

International Conference on the Conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle, Košická Belá, Slovakia, 2014

Medzinárodná konferencia o ochrane orla krikľavého, Košická Belá, Slovensko, 2014

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Abstract: The International Conference on the Conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) was held on September 25–27, 2014 in Lesanka Gesthouse at Košická Belá, Slovakia. It was organised by Raptor Protection of Slovakia (RPS) in co-operation with Východoslovenská energetika Holding a.s. The conference dealt with (i) delivering further inputs for updating the European Action Plan for the species, (ii) sharing information on biology and ecology of the species, and (iii) exchange of experience with best practice and innovative species conservation measures. A total of 59 participants from 14 countries attended the conference. The agenda included 17 presentations and 7 posters. Some of the contributions are published in Slovak Raptor Journal volume 9 (2015) as full papers, and a further 23 contributions are published as abstracts. The conference also included two field trips during which participants had the opportunity to observe the installation of console barriers on poles of 22 kV power lines, and typical habitats of the lesser spotted eagle. The conference was organized within the framework of the project LIFE09NAT/SK/000396 Conservation of *Aquila pomarina* in Slovakia, implemented by Raptor Protection of Slovakia, Východoslovenská energetika Holding a.s., Stredoslovenská energetika, a.s. and Stredoslovenská energetika-Distribúcia, a.s. The project was cofinanced by EU-LIFE and the Ministry for Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Abstrakt: Medzinárodná konferencia o ochrane orla krikľavého (*Aquila pomarina*) sa konala 25. – 27. septembra 2014 v Penzióne Lesanka v Košickej Belej na Slovensku. Zorganizovala ju Ochrana dravcov na Slovensku (RPS) v spolupráci s Východoslovenskou energetikou Holding a.s. Konferencia bola zameraná na prípravu podkladov pre aktualizáciu európskeho akčného plánu pre orla krikľavého, zdieľanie informácií o biológii a ekológii druhu a na výmenu skúseností s osvedčenými alebo inovatívnymi opatreniami pre zachovanie orla krikľavého. Konferencie sa zúčastnilo celkom 59 účastníkov zo 14 krajín. Na konferencii odznelo 17 príspevkov a bolo prezentovaných 7 posterov. Niektoré z týchto príspevkov sú publikované v časopise Slovak Raptor Journal 9 (2015), ďalších 23 príspevkov sú publikované formou konferenčných abstraktov. Program konferencie zahŕňal aj 2 exkurzie, počas ktorých mali účastníci možnosť vidieť ukážku inštalácie konzolových chráničiek na stĺpoch 22 kV elektrického vedenia a typické biotopy orla krikľavého. Konferencia bola organizovaná v rámci projektu LIFE09NAT/SK/000396 Ochrana orla krikľavého na Slovensku, ktorý realizovala Ochrana dravcov na Slovensku, Východoslovenská energetika Holding a.s., Stredoslovenská energetika, a.s. a Stredoslovenská energetika-Distribúcia, a.s. Projekt bol spolufinancovaný Európskou úniou prostredníctvom finančného nástroja LIFE a Ministerstvom životného prostredia Slovenskej republiky.

Key words: lesser spotted eagle conference, presentations, posters, *Aquila pomarina*, LIFE

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The lesser spotted eagle is a migratory species. It breeds in Central and Eastern Europe and further south-east in Turkey, and it winters in Africa (BirdLife International 2015). In Europe, it has suffered a major decline in many countries, especially at the western and southern borders of its range. In 1997, an Action Plan for the

Lesser Spotted Eagle was adopted in order to set up an international framework for action for various entities concerned with conservation of the lesser spotted eagle. This Action Plan included outcomes from the second meeting of the International Lesser and Greater Spotted Eagle Working Group in Kemerí (Latvia), hosted by the



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Fig. 1. Participants of the International Conference on the Conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle at Košická Belá, Slovakia, 2014.

Obr. 1. Účastníci Medzinárodnej konferencie o ochrane orla kríklavého v Košickej Belej, Slovensko, 2014.

Latvian Ornithological Society and organised by Bird-Life International and the World Working Group on Birds of Prey (Meyburg et al. 2001). The Action Plan has not been updated since then. However, efforts recently started to update this important document and create a modern conservation action framework for the species that receives priority attention in the European Union.

The LIFE Project 08/NAT/RO/000501 “Conservation of *Aquila pomarina* in Romania” enabled the Environmental Protection Agency in Sibiu, in cooperation with its project partners Milvus Group and the Romanian Ornithological Society, to organise the International Conference for Updating the European Action Plan for the Lesser Spotted Eagle. The meeting was held from October 31 to November 2, 2013 in Bâlea Cascadă, Făgăraş Mountains, Romania. The initiative was received with wide enthusiasm as shown by the participation from many EU member states, as well as countries

outside the EU: altogether 50 ornithologists from 15 countries attended the meeting (<http://tinyurl.com/pfb5la7>). Threats posed to the lesser spotted eagle and limiting factors influencing the population were discussed by present experts along with actions to address them, both representing a valuable input for the new Action Plan.

As a follow-up to the conference in Romania, the International Conference on the Conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) was held on September 25–27, 2014 in Lesanka Gesthouse at Košická Belá, Slovakia. It was organised by Raptor Protection of Slovakia (RPS) in cooperation with Východoslovenská energetika Holding a.s. The conference was organized within the framework of the project LIFE09NAT/SK/000396 Conservation of *Aquila pomarina* in Slovakia (LIFE project), implemented by Raptor Protection of Slovakia, Východoslovenská energetika Holding a.s., Stredoslovenská energetika, a.s. and

Tab. 1. List of conference presentations and posters on *Aquila pomarina* biology, population status and trends presented at the International Conference on the Conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle at Košická Belá, Slovakia, 2014.

Tab. 1. Prehľad konferenčných príspevkov a posterov o biológii, stave a trende populácie *Aquila pomarina* prezentovaných na Medzinárodnej konferencii o ochrane orla kríklavého v Košickej Belej, Slovensko, 2014.

Presentation title	Slovak Raptor Journal 9/2015
ORAL PRESENTATIONS	
Conservation of the lesser spotted eagle in Slovakia	
Guziová Z: Conservation of the lesser spotted eagle in Slovakia supported by the Project LIFE09NAT/SK/000396	Ab
Dravecký M: Distribution, abundance and trend of the lesser spotted eagle population in Slovakia	Fp
Maderič B: Conservation management of the lesser spotted eagle population in Slovakia	Ab
Status and trend of the lesser spotted eagle	
Maniakowski M: Protection of the LSE in selected Natura 2000 sites in Poland	Ab
Stoychev S: Conservation of the lesser spotted eagle in Bulgaria in the frame of the project Preserve Key Forest	
Habitats of the lesser spotted eagle (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>) in Bulgaria	Ab
Pakul P: Population status and trends of lesser spotted eagle in Belarus	Ab
Management, research and monitoring of the lesser spotted eagle	
Meyburg B-U: Lesser spotted eagle (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>) nestling management in Brandenburg (Germany) 2004-2014	Ab
Treynis R: Enhancement of lesser spotted eagle nest site protection: does erection of artificial nest is a suitable measure?	Ab
Meyburg B-U: Some highlights from 22 years of satellite telemetry with lesser spotted eagles	Ab
Peške L: Year round migration and breeding of an adult female LSE from Liptov (Slovakia) as revealed with GPS-GSM tag	Ab
Bartoszuk K: Aquila dataloggers	Ab
Sellis U: Habitat utilization by the lesser spotted eagle in agricultural landscape as revealed by satellite telemetry: preliminary results	Ab
Meyburg B-U: Lesser spotted eagles (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>) and wind power	Ab
Abel U: Changing habitat use of the lesser spotted eagle in Estonia in 1990–2010: Increasing tolerance to human activity	Ab
Väli Ü: Effects of agricultural land use patterns on the habitat selection, foraging behaviour and reproductive success of the lesser spotted eagle in Estonia	Ab
Treynis R: Should we consider intraspecific competition when selecting priority sites for lesser spotted eagle conservation?	Ab
Meyburg B-U: Mortal danger – do not fly to Istanbul during bird migration!	Ab
POSTERS	
Väli Ü: Breeding phenology of the lesser spotted eagle at the northern range limit: Is the disturbance sufficiently long banned?	Ab
Väli Ü: Annual adult survival and turnover rates in the Baltic lesser spotted eagle population.	Ab
Meyburg B-U: Do not use plastic colour rings for lesser spotted eagles <i>Aquila pomarina</i> .	Ab
Bergmanis U: Agricultural land change impact assessment on the lesser spotted eagle (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>) foraging habitats in Latvia.	Ab
Domashevskiy S & Gavryliuk M: Current status of the lesser spotted eagle in Ukraine.	Ab
Garbe U: LIFE Schreiadler Projekt im Biosphärenreservat Schorfheide Chorin.	Ab
Regional Directorate of State Forests in Białystok, Poland: Protection of the lesser spotted eagle in selected NATURA 2000 sites (LIFE08NAT/PL/000510)	Ab
Ab – abstract – presentations published as an abstracts in Slovak Raptor Journal 9/2015 in Dravecký & Guziová (eds) 2015 / Ab – abstrakt – prednášky publikované ako abstrakty v Slovak Raptor Journal 9/2015 v článku Dravecký & Guziová (eds) 2015.	
Fp – full paper – presentations published as an full papers in Slovak Raptor Journal 9/2015 / Fp – celý článok – prednášky publikované ako celé články v Slovak Raptor Journal 9/2015	

Stredoslovenská energetika-Distribúcia, a.s., EU through LIFE Programme and the Ministry for Environment cofinanced the project.

The conference focused on delivering further inputs for updating the European Action Plan for the species (Recovery Plan for the Lesser Spotted Eagle) and sharing information on biology and ecology of the species and effective species conservation measures. In particular, the following topics were covered by the Conference (i) recent population status and trends, (ii) species

endangering factors, and (iii) practical conservation activities and experiences.

Jozef Chavko, Chairman of Raptor Protection of Slovakia opened the conference. An opening address was also given by Marián Mešter from Východoslovenská energetika Holding a.s., in which he presented environmental policy and actions by his company as well as VSE's contribution to the project LIFE09NAT/SK/000396 Conservation of *Aquila pomarina* in Slovakia.



Fig. 2. Participants of the Conference during field presentation of insulation 22 kV power lines consoles under full (not switch off) electricity.

Obr. 2. Účastníci konferencie počas ukážky izolácie konzol 22 kV vedenia pod plným (nevypnutým) elektrickým napätím.

The first section of the conference was dedicated to the conservation of the lesser spotted eagle in Slovakia. In this section, the Slovakian LIFE project was introduced as well as distribution, abundance and trend of the lesser spotted eagle population in Slovakia. This section concluded with a comprehensive description of conservation management of the lesser spotted eagle in Slovakia (Tab. 1).

The second section of the conference focused on the status and trends in the lesser spotted eagle populations in selected EU and non-EU countries. Among others presentations were made of two LIFE projects: one from Poland, LIFE08 NAT/PL/000510 Restoring Populations of Lesser Spotted Eagle at Chosen Areas of Natura 2000 (<http://tinyurl.com/qdsdp9c>), and the other from Bulgaria, LIFE12 NAT/BG/001218 Preserve Key Forest Habitats of the Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) in Bulgaria (<http://www.eagleforests.org/en/project-life.html>).

Management, research and monitoring of the lesser spotted eagle were the focus of the third conference section. This section also included interesting information resulting from satellite telemetry, including on migration.

The second day of the conference, facilitated by Umberto Gallo-Orsi, was dedicated to working on inputs for the Recovery Plan for the Lesser Spotted Eagle. The participants discussed major factors causing unfavourable status of the lesser spotted eagle and specific conservation measures for the species recovery. All outputs from the debate are included in the document entitled Draft

Recovery Plan for the Lesser Spotted Eagle delivered with the Final Report of the Slovakian LIFE project.

The conference included two field trips during which participants (Fig. 1) had the opportunity to observe the installation of console barriers on poles of 22 kV power lines (Fig. 2), and typical lesser spotted eagle habitats in Slovenský kras and Volovské vrchy Special Protection Areas.

A total of 59 participants from 14 countries attended the conference (Fig. 1). The agenda included 17 presentations and 7 posters. Some of the contributions are published in Slovak Raptor Journal volume 9 (2015) as full papers, and a further 23 contributions are published as abstracts (Tab. 1).

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