

Final Report: Statement 2003

Furthermore Black Vultures and Bearded Vultures still occur as one of the last places in Europe. With further support from the Rufford Small Grants at the end of 2001, my second project implemented some basic measures for conservation of the endangered species of birds of prey. In that time some very serious cases of poisoning occurred in Bulgarian-Macedonian border area, and in one case 11 Griffon Vultures and 2 Imperial Eagles were poisoned. Following the investigation my team found that the most common case of illegal poisoning is the planting of poison in carcasses which are intended for large carnivore mammals. Most frequently wolves kill sheep and goats. The States of Bulgaria and Macedonia are doing nothing to help the sheep owners on this issue, which is why they often set poison, even this is forbidden by the law.

It is difficult to control such poisoning, and a lot of species as Griffon Vulture, Bearded Vulture, Black Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle, Bear, Wolf, Raven etc, are carrion eating species - thus they become the most frequent victims of poisoning.