estuary, the Nestos Delta, one of the most important wetlands in the country, but also a rich rural area over millennia thanks to the sediments of the river.

This great river, however, is facing serious challenges today, with the main one being the fact that its course is no longer unhindered.

I imagine the course of every drop of water, every grain of soil that flows inside the river. Where it might be coming from, where it might end up.

1st Thematic unit:

The place and the people

We are in the settlement of Oxia (former name Bukovik). The few inhabited houses of the settlement maintain the image of the local architecture. The few inhabitants are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry.

Part of our route follows a section of the old mule track which, until the end of the 19th century, connected Monastery with Korytsa. In the area of Latsista we find the cross-road leading to the now abandoned settlement of Kranies (former name Drenovo). For as long as the old road was still in operation, the settlement was bustling with life.

Our route ends at the settlement of Mikrolimni (former name Lag), a settlement of fishermen, stockbreeders and farmers.

I look around for the remains of another era: berms, dry-stone walls, stone roads.

I imagine what the area would have looked like a hundred years ago.

3rd Thematic unit:

The Prespes lakes

We are in the meadow of Latsista. In front of us the Lesser Prespa, which is almost entirely part of Greece, with a small part of it in the Southwest belonging to neighboring Albania. The Lesser Prespa, along with Great Prespa and the neighboring Ohrid are considered the oldest lakes on the European Continent.

In the waters of the lake there are two small islands, Agios Achilleios and Vidronisi that we see from our route.

I observe, draw, photograph, try to identify some of the tens of species of birds that fly or swim around us.

2nd Thematic unit:

The Bear in between the forests and the people

Crops and fruit bearing trees are gradually giving way to the forest of oaks and other deciduous trees. This is an ideal place for the bear, because here it can find food but also hiding places to protect itself.

The Bear is the largest wild mammal on the European mountains. It is considered an animal with exceptional intelligence, memory, as well as curiosity. It is omnivorous but prefers plant foods such as fruits from shrubs and from other fruit-bearing trees.

In the past, due to the fragmentation of its habitats, the illegal hunting and poisoned baits, the bear population had reached dangerously low levels. Today, however, its population has begun to grow again. Although conflicts continue, we cannot but recognize that there is a long tradition of coexistence of the wildlife and the inhabitants of mountainous settlements.

On the way, I am looking for traces of the brown bear: footprints, excrement, broken branches, hairs on tree trunks. I note down -and sometimes try- food sources: fruit trees, blackberries, acorns, etc.

4th Thematic unit:

«Three countries, two lakes, one future»

Leaving the meadow of Latsista behind us, we follow our way back, enjoying the view over the whole area of the lake.

Since 1974 the area has been declared a National Park. The area later joined the European Natura 2000 Network, with the aim of preserving the natural habitats as well as the wild fauna and flora. In 2000, with a joint Declaration of Greece, Albania and Northern Macedonia, there took place the creation of the Transboundary Prespa Park.

For the administration, protection and management of the area, the Prespa National Park Management Body was established, which operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

I think and discuss what is the best that can be done for the protection of nature and its coexistence with the people and the activities of the area.

**The installation
of the
environmental
interpretation
boards**



The start of the Path of Coexistence in Prasinada - Rodope National Park



A sing in the Path of Coexistence and a
view point of Prasinada



The finish of the Path of Coexistence in
Paranesti - Rodope National Park



A sing in the Path of Paranesti



The start of the Path of Coexistence in
Oxia - Mikrolimni, Prespes National Park



A sing in the Path of Coexistence and a view point of Oxia - Mikrolimni

04.

Dissemination

Μονοπάτια της Συνύπαρξης

Παρουσίαση και διαβούλευση προγράμματος
περιβαλλοντικής εκπαίδευσης στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Οροσειράς Ροδόπης

Παρουσίαση του Εθνικού Πάρκου Οροσειράς Ροδόπης

Lorem ipsum

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης στα Μονοπάτια της
Συνύπαρξης

Ανοιχτή διαβούλευση, με στόχο την τελική διαμόρφωση του υλικού ενημέρωσης και
ευαισθητοποίησης

Συνδιοργάνωση:



Τετάρτη 9 Ιουνίου 2021 | 17:00 - 19:00
Μέσω ZOOM

Μονοπάτια της Συνύπαρξης

Παρουσίαση και διαβούλευση προγράμματος
περιβαλλοντικής εκπαίδευσης στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Πρεσπών

Παρουσίαση του Εθνικού Πάρκου Πρεσπών

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης στα Μονοπάτια της
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ευαισθητοποίησης

Συνδιοργάνωση:



Δευτέρα 7 Ιουνίου 2021 | 17:00 - 19:00
Μέσω ZOOM

Prespes NP July 2022





**Vlasti
EcoFestival
July 2022**



**Kastoria
EcoFest August
2022**

**Paranesti
European
Green Days,
September
2022**



**Paranesti
European
Green Days,
September
2022**



Next Steps

Event in Prespes NP for the presentation of the Path of Coexistence to locals, educators and journalists

Event in Rodope NP for the presentation of the Path of Coexistence to locals, educators and journalists

Thank you

+30 2310 252530
info@callisto.gr
www.callisto.gr



ΚΑΛΛΙΣΤΩ



**LIFE
ARCPROM**



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**FEBRUARY 25-26-27, 2025
LARISSA, GREECE**

In the context of the LIFE PROJECT
“ARCPROM: Improving human-bear coexistence
in 4 National Parks of South Europe”

FINAL EVENT:
Outcomes of the LIFE ARCPROM Project
Advancing Knowledge and Practices
for Human-Bear Coexistence



COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS RAISING AS TOOLS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES: THE ROLE OF WWF

Actions E1+2+5

Marco Galaverni & Marco Antonelli –WWF Italy

LARGE CARNIVORES AND PERCEPTION



LIFE ARCPROM - LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National
Parks of South Europe



THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

Human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) are a global challenge, crucial to address the current biodiversity loss and ensure coexistence.

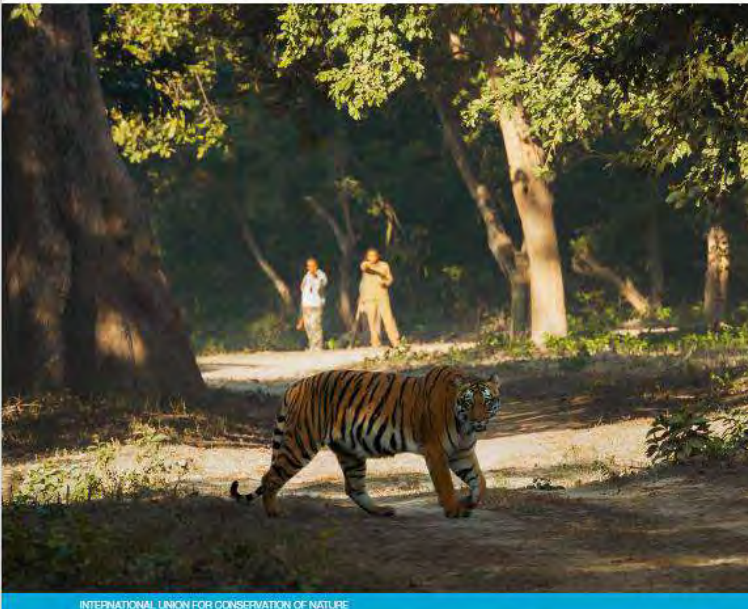


IUCN SSC guidelines
on human-wildlife conflict
and coexistence

First edition



**C2C: Conflict to
Coexistence Approach**



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



THE ROLE OF WWF: THEN AND NOW



LIFE ARCPRO
Improving human-bear



THE ROLE OF WWF: THEN AND NOW

- Expansion of several large carnivore populations
- Larger human-wildlife interface
- Time of social media: easy polarization, low understanding of complexity
- Higher attention to human dimension and communication

We need to:

- Prevent and manage conflicts
- Build bridges towards knowledge and acceptance



THE LIFE ARCPROM: COMMS & AWARENESS



BENTORNATO ORSO GENTILE

L'orso che vive in Appennino centrale (*Ursus arctos marsicanus*) è unico al mondo. Più piccolo del "cugino" europeo, mostra anche un temperamento più mansueto, grazie alla secolare coabitazione con l'uomo. Il peso è generalmente tra i 140 e i 210 kg nei maschi e inferiore ai 120 kg nelle femmine.

Purtroppo in natura rimangono poco più di 50 individui che vivono tra le montagne dell'Abruzzo, del Lazio e del Molise, in un territorio che include anche il Parco Nazionale della Maiella, dove è presente circa il 10% della popolazione. Incidenti stradali, bracconaggio e scarsità di corridoi ecologici sicuri sono tra le maggiori minacce.



È un animale onnivoro con una dieta costituita per oltre l'80% da vegetali, ma anche da insetti (soprattutto formiche) e carcasse.






Regole per un'escursione rispettosa dell'orso e dell'ambiente

-  Non uscire dai sentieri ufficiali del Parco.
-  Se hai un cane non entrare in zona A e segui i sentieri a 6 zampe indicati anche nel sito del Parco.
-  Non abbandonare mai cibo o scarti alimentari.

Se incontri un orso, ecco cosa fare:

-  Se ne vedi uno da lontano, non avvicinarti e goditi l'incontro.
-  Se lo incontri da vicino fermati, resta in silenzio e lascia che l'orso si allontani per la sua strada.
-  Se vedi l'orso dall'automobile, rallenta e non inseguirlo, attendi che l'orso si allontani con calma prima di ripartire.

Per saperne di più:
www.wwf.it
www.parcosiciliani.it



BENTORNATO ORSO GENTILE














BEARART: 4 opere di artisti e studenti d'arte coordinati dal Dipartimento di Belle Arti Applicate dell'Università della Macedonia Occidentale per il progetto LIFE Arcprom, Ioanna Zolota, Miriam Nioradze, Zoi Gazi







THE LIFE ARCPROM: COMMS & AWARENESS



LIFE ARCPROM - LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National
Parks of South Europe



THE LIFE ARCPROM: THE BEAR GAME

- Opportunity: «Edutainment»
- Goal: Knowing the Apennine brown bear and its habitat across the seasons
- Roles: kids, beekeeper, farmer



- Outdoor or indoor
- Both standard and gigantic-sized
- Distribution: schools, guides, educators

LIFE ARCPROM - LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National
Parks of South Europe





Thank you

LIFE ARCPROM - LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National
Parks of South Europe





LIFE
ARCPROM



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VOLUNTEERING FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION: TACKLING THE ILLEGAL USE OF POISON BAIT

Effie Gelastopoulou

Maria Psaralexi

Scope

Mobilizing volunteers to support efforts to reduce the illegal use of poisoned baits



How?

1. Volunteer mobilization
2. Volunteer training workshops
3. Enhance awareness and raise sensitivity to minimize the illegal use of poisoned baits (adults and children)
4. Patrolling to detect poisoned baits
5. Other activities:
 - a) Bear biosign surveys
 - b) Interact with the local community and deliberate on human-wildlife conflict issues (e.g. damage prevention measures, other types of wildlife crime etc.)
 - c) Collaborate with local authorities and stakeholders to carry out other community-driven initiatives:
 - Old path clearing and signage
 - Environmental cleanup effort – garbage collection



Volunteer mobilization

2021-2023

- ❖ Open call made public
 - Existing volunteer lists
 - Social media
 - Callisto's newsletter
 - Local press

Κάλεσμα σε εθελοντικό πρόγραμμα

Η "Καλλιστώ" σας καλεί σε δράσεις
εθελοντισμού στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Πρεσπών

OPEN

Από τις 18 έως και τις 24 Ιουλίου θα είμαστε στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Πρεσπών με δράσεις που αφορούν στον βασικό στόχο του έργου LIFE ARCPROM που είναι η μείωση της χρήσης δηλητηριασμένων δολωμάτων.

Για δηλώσεις συμμετοχής μπορείτε να επικοινωνείτε
έως τη Τετάρτη 21 Ιουνίου

☎ 2310 252539

✉ volunteers.callisto@gmail.com

🌐 Φόρμα συμμετοχής



Volunteer mobilization

2021-2023

❖ Open call made public

- Existing volunteer lists
- Social media
- Callisto's newsletter
- Local press

❖ Volunteer application

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✉ volunteers.callisto@gmail.com
🌐 Φόρμα συμμετοχής



Δήλωση στοιχείων για το εθελοντικό πρόγραμμα στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Πρεσπών

Με την παρούσα φόρμα δηλώνεται το σποράκι σας για την ασφαλή σας κατά τη διάρκεια των εθελοντικών προγραμμάτων που οργανώνει η Καλλιστώ στο πλαίσιο του έργου LIFE ARCPROM και συγκεκριμένα της δράσης G.6. Κοινοπραξία Εθελοντών

1) Όνομα (όπως καταγράφεται στην ταυτότητα σας ή όποιο άλλο νομιμοποιητικό έγγραφο έχετε στην Ελλάδα)

2) Επίθετο (όπως καταγράφεται στην ταυτότητα σας ή όποιο άλλο νομιμοποιητικό έγγραφο έχετε στην Ελλάδα)

3) "Ημερομηνία γέννησης:"

4) Διεύθυνση Τ.Κ. και τόπος "

Volunteer mobilization

2021-2023

❖ Open call made public

- Existing volunteer lists
- Social media
- Callisto's newsletter
- Local press

❖ Volunteer application

Κάλεσμα σε εθελοντικό πρόγραμμα

Η "Καλλιστώ" σας καλεί σε δράσεις εθελοντισμού στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Πρεσπών

OPEN

Από τις 18 έως και τις 24 Ιουλίου θα είμαστε στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Πρεσπών με δράσεις που αφορούν στον βασικό στόχο του έργου LIFE ARCPROM που είναι η μείωση της χρήσης δηλητηριασμένων δολωμάτων.

Για δηλώσεις συμμετοχής μπορείτε να επικοινωνείτε έως τη Τετάρτη 21 Ιουνίου

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✉ volunteers.callisto@gmail.com
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1) Όνομα (όπως καταγράφεται στην ταυτότητα σας ή όποιο άλλο νομιμοποιητικό έγγραφο έχετε στην Ελλάδα)

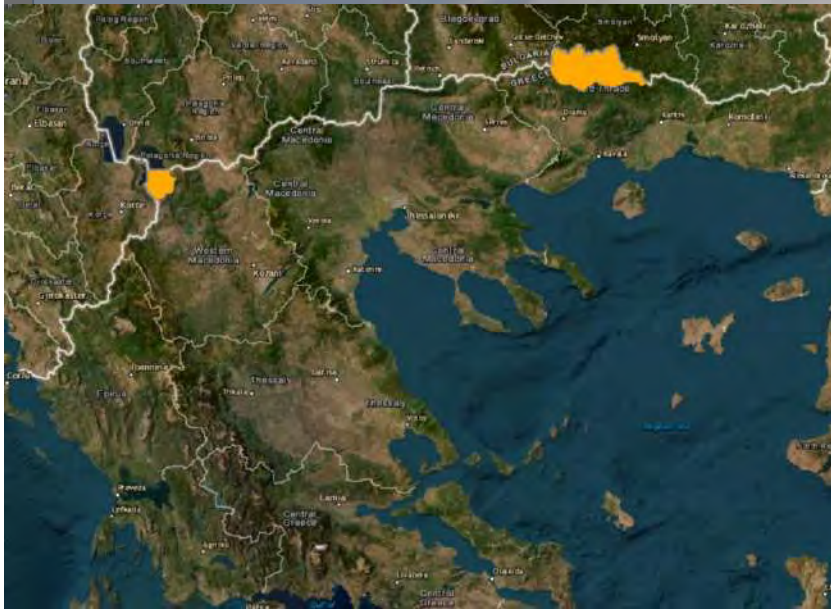
2) Επίθετο (όπως καταγράφεται στην ταυτότητα σας ή όποιο άλλο νομιμοποιητικό έγγραφο έχετε στην Ελλάδα)

3) Ημερομηνία γέννησης:

4) Διεύθυνση Τ.Κ. και τόπος *

59 applications ? 31 volunteers

Volunteer mobilization



	2021	2022	2023
Number of volunteers/ applications	8/22	11/19	12/18
Duration	21 days	21 days	21 days
Location	Prespa National Park - Rodopi Mountain Range National Park	Prespa National Park	Prespa National Park

- Screening procedure
- Interview
- Selection of volunteers and alternates

- All volunteers were privately insured
- The project covered accommodation and meals

Volunteer training workshops

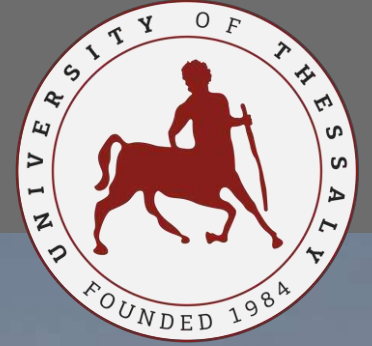


❖ Training material

- Callisto's vision and work so far
- LIFE ARCPROM
- National Park: history, socioeconomics, culture, ecological profile etc.
- Brown bear biology and ecology
- Monitoring methods and protocols
- Human – wildlife conflict issues and mitigation/prevention measures



Volunteer training workshops



❖ Training material

- The status of illegal poisoned bait use in Greece & in the National Park
- The common causes and impacts of poisoned baits
- Management of poisoning incidents and authorities involved in combating illegal poisoned bait use
- Legal framework
- Introduction of Anti-poison kits
- Necessary biosecurity measures and guidelines for collecting evidence in situ
- Detection and removal of poisoned baits and/or affected animals
- Guidelines for administering first aid to an intoxicated animal

Volunteer training workshops

❖ Additional introductions

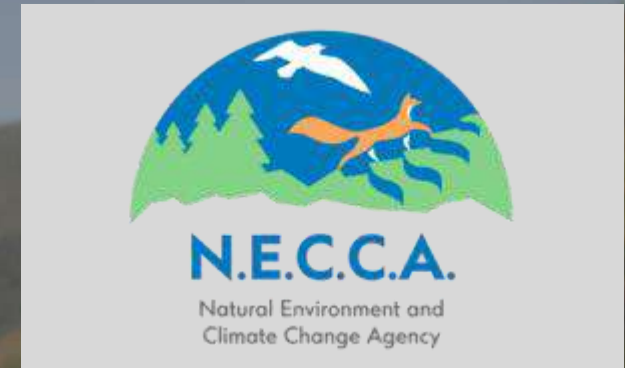
- Visit the National Park Management Body offices: guided tours inside and outside



Volunteer training workshops

❖ Additional introductions

- Visit the National Park Management Body offices: guided tours inside and outside
- Meeting with the Society for the Protection of Prespa personnel

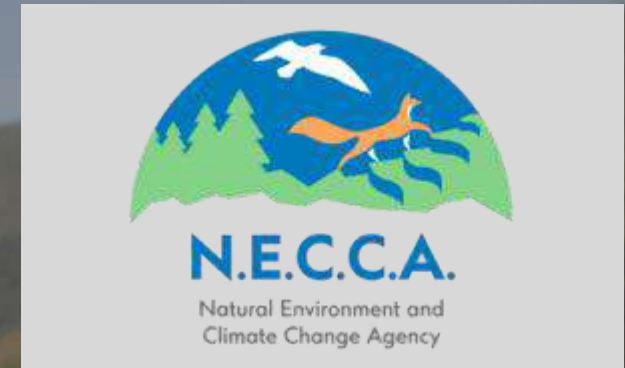


Volunteer training workshops

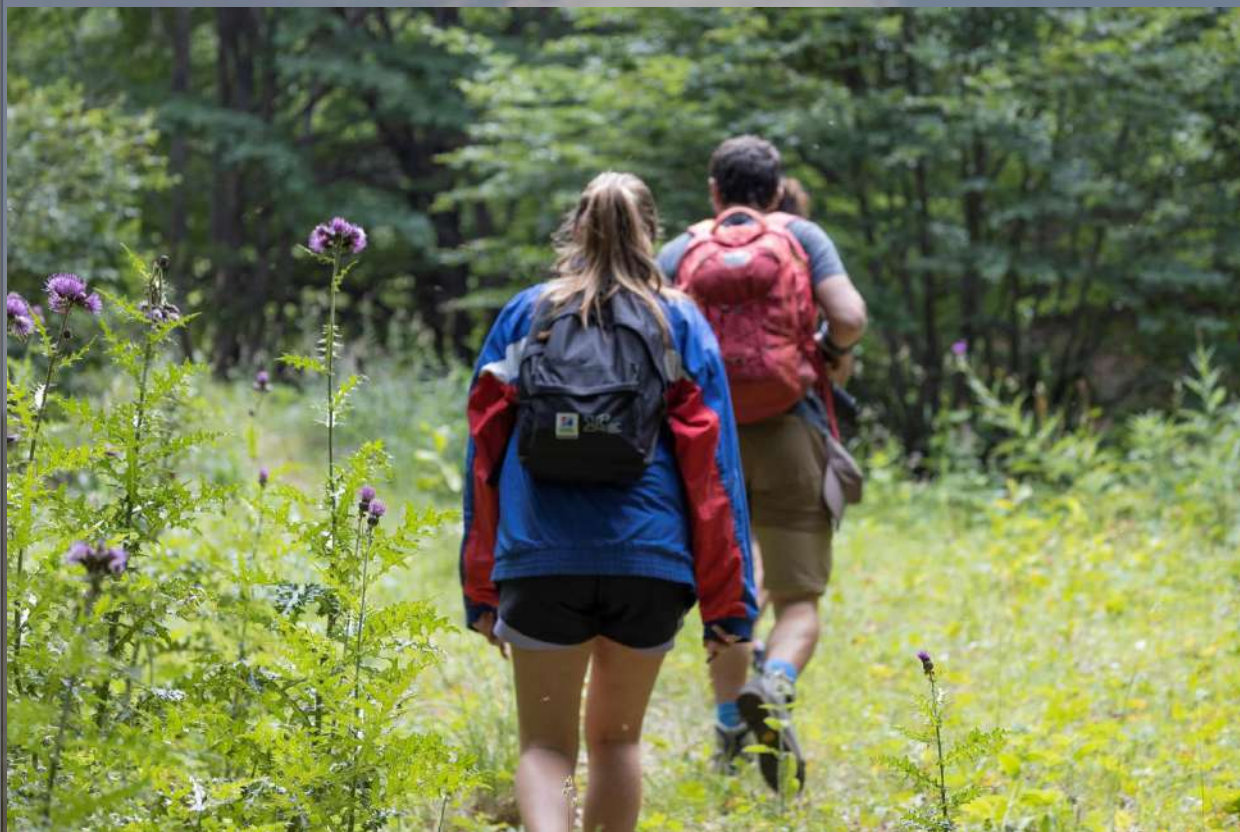


❖ Additional introductions

- Visit the National Park Management Body offices: guided tours inside and outside
- Meeting with the Society for the Protection of Prespa personnel
- Local stakeholders introduced “their Prespa”



Volunteer activities: Patrolling to detect poisoned baits



Volunteer activities: Bear biosign surveys



Volunteer activities: Interact with the local community and deliberate on human-wildlife conflict issues



Volunteer activities: Enhance awareness and raise sensitivity (adults and children)



Volunteer activities: Enhance awareness and raise sensitivity (adults and children)



International Walking Arts Encounters/Conference:

Walking Visions/Visions for Walking



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN MACEDONIA
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

Department of Fine and Applied Arts



Volunteer activities: Enhance awareness and raise sensitivity (adults and children)

Earth Festival in Vlasti



Βλαστότοπος 2023
Το χωριό των Βλασταριών
5-9 ΙΟΥΛΗ 2023 - ΒΛΑΣΤΗ
ΣΥΝΤΟΜΕΤΡΙΑ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ
Η ΖΑΧΑΡΟΥΛΑ ΒΕΖΥΡΗ

Πέμπτη 6 Ιουλίου 2023
18.00-20.00
Παραδοσιακά παιχνίδια του χωριού
ΣΤΗΝ ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ

Παρασκευή 7 Ιουλίου 2023
11.00-12.15 Χειροτεχνίες με υλικά της φύσης
12.15-13.00 Παρασκευή κεριού
13.00-14.00 Το κυνήγι του χαμένου βελανιδιού
18.00-19.15 Φτιάχνοντας «άγριες» ιστορίες
19.15-20.00 Γνωριμία και βόλτα με τα άλογα
ΣΤΟ ΒΟΥΝΟ

Σάββατο 8 Ιουλίου 2023
11.00-14.00 Περπατώ περπατώ στο δάσος
18.00-19.15 Παράσταση κλόουν με τον Τιμολέων Τιραμόλο
19.15-20.00 Ζωγραφίζουμε τα πρόσωπα μας
ΣΤΗΝ ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ

Κυριακή 9 Ιουλίου 2023
11.00-12.30 Ιστορίες με πηλό, του μαζί και του έξω.
12.30-14.00 Κατασκευαστικά παιχνίδια
ΣΤΟ ΒΟΥΝΟ

2023 EARTHFESTIVAL FREECAMPING FOREST HIKING WORKSHOPS KIDS AREA 1240M



Volunteer activities: Environmental cleanup effort – garbage collection



Καθαρίζουμε μαζί τα ρέματα της Πρέσπας

Τρίτη 11/07 και Κυριακή 16/07 στις 9:00
σημείο συνάντησης Δημαρχείο Πρεσπών, Λαιμός

με καλή διάθεση για δράση και γνωριμία με την περιοχή θα σας περιμένουμε
να μετακινηθούμε μαζί στα ρέματα της περιοχής που έχει εντοπιστεί
συγκέντρωση απορριμμάτων

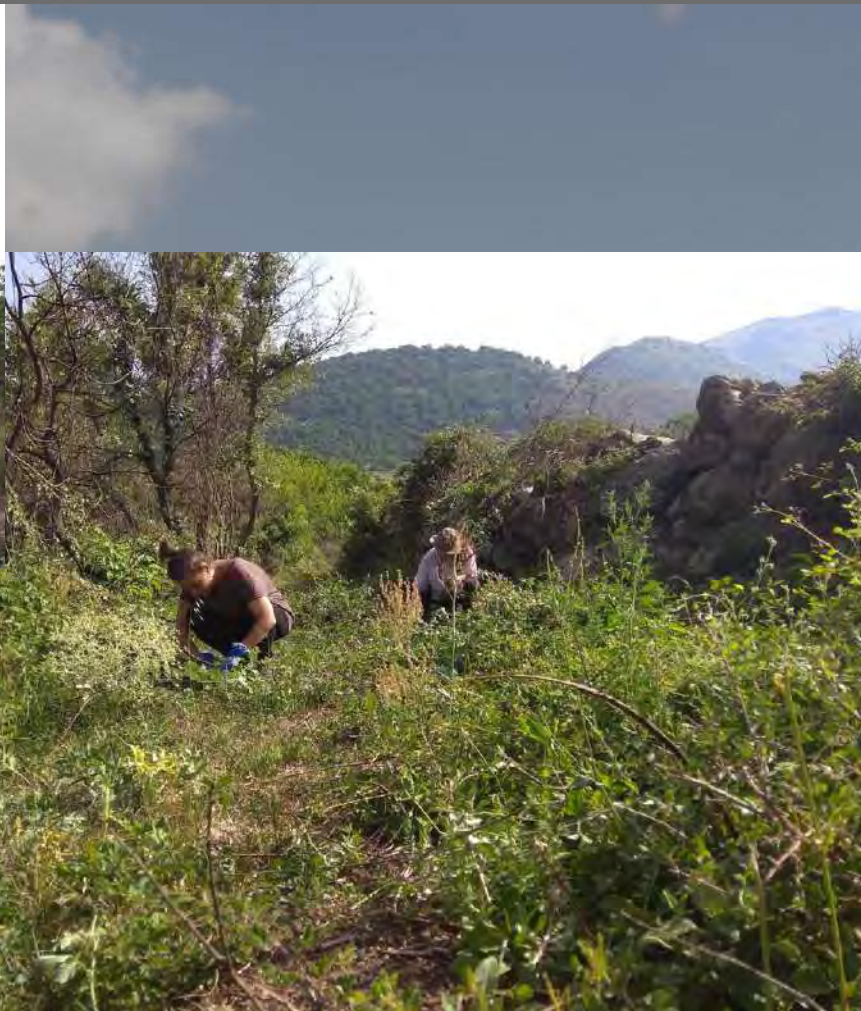
Το κείμενο γίνεται από την Εθνική Προστασία, Τροπικών, τη Μονάδα Διαχείρισης Θηλαστικών, Πτηνών και Αρθροποδών και
Παρατηρητήριο Μασοτόπων και την Καλλιανή, Παραδοσιακή εγκατάσταση και την Αγία Σοφία και τη Φύση.



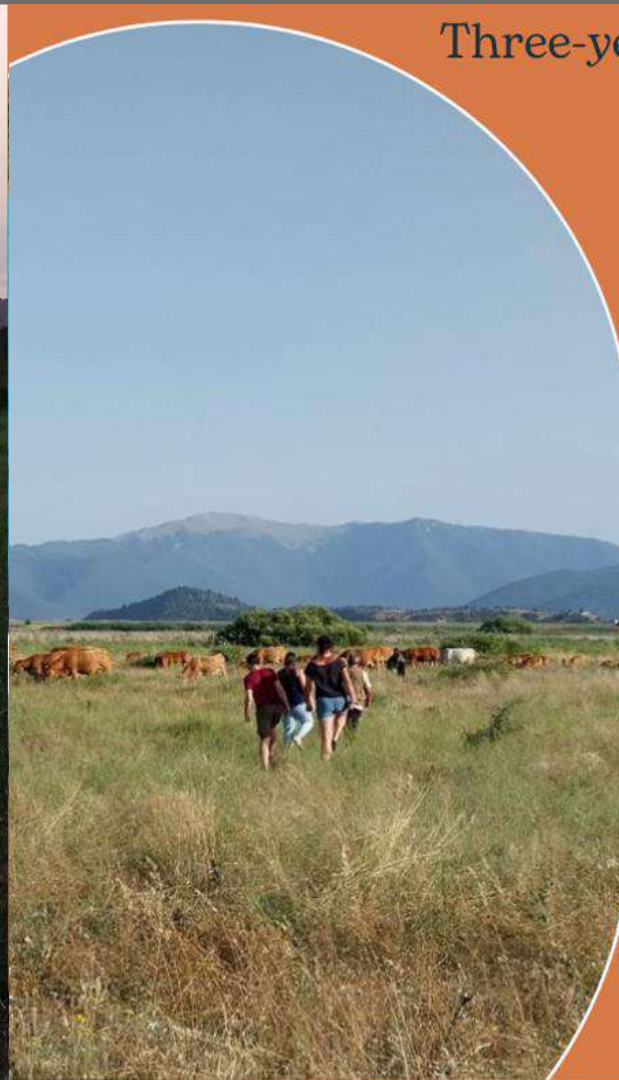
Volunteer activities: Environmental cleanup effort – garbage collection



Volunteer activities: Old path clearing and signage



All in all



Three-year implementation (2021 - 2023)

63

days of volunteering
activities

31

volunteers who participated

3

long-term volunteers

15

patrols for poison baits

All in all



Three-year implementation (2021 - 2023)

8

hiking tours to record bear
presence

10

informational meetings with
residents and visitors

3

actions to clean streams
and lakeside areas

2

restored trails

Thank you!





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MOBILISATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMUNICATION AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN THE MAIELLA NATIONAL PARK

ACTION C6

Marco Antonelli – WWF Italy

WWF AND VOLUNTEERS INVOLVEMENT

- The WWF Italy has played a fundamental role in engaging volunteers in environmental issues since its founding in 1966.
- WWF in his history created a network of supporters and volunteers dedicated to concrete actions to protect our planet.
- Volunteers became an essential part of the organization, contributing to the protection of wildlife and ecosystems.



THE VOLUNTEERS NETWORK OF WWF ITALY

- WWF Italy has a territorial volunteer network of thousands of people, who, according to their skills and availability, cover all areas of the association's activities: from conservation actions in the field to environmental education and awareness-raising.
- To promote the activation of volunteers, WWF Italy has created various 'thematic networks' (Protected Areas Network, Large Carnivores Network, Sea Network).
- A very important network is the group of Voluntary Guards who carry out an important anti-poaching activity and surveillance against environmental crimes in collaboration with park rangers and Carabinieri.
- Many volunteers are involved in the conservation activities of large carnivores.



MOBILISATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE LIFE ARCPROM

- Main goal of the C6 action of the Life Arpcrom project was to increase the participation of volunteers in conservation efforts to decrease the illegal activities and to improve the information for local people or visitors.
- We organized two different types of annual activities based: a) on the patrolling of the bear habitat and b) the dissemination of information and public awareness.
- The actors of the action were the Volunteer Guards (LTV, long-term volunteer) and young volunteers (STV, short-term volunteer).



Bentornato Orso gentile

Dal 7 all'11 settembre 2021
parte il "Tour della Convivenza"
nei borghi della Maiella
per conoscere bene
l'Orso bruno marsicano

Dal 7 all'11 settembre 2021 il camper del WWF farà tappa nelle piazze di 5 località del Parco Nazionale della Maiella. Il tema del tour sarà la presenza e coesistenza tra uomo e orso bruno marsicano all'interno del territorio del Parco. Incontreremo gli abitanti delle terre dell'orso per ragionare assieme affinché una popolazione stabile di orsi possa insediarsi, riprodursi e svolgere il suo ruolo ecologico nell'ecosistema della Maiella. Il tour fa parte delle azioni previste nel Progetto LIFE ARCPROM - Bentornato Orso Gentile cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea. Parteciperanno ai tour i volontari del WWF Italia e i tecnici del Parco Nazionale della Maiella.

PROGRAMMA DEL TOUR:
10.00-13.30 Sosta del camper e distribuzione materiale informativo
16.00-18.00 Organizzazione di attività ludiche per bambini e ragazzi a tema orso e coesistenza
Ore 18.00 -19.30 Attività di coinvolgimento della cittadinanza

LE TAPPE DEL TOUR
Martedì 7 SETTEMBRE A ROCCAMORICE
Via De Horatilis
Mercoledì 8 SETTEMBRE A CAMPO DI GIOVE
in Piazza Duval
Giovedì 9 SETTEMBRE A PALENA
in Piazza del Municipio
Venerdì 10 SETTEMBRE A PIZZOFERRATO
in Piazza San Rocco
Sabato 11 SETTEMBRE AD ATELETA
presso i Giardini Comunali di Ateleta, in via Sangrigna

Informazioni: abruzzo@wwf.it
lifearcprom.uowm.gr

Logos: WWF, Parco Nazionale della Maiella, LIFE ARCPROM, LIFE, Natura 2000



LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS

- WWF Volunteer Guards are trained individuals who support the WWF against environmental crimes.
- They patrol the territories to prevent illegal activities, collaborating with local authorities and policy.
- In 2022 and 2023, these activities was implemented in collaboration with the Forestry Service (Carabinieri Forestali of the Raggruppamento Carabinieri Parchi).
- In 2022 and 2023 was activated 38 LTV (WWF volunteer guards)



LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS

- The Volunteers guards in 2022 and 2023 patrolled the territories of 8 municipalities between May and October of each year.
- The patrolling covered the following threats: abandoned organic waste, dangerous structures, hikers' dogs along the trails, poachers' snares and traps and poison baits.



LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS



LIFE ARCPROM - LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National
Parks of South Europe



SHORT TERM VOLUNTEERS

- The second part of C6 was dedicated on involvement of young volunteers in the information and awareness activities.
- WWF Italy, in collaboration with MNP, organized an itinerant tour covering different locations every year, from 2021 to 2024.
- The week dedicated every year at STVs activities was called “Coexistence tour”
- The formula for the volunteers involvement included the phases of recruitment and training:
 - 1) CV selection;
 - 2) Oral interview to test the candidates' skills;
 - 3) Distribution of information material;
 - 4) On-site training;



SHORT TERM VOLUNTEERS

- From 2021 to 2024 was activated 33 volunteers;
- 12 municipalities have been involved from 2021 to 2024.
- A total of around 2.500 people were approached.
- The attitude of local citizens and tourists towards the volunteers was generally positive, with a few exceptions.



SHORT TERM VOLUNTEERS



LIFE ARCPROM - LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768
Improving human-bear coexistence in 4 National
Parks of South Europe



SHORT TERM VOLUNTEERS

- The volunteers carried out the dissemination of information with the citizens, distributing brochures and communication material about best coexistence practices between humans and bears.
- Moreover, educational activities were organized. Special attention was also dedicated to the promotion of the Bear Trail.



MOBILISATION OF VOLUNTEERS AS A TOOL FOR CONSERVATION

- The involvement of volunteers increased the opportunities for communication with the Park territory.
- In addition, this action improved the relationship with local administrations.
- The involvement of the Carabinieri in the activities increased the institutional value and effectiveness of the surveillance activities.
- The mobilisation of volunteers can be an excellent tool to involve citizens on bear conservation issues , to disseminate correct information and to improve the surveillance of the territory.
- This is an important step to transform the behaviors of the local communities to permit the permanence of the bear in the territory of the protected area.



MOBILISATION OF VOLUNTEERS AS A TOOL FOR CONSERVATION

- Improving the social acceptance of local communities and the effectiveness of territory surveillance is a key step to encourage the expansion of the bear population in the Apennines.
- Similar initiatives can be easily replicated in other contexts.
- WWF will replicate the “Coexistence tour” also in other areas of recent expansion, which represent the key territories for the future of the Apennine brown bear population.







Towards an ecological dimension of Visual Identity. The contribution of the School of Fine Arts (Florina, University of Western Macedonia)



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Cynthia Gerothanasiou, cgerothanasiou@uowm.gr

Annita Koutsonanou, akoutsonanou@uowm.gr

University of Western Macedonia, School of Applied and Fine Arts



LIFE ARCPROM:

The LIFE ARCPROM project (LIFE18 NAT / GR / 000768) aims at improving human-bear coexistence in four National Parks of Sout Europe, three in Greece and one in Italy. The project started in October 2019 and will last for 5 years. Partners of the project are four National Parks (Prespa, Northern Pindos, Rodopi and Majella), two universities (University of Thessaly and University of Western Macedonia), and two environmental organizations (Callisto and WWF Italy).

Visual identity LIFE ARCPROM / A. Koutsonanou, C. Gerothanasiou, Y.Ziogas, S. Papadopoulou

BEAR ARTS created visual works that have been realized from students and faculty of the School of Fine Arts, Florina. Experiential activities, various art-forms became the tools to support human/bear co-existence.



The **1st Painting Workshop (EETF)** has undertaken, next to create the communication material, the educational and artistic implementation of the LIFE ARCPROM program. The contribution was the educational process BEAR ARTS.

The main working group of BEAR ARTS was faculty and students of the 1st Painting Workshop of EETF (Professor **Yannis Ziogas** and Specialized Teaching Staff **Cynthia Gerothanasiou**). The procedure became inter-departmental, and it involved the Printmaking Workshop (Assistant Professor **Sofy Papadopoulou**) and the Adjunct Professor **Annita Koutsonanou** (Design Courses). The documentary was created by director **Christos Ioannidis**. Environmentalists, biologists, veterinarians became part of the educational team creating an interdisciplinary approach.



Photo archive



Photo archive



- The students worked in an experiential way collecting visual data in the field and transforming them into artworks. The official site of LIFE ARCPROM achieved a role beyond its communication role: it became an educational tool of public awareness concerning bear related issues. The artistic process was addressed to the students of EETF, local communities, visitors of the National Parks, and the website <https://lifearcprom.uowm.gr/>





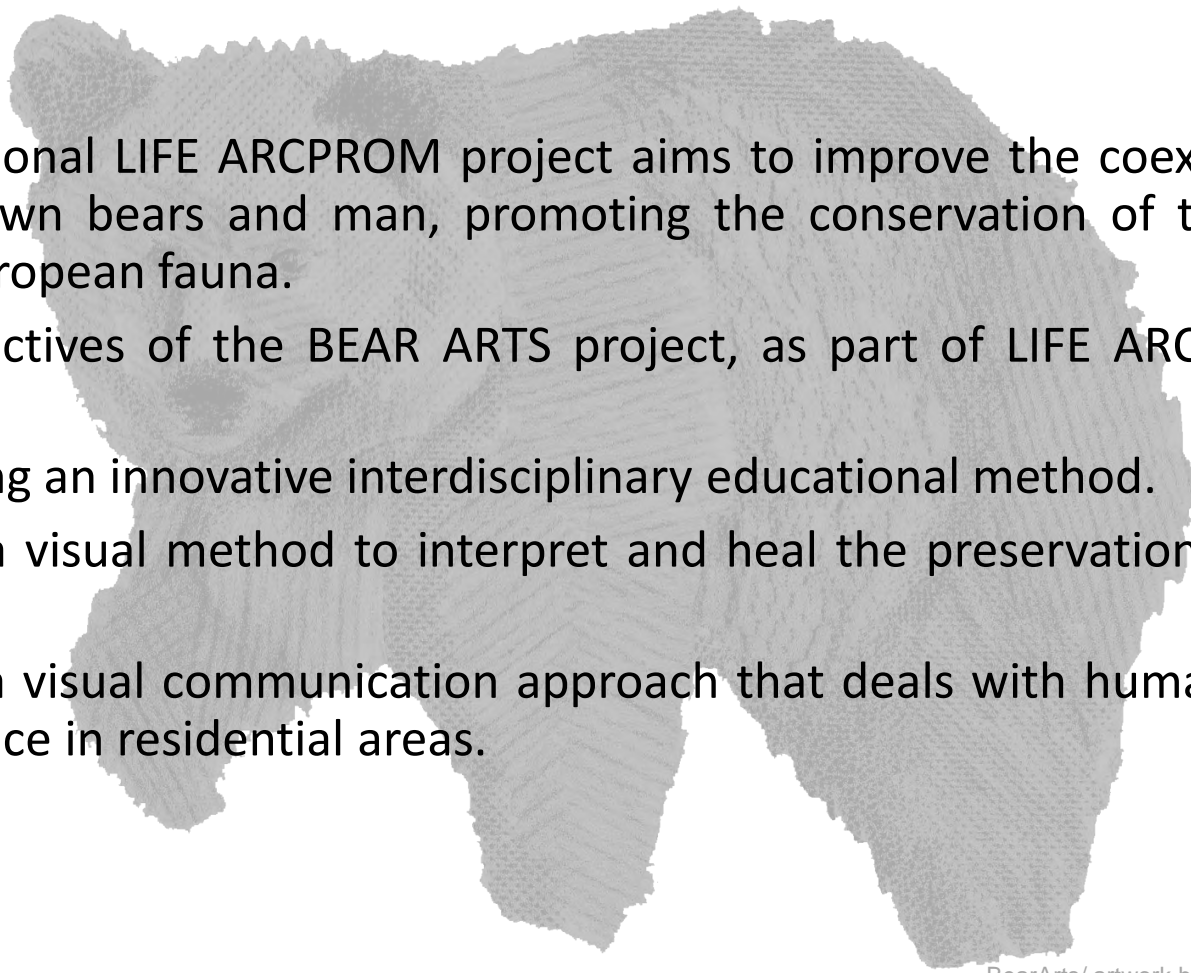
Photo Y.Ziogas



-
- In the context of **BEAR ARTS** there were numerous activities in the field. Walking art became the main artistic tool for that. The main activities were:
 - Creation of the visual identity of LIFE ARCPROM.
 - Creation of lifearcprom.uowm.gr/.
 - Realization of the printed material of the project (leaflets, poster, roll-up, booklet)
 - Tracing of the local bear's footsteps in Mesonisi / Florina
 - Excavating a skeleton of a poisoned bear and reconstituting it.
 - An oral history documentation of stories about the bear
 - Community-based practices







The transnational LIFE ARCPROM project aims to improve the coexistence between brown bears and man, promoting the conservation of this key species of European fauna.

The key objectives of the BEAR ARTS project, as part of LIFE ARCPROM, included:

- Introducing an innovative interdisciplinary educational method.
- Creating a visual method to interpret and heal the preservation of the bear.
- Creating a visual communication approach that deals with human bear co-existence in residential areas.



Contemporary methods of walking practices allow the experiential understanding of the field.

This led to the activation of a creative team that initiated a method for ecological awareness for the students of the institution.

As the subject of environmental vigilance has a universal impact, the involvement of the 1st Painting Workshop (EETF) has been crucial in raising awareness of the broader society.



Photo Y.Ziogas



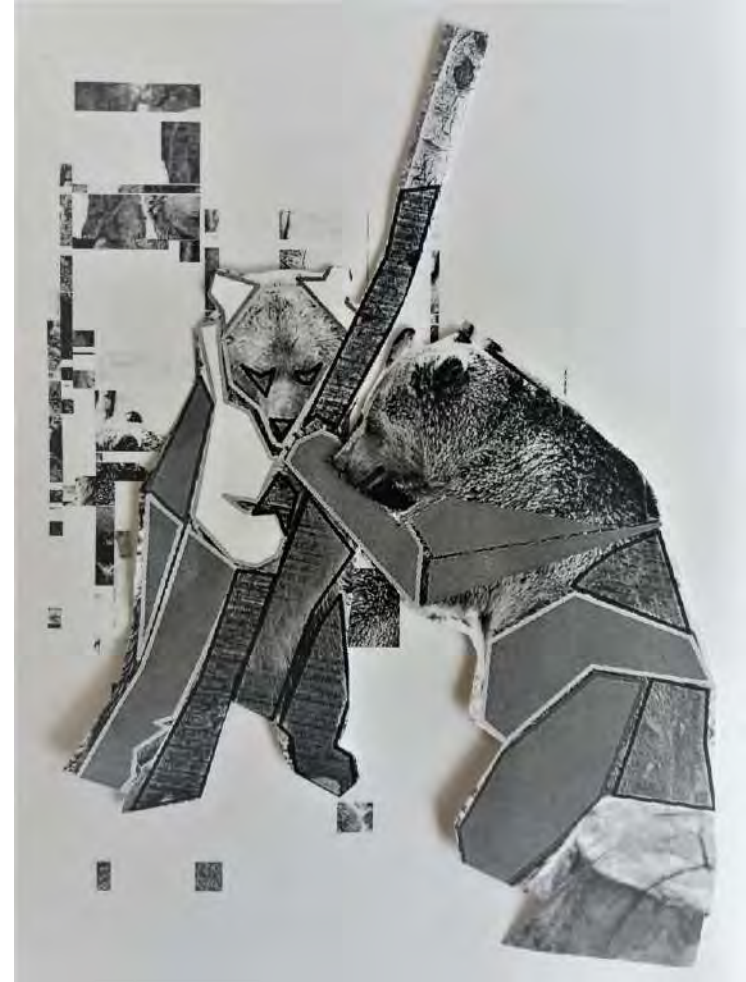
Photo Y.Ziogas







BEAR ARTS became part of the educational approach initiated from ***Visual March to Prespa*** and aimed in creating an aesthetic experience that relies in understanding the aesthetic and social complexities of landscape. Aesthetics was the tool to implement this process and reshape the way participants are perceiving their body and its significance.



The educational model was developed in the following axes:

1. Experiential knowledge of an ecological issue by working in the field (National Forests)
2. Artistic interpretation of experiences and data collected in the field via various visual media (both traditional and also multimedia/digital approaches).
3. Implementation of artistic interpretation in the field of applied arts with the realization of the communication process (design of the website and printed material, actualization of additional gadgets).
4. Using both 2 and 3: There was an introduction of innovative educational models of ecological education in the National Forests.
5. Working with relational and community-based artistic and communicative methods to improve public awareness on that critical issue.

BEAR ARTS project is a process developed in rural areas of Greece and Italy that are underpopulated. The ones in Greece are next to the national borders and all of them are facing the consequences of urbanization. Prespa is considered one of the most underdeveloped areas of EU. BEAR ARTS project aimed in the preservation of species and also added to inclusion as it created a sustainable environment and raises opportunities for people to work and build their lives within the areas of implementation.



Photo E. Kazila

Inclusion became a key objective of **BEAR ARTS** project and the goal was met in many ways such as:

-> The work with the local community in recording the oral history added to the cultural identity of local populations.

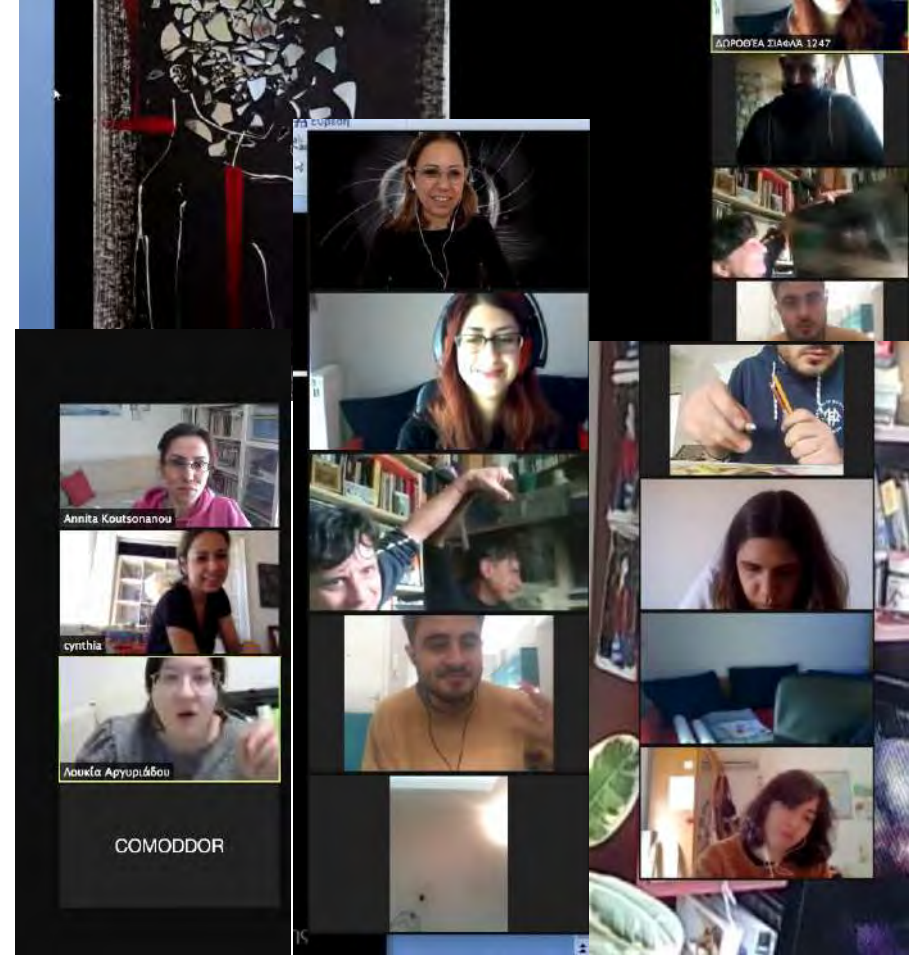
-> The solution in an ecological problem contributed to the creation of an environment where people can live and support decent living conditions.

-> In an Anthropocene approach the inclusion of endangered species, e.g. the bear, is also an important effort. This aim was realized significantly in the period of implementation.





The way image, visual communication, and symbols were developed taking into account approaches to confronting the factor of visual illiteracy, a significant component of a contemporary citizen. Visually illiterate citizens have to be educated and included in contemporary societies. **BEAR ARTS** project took the above into account and developed its strategies accordingly.



The results:

A contemporary educational method in tertiary art education should include community participation, contemporary technical skills, creative use of the new media, intervention in critical social and political issues, and professional development. The "classroom" or "studio" should be extended beyond the walls of the building of an art school; It should function as an institution without walls.



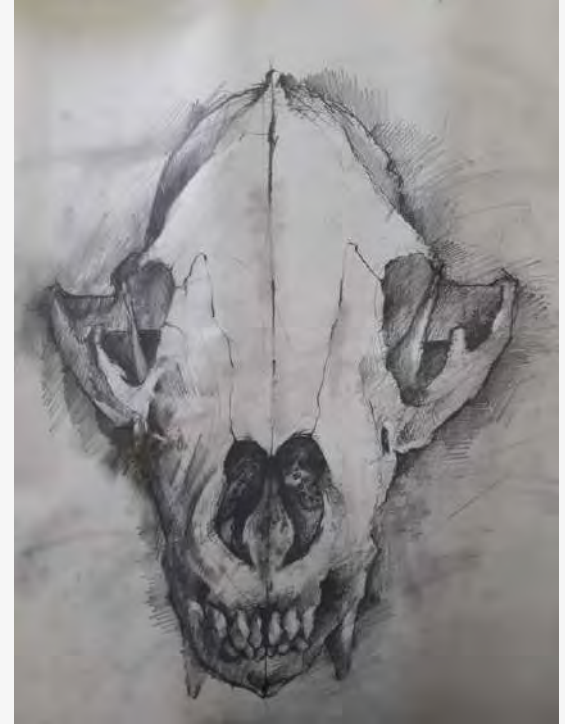
BearArts/ artwork by M.Nioratze



THE RESULTS:

- a. There was participation, interaction, training of students in the artistic and environmental fields. The processes that were implemented, the material that was created allowed them to create a community spirit, learn new techniques, interact and support each other.
- b. There were established connections with the communities involved, there were initiated inquiries and reflections on specific environmental and social issues and there was the development of horizontal student skills, <https://lifearcprom.uowm.gr/inspired-by-2/>.

BearArts/ artwork by A.Mytilinakis



c. There was awareness development and engagement through art with the production of works of art as well as relational and community-based practices. The created artworks were used for the website. Stories were recorded and illustrated,

<https://lifearcprom.uowm.gr/bear-stories/>.

d. Art and Ecology osmosis was performed as a vehicle of approach and creation of a more advanced consciousness of the modern person.

e. A diverse communication material was created: website, shared map display, bookmarks and signs, information material, calendars,
<https://lifearcprom.uowm.gr/>



BearArts/ artwork by M.Nioratze

Communication material

/ diaries



/ diaries



/ diaries



/ posters



LIFE ARCPROM



ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ
ΥΟΜΟ
HUMAN

1/4

ΑΡΚΟΥΔΑ
ORSO
BEAR

Βελτιώνουμε τις συνθήκες συνύπαρξης ανθρώπου-αρκούδας σε τέσσερα Εθνικά Πάρκα της νότιας Ευρώπης
We improve the conditions of human-bear coexistence in four National Parks of south Europe

info.lifearcprom.uowm.gr/



BENTORNATO ORSO GENTILE

„Das il progetto LIFE ARCPROM, in collaborazione di quattro enti
cooperativi in quattro parchi nazionali italiani
Nella LIFE ARCPROM, infatti, ha iniziato l'attuazione di
un progetto di coesistenza tra uomo e orso in quattro parchi
nazionali italiani.



ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ
ΥΟΜΟ
HUMAN

1/4

ΑΡΚΟΥΔΑ
ORSO
BEAR

www.lifearcprom.uowm.gr/



ΕΘΝΙΚΑ ΠΑΡΚΑ

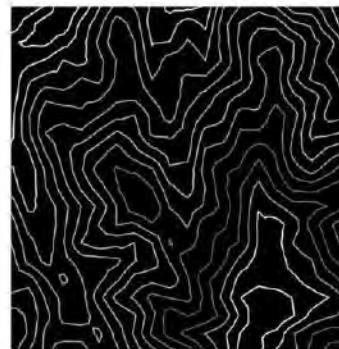
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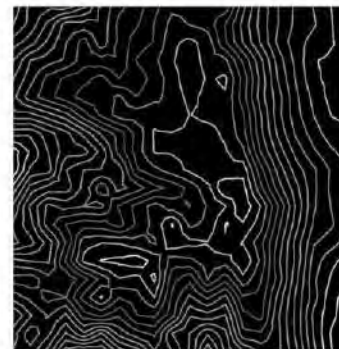
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ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΡΚΟ
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ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΡΚΟ
ΜΑΓΙΕΛΑ





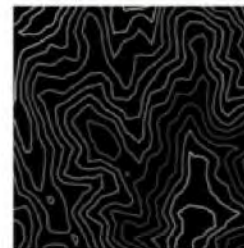
ORTHERN PINDOS NATIONAL PARK



PRESPA NATIONAL PARK

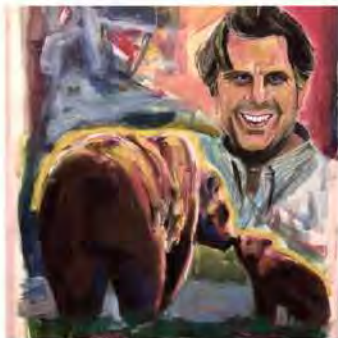


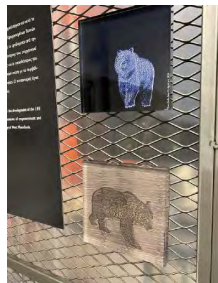
RODOPI NATIONAL PARK



MAJELLA NATIONAL PARK







BEAR ART



Το BEAR ART είναι μια διαδικασία προσέγγισης της αρκούδας μέσα από εικόνες, τους θρύλους, τις ιστορίες της. Σχηματίστηκαν σε αυτό το πλαίσιο, έργα που δημιουργήθηκαν από καλλιτέχνες, σπουδαστές και σπουδάστριες του Τμήματος Εικαστικών και Εφαρμοσμένων Τεχνών της Σχολής Καλών Τεχνών του Πανεπιστημίου Δυτικής Μακεδονίας (ΤΕΕΤ) την περίοδο 2022 έως 2024 με αφορμή τα ερεθίσματα από την ανάπτυξη των δράσεων του ευρωπαϊκού προγράμματος LIFE ARCPROM. Η τέχνη λειτουργεί ως ένα σημείο συνάντησης που ενεργοποιεί καλλιτεχνικές, εκπαιδευτικές πραγματώσεις και διαδικασίες ενδυνάμωσης και ευαισθητοποίησης. Οι σπουδαστές και οι σπουδάστριες του ΤΕΕΤ, δημιούργησαν εικόνες/ερμηνίες της μορφής της αρκούδας, διερευνώντας εκδοχές του θηλαστικού που έχουν σχέση με το περιβάλλον της, τον τρόπο που αποτυπώνεται στη μνήμη των λαών, με τους τρόπους που οι ίδιοι/ές την έχουν συναντήσει. Ο συντονισμός έγινε από διδάσκοντες του Τμήματος Εικαστικών και Εφαρμοσμένων Τεχνών του Πανεπιστημίου Δυτικής Μακεδονίας.

The area BEAR ART presents visual works that have been created from artists and art students initiated from the development of the LIFE ARCPROM actions. Art functions as a meeting point that activates artistic, educational outcomes and processes of empowerment and information. They are coordinated from instructors of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of University of West Macedonia.

Καλλιτεχνική και οργανωτική επιμέλεια/Artistic and organizing curating team:

Σύνθια Γεροθανασίου/Cynthia Gerothanasiou, Αννίτα Κουτσονάνου/Annita Koutsananou,

Σοφία Παπαδοπούλου/Sofia Papadopoulou

Καλλιτεχνικός υπεύθυνος/Artistic Director:

Γιάννης Ζιώγας/Yannis Ziogas

/ Bear Arts exhibition

BEAR STORIES

THE BEAR OF AMFISSA – SPRING 1994

In Amfissa in 1994, spring, there was a bear that was freed from local activists and the need for treatment was urgent (photo 1). Her teeth were destroyed because of the nose ring that she was bearing and malnutrition (photo 2, 3). A group of three scientists, in their twenties/early thirties, responded to the call and traveled from Athens to Amfissa, to heal the animal. The rescue team (two vets, Loukas Kamarianos and Alekos Rotas, and a student/dentist, Sofia Zioga) operated the bear (photo 4, 5, 6) before she was transferred to Nymphaio/Arctouros.

Yannis Zlogas
Painter
Associate Professor, EETF



story-1-p3

Photo 1 to 6: © Loukas Kamarianos, Alekos Rotas, Sophia Zioga, 1994

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE BEAR OF PRESPA – SPRING 2019

In Prespa I use to jog in a dirt road outside of Psarades. It is a beautiful route along the lake, with the mountains of Albania raising on the opposite shore. I knew that the place is bear territory, and I always sing loudly while running or I scream or I clap my hands. Generally, I make my presence perceivable.

One morning when I was returning I took a turn and there she was: majestic, fifty to sixty meters away from me. I remembered that it was one of the few times that I forgot to sing, I did not make any noise.

The ecstasy overcame the fear or panic.

We saw one another in the eyes, I decided to turn around and I started to walk away slowly, but only two steps later I turned to make sure that she was not following me. She was gone. All that lasted for less than a minute but it seemed like centuries of a mnemonic experience.

Yannis Ziogas

Painter

Associate Professor, EETF

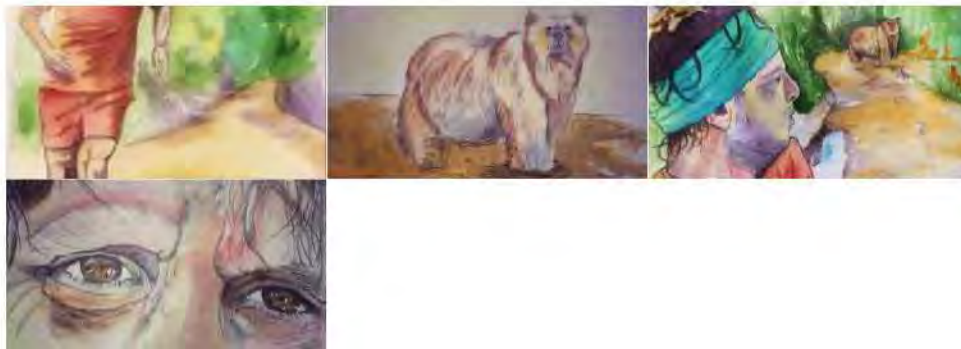
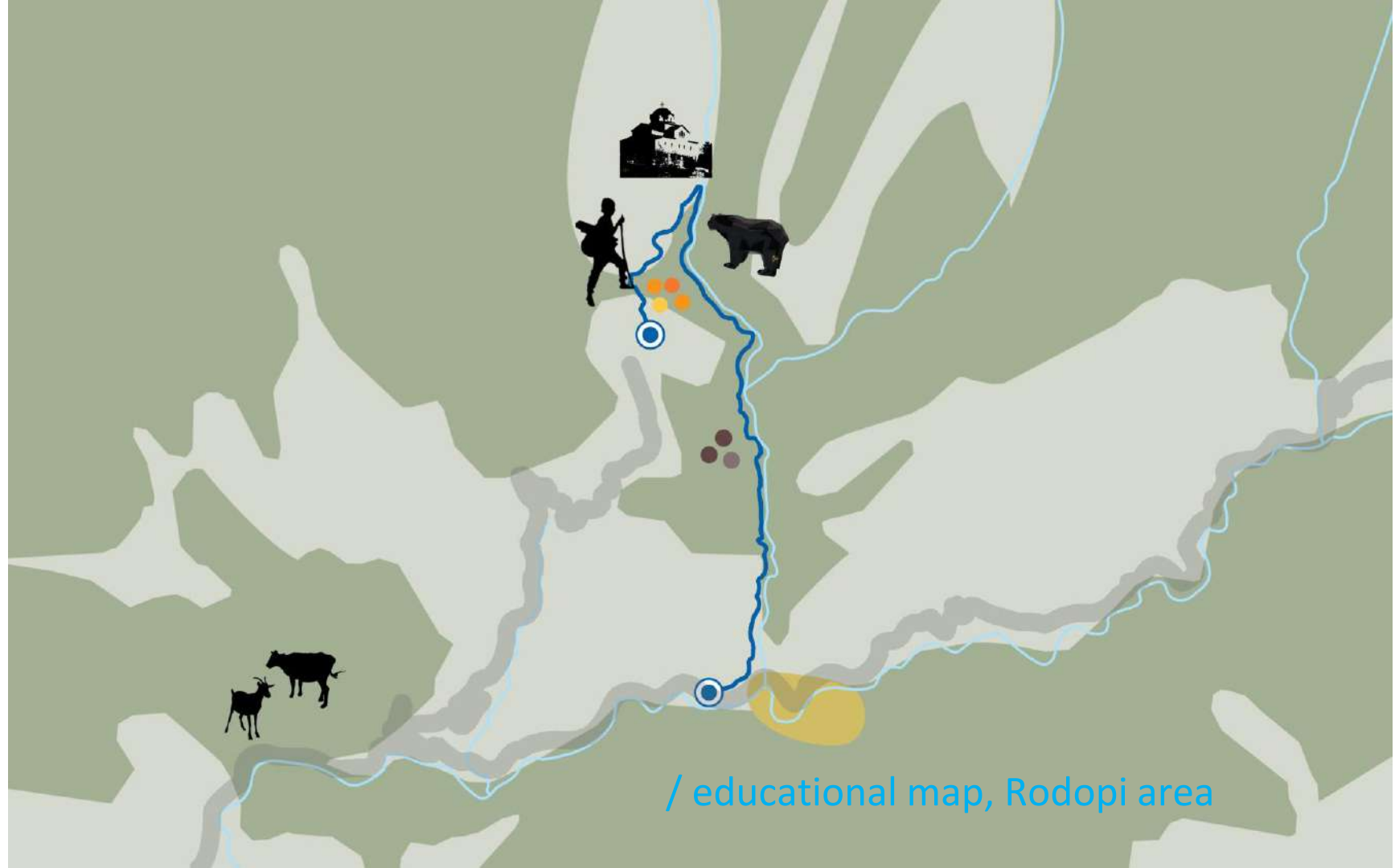


Photo 1 to 4: © George Evans



/ educational map, Prespa area



/ educational map, Rodopi area

Activism





8/6/2025

/ documentary, Prespa area



/ documentary, Prespa area



/ documentary still, Prespa area



/ documentary still, Maiella national park



/ documentary still, Maiella national park



Reconstructing the Bear Skeleton

















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The area BFAE ART presents visual works that have been created from errors and are students initiated from the development of the LIFE JESTHIVE system. Art becomes as a meeting point that achieves artistic, educational, economic and processor of empowerment and achievement. They are coordinated from instructors of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of University of West Macedonia.

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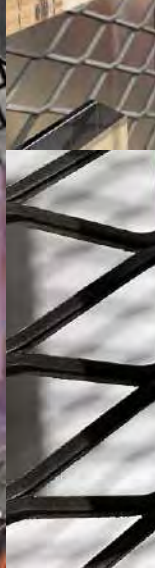
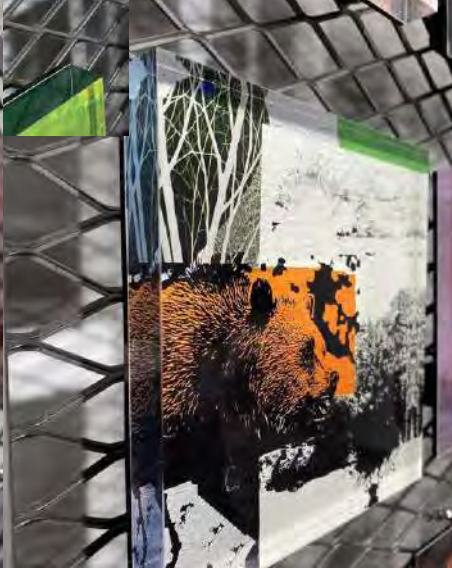


H. FAYARD, AUTOUR DE JEAN DE LAUNAY.

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IN APPLYING, CONTACT US TODAY by E-mail:

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Thanks!



Any questions?

- UOWM team:

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