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NEWSLETTER

January/February 2022

LIFE EUROKITE

(LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)



MEGEG





“Vultures and red kites share many things in common – food, but also threats. Their conservation is thus intertwined, and therefore we are very happy to support the LIFE EUROKITE project. Like we have in our VCF moto – Together for Vultures and Red Kites.”

Dr. José Tavares
Director at Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF) - Switzerland



Good example of cooperation between different stakeholders to protect nature!

AMUS Acción por el Mundo Salvaje, one of the LIFE EUROKITE project partner, is responsible to monitor red kite's mortality in the Spanish regions of Extremadura, Andalusia and Portugal.

On 9th November 2021, AMUS received the alert about the potential mortality of a red kite in Southern Badajoz province (Extremadura region, Spain). AMUS, based on the protocol established by the Regional Government of Extremadura (LIFE EUROKITE Partner) in case of wildlife endangered species mortality, alerted the rescue center and the Government Wildlife Rangers about this potential mortality.

In less than 2 hours, a patrol of Wildlife Rangers and AMUS' staff met at the point received from the red kite's GPS and the bird was found just under an electric pylon. Following the protocols, rangers collected the bird and send it to AMUS wildlife hospital for necropsy to confirm that electrocution was the cause of death (sometimes birds killed by shooting or poisoned are abandoned under electric pylon to try to avoid the further investigation).



The pylon where the bird was electrocuted belongs to the company ENDESA, who is one of the co-financiers of the LIFE EUROKITE project. Due to these circumstances, AMUS in collaboration with the wildlife responsables of Junta de Extremadura, contacted ENDESA to inform the company about this electrocution case and send all information about the localization of this pylon.

After ENDESA receives the information of AMUS about the dead red kite, they started the process to correct the pylon and a few days later the pylon was isolated to avoid further cases of electrocution. On the advice of Junta de Extremadura's wildlife department, all pylons, in a radius of 500 m from the pylon where the red kite was electrocuted, will be additionally corrected/isolated by the electric company in a short time.

This situation has been a good example of how a fast contact and collaboration between several organizations: wildlife authorities, wildlife NGO and electric companies, can improve and help to minimize the impact of electrocutions on red kites and other species. All these bodies have been in collaboration from several years ago, but in this case, it has been even stronger and faster under the LIFE EUROKITE project.

We want to thank everyone who was involved in this action!



Successful reintroduction of a Red Kite in Portugal!

On the 22nd of February 2022, a rehabilitated red kite was tagged in Portugal and released back into the wild.

The red kite was found injured by a local ornithologist in Alentejo (Portugal). The red kite was cared for in the sanctuary "Centro de Apoio e Recuperação de Animais Silvestres". After the rehabilitation was successful, the red kite was tagged and released back into the wild close to where it was found near a known red kite roosting site.

From now on, the LIFE EUROKITE project can track this red kite using the GPS transmitter data and learn more about the flight routes, habitat use and possible causes of death.

The video of the release can be found here

https://youtu.be/8iXHURVa_eU



Press release of the LIFE EUROKITE project on the TV report "Red Kite against wind power - the fairy tale of the endangered bird of prey " on 22.02.2022 - ZDF Frontal 21

Due to the intensive discussions in the social media, due to the report "Red kite against wind power - The fairy tale of the threatened bird of prey" which was shown on the 22nd of 2022 on ZDF Frontal 21, we as the LIFE EUROKITE project want to take the opportunity to present some facts in more detail.

You can access the press release and the link to the article here (only available in German)

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/de/647/pressemitteilung-zum-tv-beitrag-rotmilan-gegen-windkraft-das-maerchen-vom-bedrohten-greifvogel.html>

The final scientifically based analysis of the mortality causes of the Red Kite is currently being carried out by independent scientific institutions in several European countries. The first publications in scientific journals are not expected before the end of 2022. The LIFE EUROKITE project runs until January 31, 2027. Further evaluations and publications will follow and carried out at least up to the end of the project.




Birds LIVE from Binaced, Huesca

Red kites, Egyptian vultures, storks, starlings, ravens... come to the Binaced feeder in Huesca (Spain) where SEO/BirdLife has installed a webcam to follow the birds LIVE and DIRECTLY. Hundreds of red kites, griffon vultures, buzzards, ravens, but also small birds such as hoopoes, swallows, starlings, larks, etc... come to eat at this place.

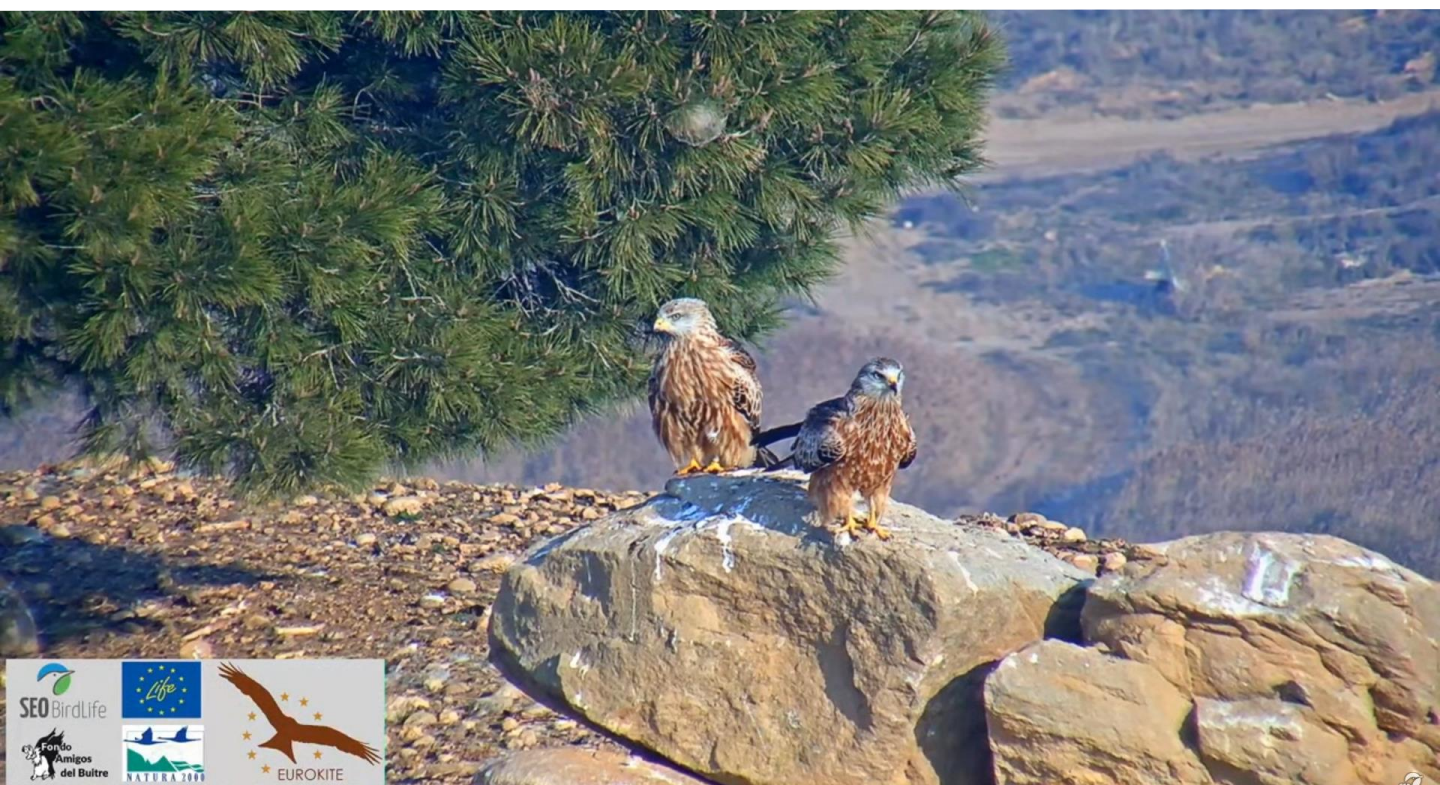
The installation of this webcam in the Las Pichillas garbage dump, in the Huesca municipality of Binaced, has been possible thanks to the LIFE EUROKITE project. In order to conserve the red kite throughout Europe, in 2020 this cross-border conservation project for the red kite and other species of raptors that are threatened in Europe has begun.


Find more information here

<https://www.life-eurokite.eu/en/our-birds/webcams.html>

Frequently asked questions about this #webcamEUROKITE
Binaced feeder-  DIRECT Life-eurokite.eu

<https://youtu.be/gG3Fvhbh8WA>





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Coordinating Beneficiary



The TB Raab was commissioned to implement the LIFE EUOKITE project after a pan-European public tender.



Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



Co-financier



Cooperation partner



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This project is co-financed by the LIFE Nature Programme of the European Union

