

## Project Update: June 2014

According to the aims of the project, an ornithological survey took place during last three months, to map the distribution of imperial eagles and their habitats in Macedonia. Field trips were carried out from March to May 2014. During this ornithological survey, we primarily walked through landscapes of a chosen project area with the aim of recording all imperial eagle species present and their breeding behaviour. The survey was always started at the car, and then we walked individually or in small groups for several hours, and occasionally for the whole day. Monitoring from high points (hilltops) was often included in our field methods. We checked the nests known from the previous years and we visited those sites that seemed to be appropriate for the species. Field data about the imperial eagle's population, habitats and threats, as well as other relevant information were collected and processed. During the field survey we visited 65 possibly imperial eagles sites, some of them well known and some of them new. In all, we aimed to confirm the breeding status of imperial eagles. The results are presented in Table 1 (precise localities of nests are not given to ensure their protection).

1	Negotino	old	21	Tripatanci	old	43	Zubovce	old
2	Crveni Bregovi	old	22	Vakaf	active	44	Nikuljane	active
3	Dzidimirci	old	23	Topolovik new	old	45	Burilovci	active
4	Luda Mara	old	24	Topolovik old	old	46	Popovica	old
5	Crna Reka	old	25	Zubovce	old	47	Lepopelci	active
6	Bregalnica	old	26	Makresh	old	48	Saramzalino	active
7	Gradsko	active	27	Mamutchevo	old	49	Nogaevci	old
8	Kochilari	old	28	Karatmanovo	active	50	Makresh	old
9	Karaslari	active	29	Nogaevci	old	51	Bajlovce	old
10	Chuloshevo	old	30	Farma Chichevo	old	52	Sokolarci	active
11	Sojklari	active	31	Dubrovo	old	53	Kocilari 2	old
12	Kjoseleri	old	32	Dubrovo	active	54	Dorfulija	old
11	Bogoslovec	old	33	Koreshnica	old	55	Dzidimirci	active
12	Erdzelija	old	34	Patetino	active	56	Krushevica	old
13	Sudic	active	35	Puzderci	active	57	Ml.Nagoricane	active
14	Stamulovci	active	36	Crnilishte	old	58	Gradsko 2	old
15	Mechkuevci	active	37	Mamutchevo2	active	59	Topolnica	old
16	Orel	old	38	Novo Selo	old	60	Shtip	active
17	Dolno Djugance	active	39	vrba Gradsko	old	61	Klechevce	active
18	Preodski Nivi	active	40	Palikura	active	62	Murgash	old
19	Sveti Nikole	active	41	Mushinci	old	63	Makresh	active
20	Shupli Kamen	old	42	Kocilari 1	old	64	Lozovo	active

Table 1: Breeding status of imperial eagles in Macedonia 2014.

The project area is very rich in different habitats, with some habitats common and widespread, while others are rare and very limited distribution in the area.

Unfortunately, imperial eagles also inhabit threatened habitats. When old growth trees are cut, the habitat will be completely lost, ensuring their protection should be a very urgent task for state nature protection services.

We believe, thanks to our work in the project region, that the knowledge on the imperial eagles and avifauna also, has increased substantially.

In second half of March 2014, feeding place in Ergelia village (41°50'54.54"N; 22° 1'26.62"E) was fenced.

After the fencing of the feeding site, immediately was started with regular feeding. Pigs and cows carcasses are bring from local farms. We made a deal with the owners of local cow farm, to deliver occasionally cows carcasses to the feeding place. This will be their personal contribution to the implementation of the project and conservation of imperial eagles. The young imperial eagles, in the beginning occasionally but now regularly, visited and use the feeding place. Occasionally feeding place is visited from vultures, primarily from three Egyptian vultures and twice from small group of griffon vultures.

2000 copies of leaflet are printed and distributed (and will be distributed) to the local residents, authorities, hunting societies etc. during the fieldwork and meetings.

In May 2014 was published an article in a national newspaper "Nova Macedonia" (<http://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/NewsDetal.asp?vest=52114747518&id=9&prilog=0&setlzdanie=23179>), about imperial eagles and implementation of the project. Also I had a 20 minutes interview on a national radio station "Makedonsko radio" and on local TV station "TV – KTV" in Kavadarci. People from whole country were very attracted from newspaper article and radio interview. They call me by phone and ask for more information or share their own observation of imperial eagles. On that way we receive good and useful information about possibly breeding territories or threats for imperial eagles.

Monitoring of occupied nests and feeding continue on regular basis and we wait to see breeding success of eagles in 2014.

There is the link to the photos from project activities:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/+EmanuelLisichanets/albums/6019961040901486257>

