

LIFE EUROKITE PROJECT

LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

A NEW VICTORY FOR RED KITE CONSERVATION IN SOUTHERN SPAIN:
GPS evidence and joint action deliver a key win against wildlife poisoning

THE BBC VISITS SPAIN
to film the English red kites released in SW Spain

SPAIN'S 2023-24 RED KITE CENSUS
New national census reveals strong recovery of Spain's red kite population

LIFE EUROKITE BRINGS ITS FINDINGS
to the Raptor Research Foundation Conference in Costa Rica

Red kite © Hansruedi Weyrich

IV INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF RED KITE:
JANUARY 29TH TO FEBRUARY 1ST, 2026
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Photo: AMUS team member with the officers involved in the case at the courthouse
 © AMUS

A NEW VICTORY FOR RED KITE CONSERVATION IN SOUTHERN SPAIN

Winning a court case related to wildlife poisoning is never easy. But in this instance, thanks to the GPS device carried by a red kite from Germany—found poisoned in the province of Cáceres (Extremadura region, SW Spain)—and thanks to the excellent work of the regional Environmental Agents of the Junta de Extremadura Government and the SEPRONA unit of the Spanish Civil Guard, a ruling has been achieved in favor of nature conservation.

Last September, during the judicial process, an agreement was reached between the judge, the suspect, and AMUS, partner of the LIFE EUROKITE project, regarding the poisoning of this red kite. The financial penalty is currently being evaluated by the judge, and we expect to know the final ruling and the sanctions imposed very soon.

Text source: AMUS

Photo: Poisoned red kite
 © AMUS



21 feb 2024 17:53:52
 30S 264588 4424725
 CC-152
 Majadas
 Cáceres
 Extremadura
 Altitud: 313.0m
 Velocidad: 0.0km/h
 #AGENTE LITV 2



Photo: Behind-the-scenes images of the BBC team during filming.
© AMUS



THE BBC VISITS SPAIN TO FILM THE ENGLISH RED KITES RELEASED IN SW SPAIN

The excitement surrounding the red kites released in southwestern Spain has reached far beyond our borders. Their story has caught the attention of the international media—so much so that a BBC film crew spent several days with AMUS to report on this conservation effort for viewers in the United Kingdom.

This remarkable story began thirty years ago, when red kites were taken from Spain to England to help rescue a species that was almost disappearing from the British Isles. Today, the descendants of those birds are making the journey “back” to Spain, playing a key role in strengthening the red kite population in the southwest of the country.

It's a beautiful conservation story that has come full circle—and it's exactly what the BBC has travelled here to capture and share with the world.

Read full article [here](#).

Text source: AMUS



Photo: Behind-the-scenes images of the BBC team during filming.
© AMUS



Photo: Red kite
© Mark Medcalf, Shutterstock

Spain's new national red kite census—the first since 2014—shows a clear recovery of the breeding population. The preliminary estimate records $\geq 3,199$ breeding pairs, reflecting a 32–39% increase over the last decade and renewed occupation of areas where the species had nearly disappeared, such as Castilla-La Mancha, Madrid and the Balearic Islands, where conservation efforts have driven a remarkable rebound.

Castilla y León remains the stronghold, hosting over 50% of all pairs, followed by important populations in Navarra, Extremadura and Aragón. Distribution largely mirrors previous censuses, with main concentrations in the centre-west and along the southern Pyrenees–Ebro valley corridor.

Winter populations also show strong numbers: the 2024 census registered 63,699 individuals, the highest to date. Based on IUCN criteria, Spain's red kite is now classified as Vulnerable, improving from Endangered, and currently meets only criterion C1 (small population size).

Text source: SEO/BirdLife

SPAIN'S 2023–24 RED KITE CENSUS



*Photo: Quetzal (also called the bird of the gods)
© Hannah Böing*

LIFE EUROKITE AT THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE IN COSTA RICA

Members of the LIFE EUROKITE project team had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Raptor Research Foundation Conference in Costa Rica. During the event, they presented the project's first results and scientific publications, highlighting the progress made in reducing threats to Europe's red kites and other raptor species through improved monitoring and cross-border collaboration.

The conference provided a valuable chance to exchange experiences and ideas with colleagues from around the world. Discussions focused on shared challenges such as raptor persecution, the impacts of climate change on bird populations, and how conservation and renewable energy development can go hand in hand.

Costa Rica, famous for its stunning biodiversity, inspired all participants. A special highlight was the visit to Cahuita, where the team joined the Talamanca Hawk Watch to witness the impressive migration of thousands of raptors soaring over the Caribbean coast.



*Photo: Raptor migration over the Caribbean coast
at Talamanca Hawk Watch
© Hannah Böing*

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we celebrate this joyful season,
we want to thank you for your support
in protecting red kites and
conserving nature.

Together, we're making a difference
for a brighter future.

Wishing you a holiday season full of peace,
happiness, and the beauty of nature.

The LIFE EUROKITE Team

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Red kite © Hansruedi Weyrich



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



Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



Co-financier



Cooperation partner



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