



LIFE EUROKITE CRIME REPORT

ILLEGAL PERSECUTION OF TAGGED RED KITES AND OTHER RAPTOR SPECIES IN EUROPE

PART 19 - COUNTRY SPECIFIC RESULTS - SWITZERLAND

First interim report on the results of the LIFE EUROKITE (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048) project 2020-2024 with additional results from 2013 onwards

“Cross-border protection of the red kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality”



This company project report was compiled by TB Raab GmbH within the LIFE EUROKITE project (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048) and was checked by the owner of the loggers and the representatives of the (cooperation) partners responsible for finding the dead birds.

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Cover photo: Poisoned red kite © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Ján Svetlík)



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Project: LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048 – LIFE EUROKITE



Structure of the Crime Report

Due to the size of the report, it is divided in the following parts. Please see the other report parts for further information.

Part 1 - Introduction, Methods, Overall Results, Discussion, Conclusion & Recommendation

Part 2 - Country specific results - Austria

Part 3 - Country specific results - Belgium

Part 4 - Country specific results - Croatia

Part 5 - Country specific results - Czech Republic

Part 6 - Country specific results - Denmark

Part 7 - Country specific results - France

Part 8 - Country specific results - Germany

Part 9 - Country specific results - Greece

Part 10 - Country specific results - Hungary

Part 11 - Country specific results - Italy

Part 12 - Country specific results - Luxembourg

Part 13 - Country specific results - Netherlands

Part 14 - Country specific results - Poland

Part 15 - Country specific results - Portugal

Part 16 - Country specific results - Serbia

Part 17 - Country specific results - Slovakia

Part 18 - Country specific results - Spain

Part 19 - Country specific results - Switzerland

Part 20 - Country specific results - Turkey

Part 21 - Country specific results - Other countries outside Europe

Table of content

- 1 Summary 1
- 2 Introduction 2
- 3 Swiss results 11
 - 3.1 Tagged individuals that have been poisoned 11
 - 3.2 Tagged individuals which died due to shooting 51
 - 3.3 Summary of the Swiss results 71
- 4 References..... 77
- 5 List of tagged individuals which died in Switzerland 78



1 Summary

The LIFE EUROKITE project (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048) is a cross-border protection project for the red kite and other raptor species in Europe. Within the LIFE EUROKITE project the core idea is to use telemetry technology to identify the spatial habitat use of the target raptor species, quantify the key reasons of mortality of bird of prey species in the EU and reduce human-caused mortality, particularly illegal activities such as poisoning.

Between 2013 and 2024, 3,554 individuals of 7 raptor species (3,161 red kites, 97 black kites, 43 booted eagles, 52 honey buzzards, 79 imperial eagles, 22 ospreys and 100 white-tailed eagles) were tagged with solar-powered GPS satellite tags in 19 countries across Europe with the help of many project partners and cooperation partners. From this a total of 1,795 individuals (1,680 red kites, 37 black kites, 18 honey buzzards, 29 imperial eagles and 31 white-tailed eagles) were tagged within the LIFE EUROKITE project.

From the 3,554 tagged birds a total of 1,623 died so far. Of these, a total of 1,594 individuals (1,480 red kites, 13 black kites, 14 booted eagles, 17 honey buzzards, 32 imperial eagles, 8 ospreys, 30 white-tailed eagles) died in the respective country where we also detected bird persecution within our sample. The first results of the LIFE EUROKITE project show, that 320 (20.08 %) of the tagged birds (293; 19.80 % red kites, 3; 23.08 % black kites, 1; 7.14 % booted eagles, 2; 11.76 % honey buzzards, 12; 37.50 % imperial eagles, 1; 12.50 % ospreys, 8; 26.67 % white-tailed eagles) were victims of illegal activities in 24 countries (10/01/2025). Poisoning (n= 238; 74.38 % of illegal activities) was by far the most common illegal act that caused the death of these tagged birds. The most used poison was Carbofuran which is banned in the EU since 2008. The second most common illegal act that caused the death of these tagged birds was shooting (66 individuals; 20.63 % of illegal activities). Of the 320 birds that were tagged and illegally killed, only 8 cases resulted in a conviction for bird persecution.

When extrapolating the data on illegal bird persecution over the past five years (2020–2024), it is estimated that approximately 46.180 red kites have died as a result of persecution. This estimate is derived by scaling up known persecution rates of tagged birds to the entire European red kite population, based on published population size estimates, average annual mortality rates, and the proportion of mortality attributed to illegal killing. It therefore reflects a population-level extrapolation, not a direct count of detected cases.

Due to varying numbers of tagged individuals and differing red kite population densities across countries, the results may vary considerably. Consequently, these findings do not allow for conclusions regarding the statistical frequency of illegal activities relative to red kite density in any given country.

Bird persecution in Europe persists all over Europe. Effective conservation requires stronger law enforcement, public education, international cooperation, and better tools like GPS tracking to detect and prosecute offenders. Political commitment across countries is crucial, along with harmonized laws, stricter penalties, and national action plans with clear goals. Raising awareness through initiatives like the “European Day Against Criminal Poisoning of Wildlife” and systematic data collection can help inform both the public and policymakers. Finally, stronger cross-border collaboration and support for monitoring and reporting systems are essential to address bird persecution at a European level.

2 Introduction

The LIFE EUROKITE project (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048) is a cross-border protection project for the red kite and other raptor species in Europe. Within the LIFE EUROKITE project the core idea is to use telemetry technology to identify the spatial habitat use of the target raptor species, quantify the key reasons of mortality of bird of prey species in the EU and reduce human-caused mortality, particularly from illegal activities such as poisoning.

Specifically, the red kite (*Milvus milvus*) can act as an indicator of anthropogenic mortality across broad extents (Donázar et al. 2016; Natsukawa and Sergio, 2022) due to its high individual variability in migration strategies (García-Macía et al. 2022) and its condition of good sentinel species for main threats to raptors (Mattson et al. 2022). As migratory behaviour is associated with different exposure and risk levels, understanding the causes of cross-border mortality in red kites can provide important warning signs regarding wider impacts of human activities on wildlife populations in Europe (Donázar et al. 2016; Natsukawa and Sergio, 2022).

In response to ongoing illegal threats to migratory birds, international conservation bodies have taken major steps toward unified action. Under the leadership of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Bern Convention, and with the involvement of numerous states, observers, and expert groups, a comprehensive framework was adopted: the *Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030*. This plan outlines a joint commitment to halving illegal bird killings in Europe and the Mediterranean by 2030, using 2020 as a baseline (Council of Europe, 2019). By generating large-scale, cross-border evidence on mortality causes, the LIFE EUROKITE Crime Report plays a key role in tracking progress toward this ambitious objective.

The Article 12 of the Habitats Directive clearly defines that member states shall take requisite measures to establish a system of strict protection for the animal species listed in Annex IV(a) in their natural range, prohibiting, among others, all forms of deliberate capture or killing and shall establish a system to monitor the incidental capture and killing of specimens of these species in the wild (European Commission, 2021; Panter et al. under review).

Between 2013 and 2024, 3,554 individuals of 7 raptor species (3,161 red kites, 97 black kites, 43 booted eagles, 52 honey buzzards, 79 imperial eagles, 22 ospreys and 100 white-tailed eagles) were tagged with solar-powered GPS satellite tags in 19 countries across Europe with the help of many project partners and cooperation partners. From this a total of 1,795 individuals (1,680 red kites, 37 black kites, 18 honey buzzards, 29 imperial eagles and 31 white-tailed eagles) were tagged within the LIFE EUROKITE project (Figure 1 to Figure 7).

The first results of the LIFE EUROKITE project show that illegal persecution of tagged birds (shooting, poisoning, trapping) is one of the biggest threats for those species. To date (as of 10 January 2025), 320 tagged birds have been victims of bird crime (Figure 8).

This report will give an overview of tagged birds which died due to illegal activities in Switzerland and will give a detailed inside of the status of investigations and legal procedure.

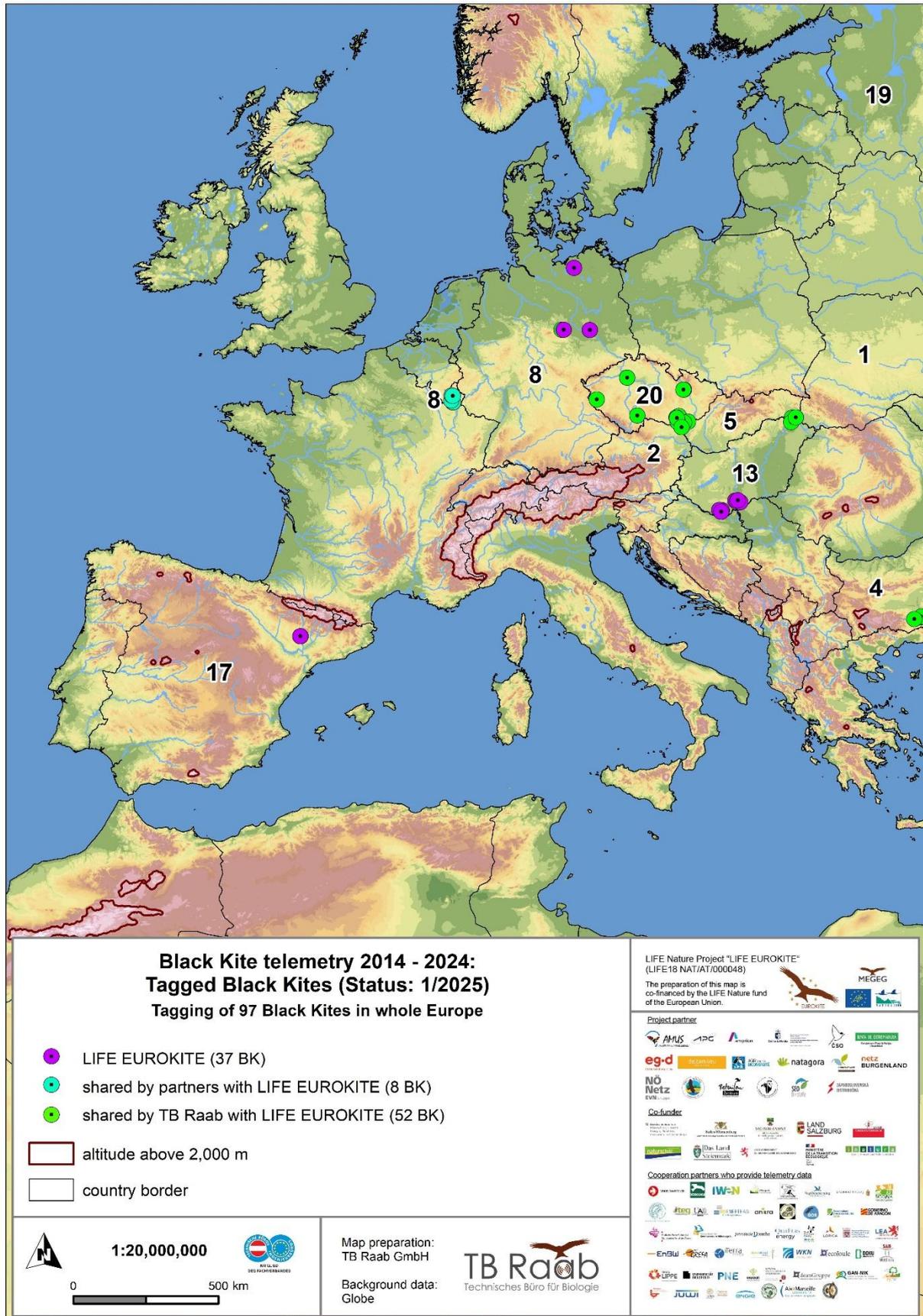


Figure 2: Tagging of 97 black kites by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe in the years 2014- 2024.

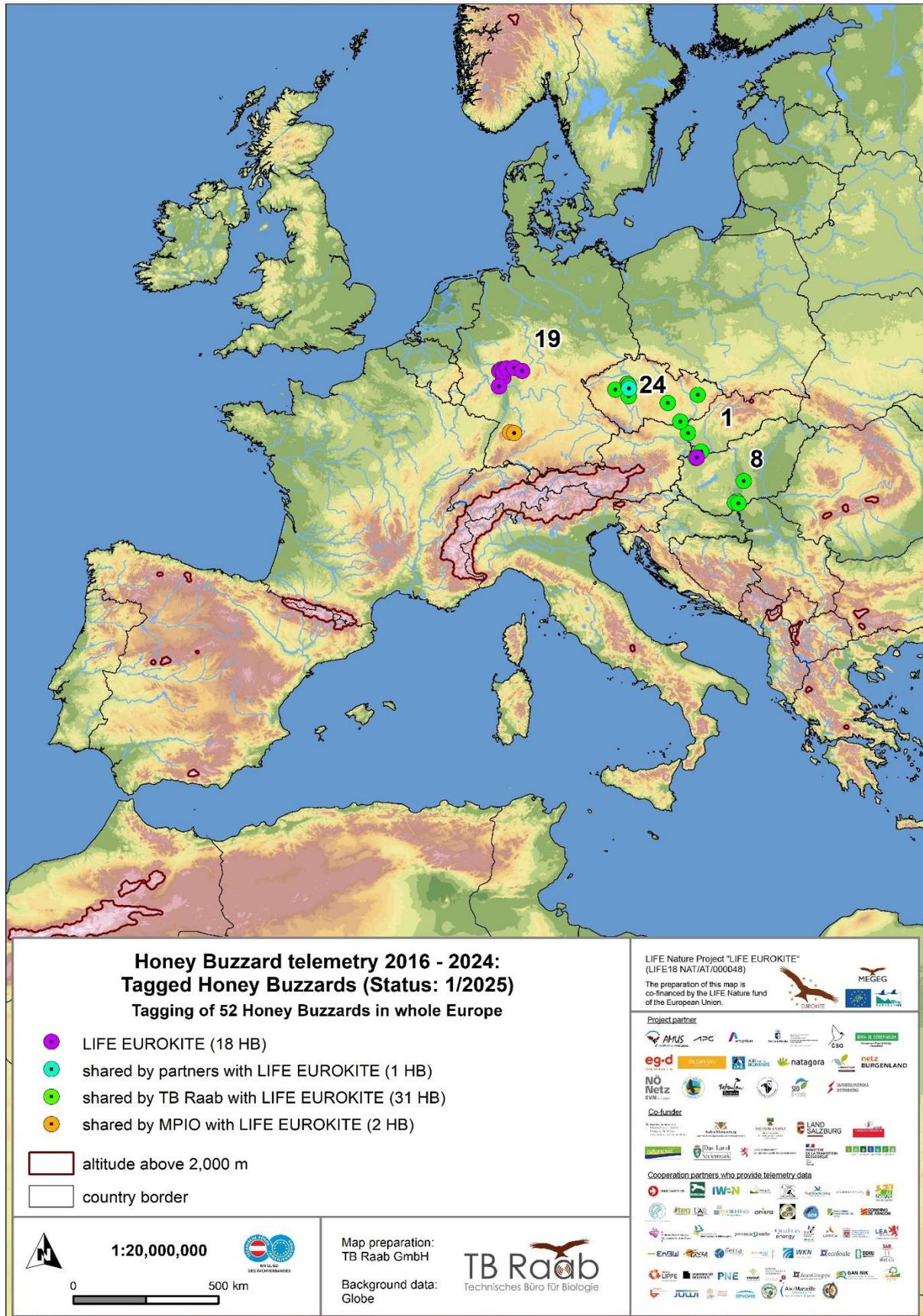


Figure 4: Tagging of 52 honey buzzards by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe in the years 2016-2024.

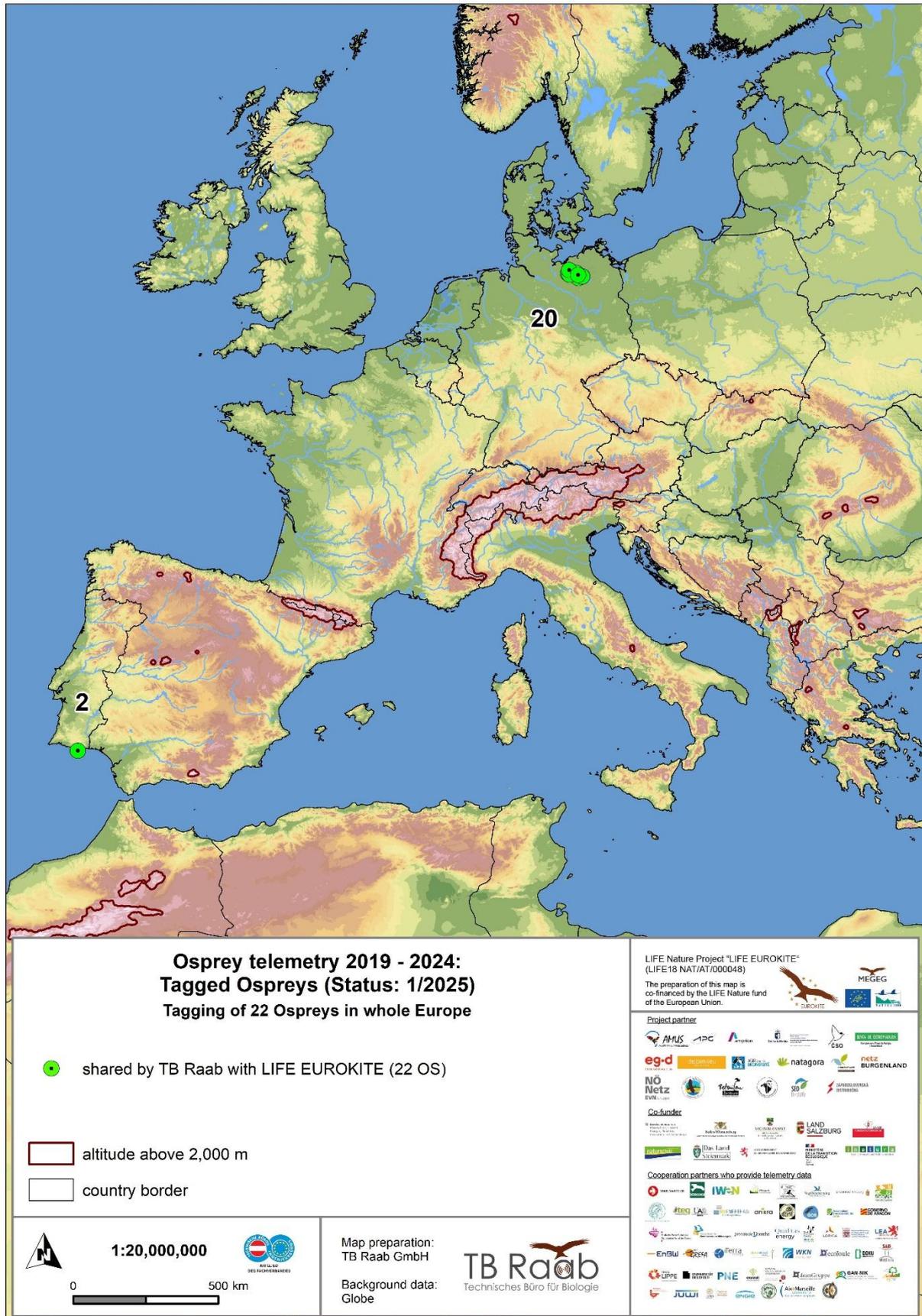


Figure 6: Tagging of 22 ospreys by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe the years 2019-2024.

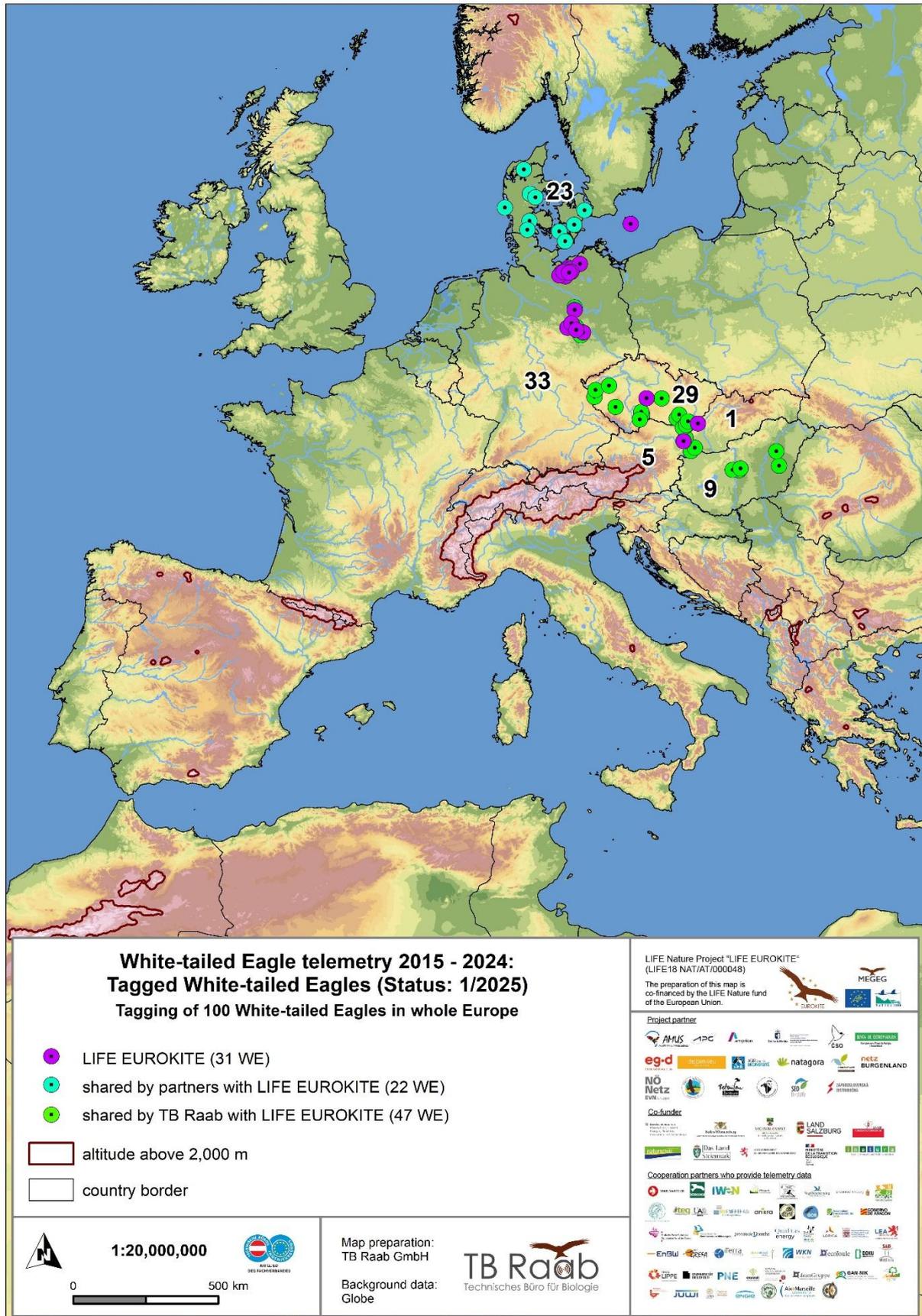


Figure 7: Tagging of 100 white-tailed eagles by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe the years 2015-2024.

3 Swiss results

The subsequent section provides a detailed overview of the cases with illegal mortality reasons in Switzerland. A total of 12 birds have been confirmed as victims of illegal activities. Of these, 8 succumbed to poisoning and 4 were shot.

3.1 Tagged individuals that have been poisoned

The birds are listed in chronological order by date of bird crime, commencing with the first recorded case.

RK_0871

General information about the bird

Name: 369

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 11.05.2017

Place of tagging: Schwarzenburg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 07.06.2017

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48505478094

Ring number: M039011

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Val-de-Travers, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,9078659, 6,5071830

Date of bird crime: 27.09.2017, 04:07:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 139

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: No information about logger, bird found

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Poisoning – Other substances

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI). Diazinon was found.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: No information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received

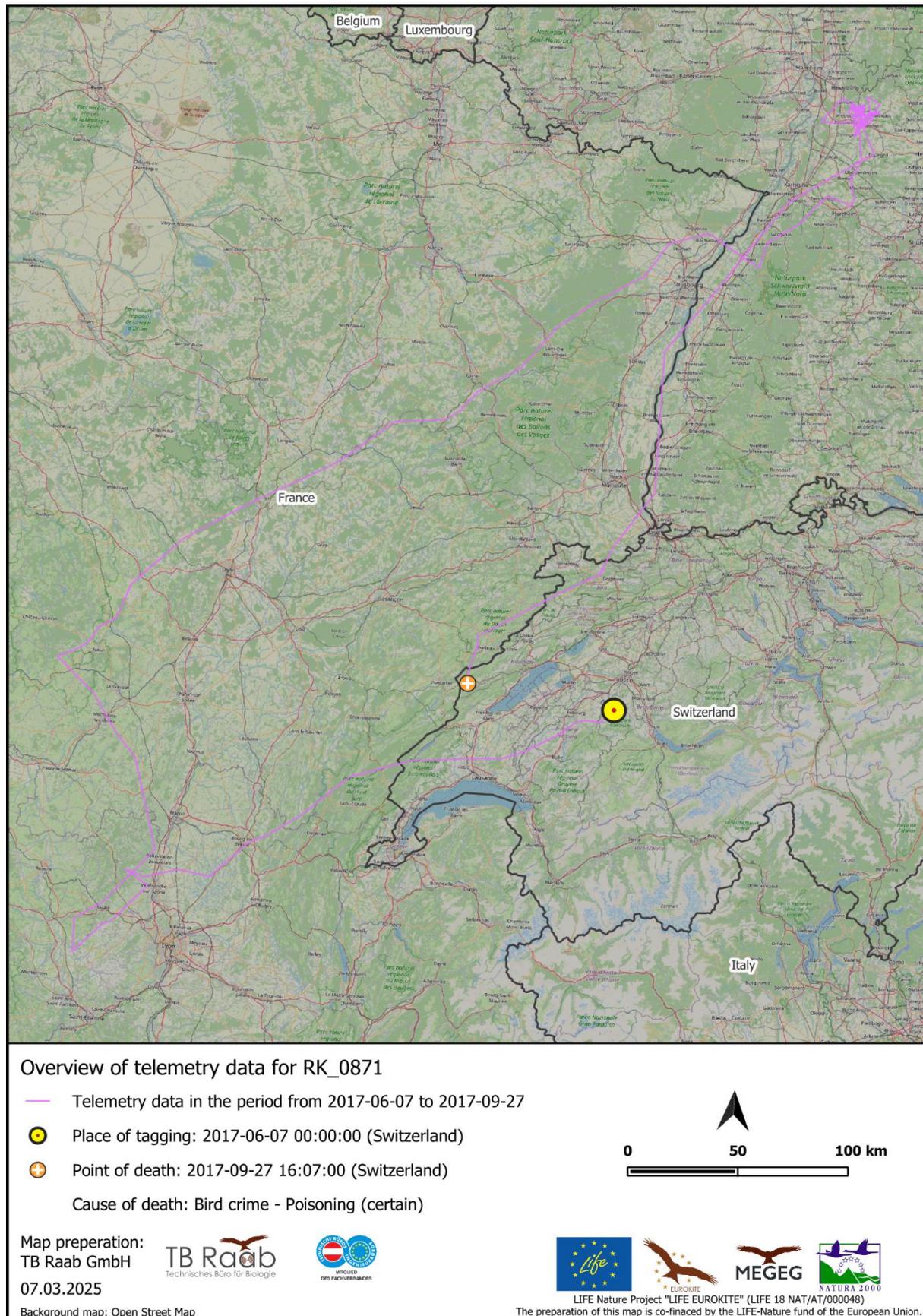


Figure 9: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0871.



Figure 10: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0871 in the last days before death.

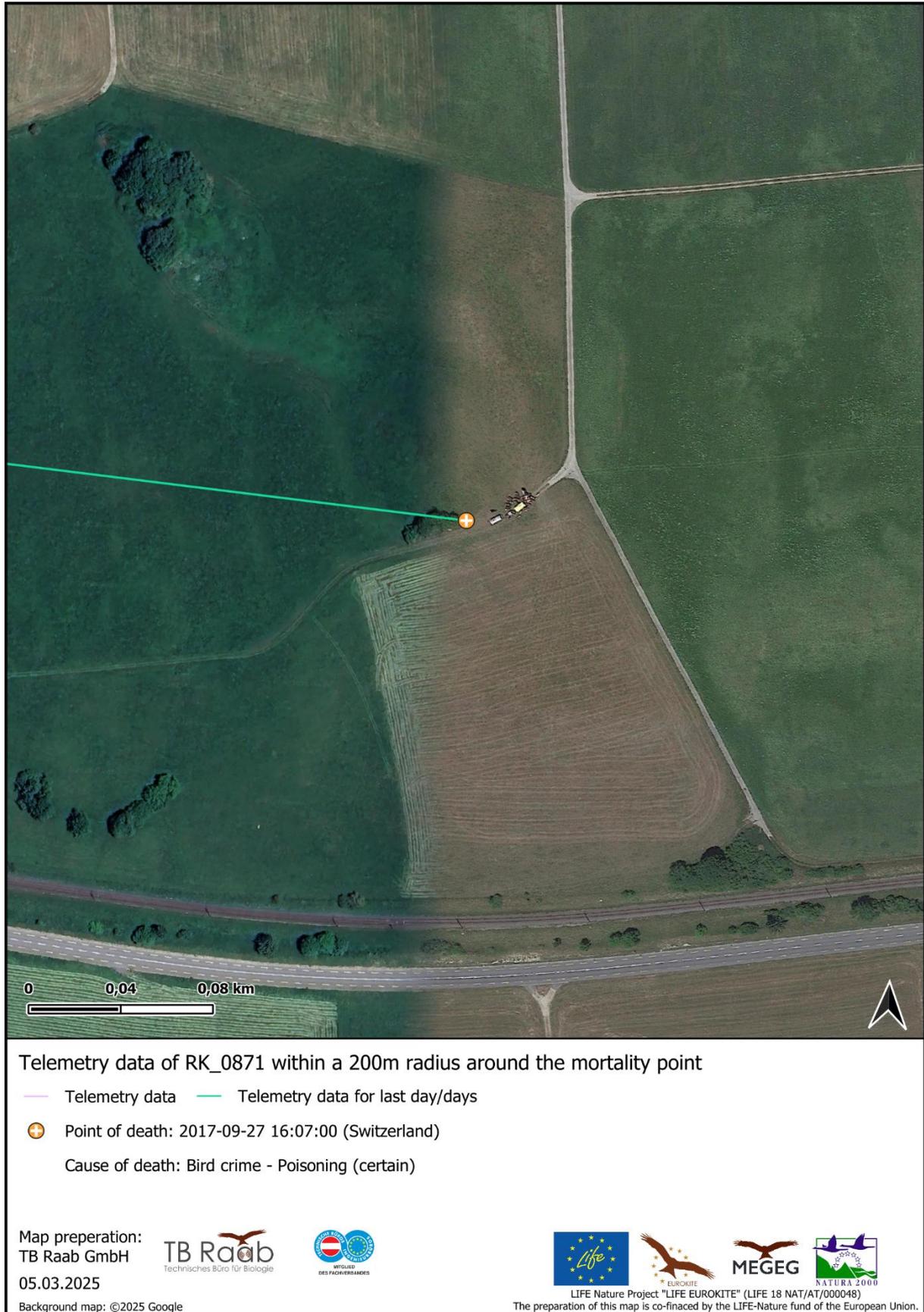


Figure 11: Telemetry data of RK_0871 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0999

General information about the bird

Name: 99

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 17.05.2016

Place of tagging: Bulle, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 22.06.2016

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48503142792

Ring number: M023960

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Sâles, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,608151820, 6,9520114

Date of bird crime: 03.03.2019, 06:01:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.020

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: No information about logger, the bird was found

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Poisoning - Pentobarbital

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI)

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: No information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received

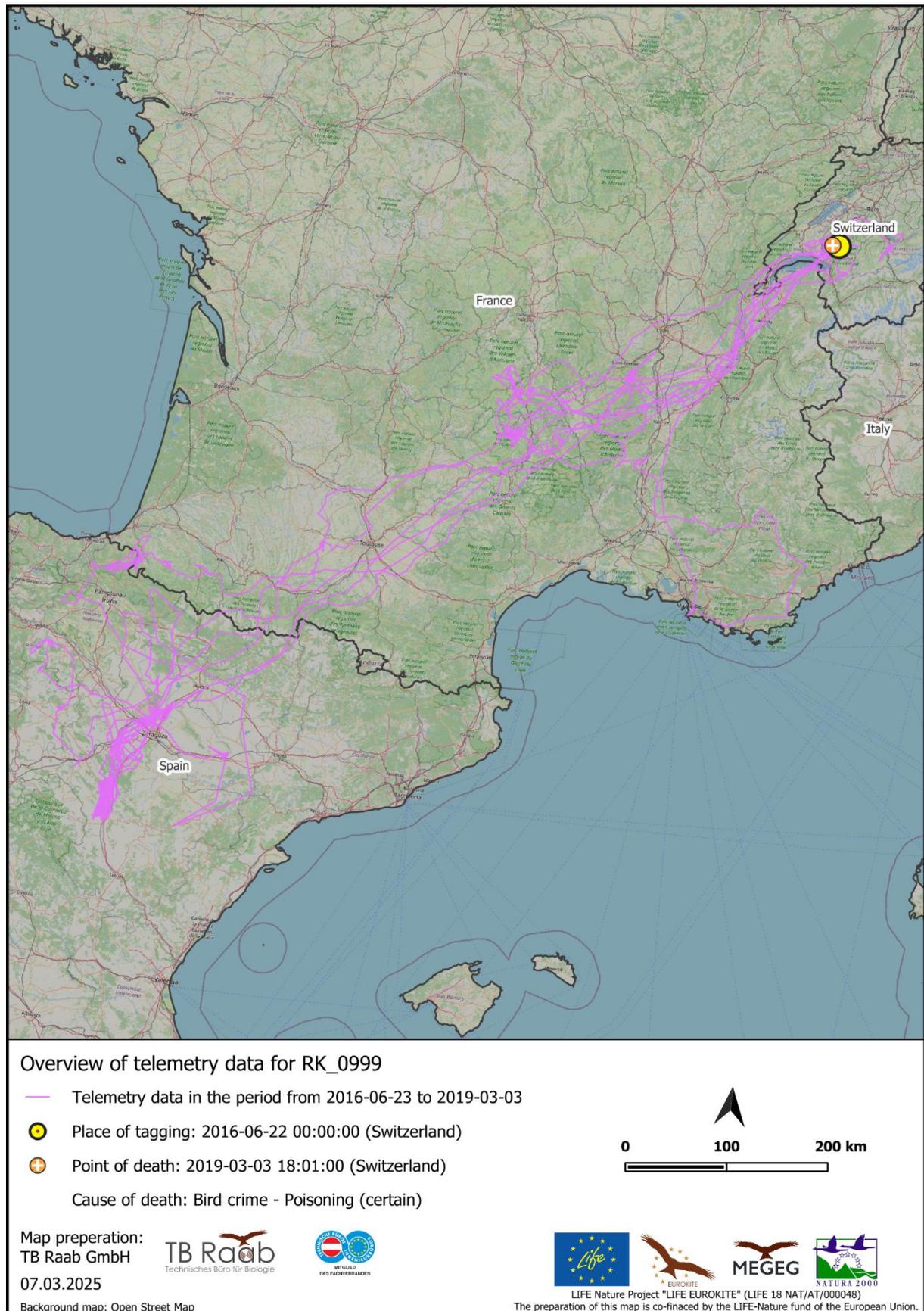


Figure 12: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0999.

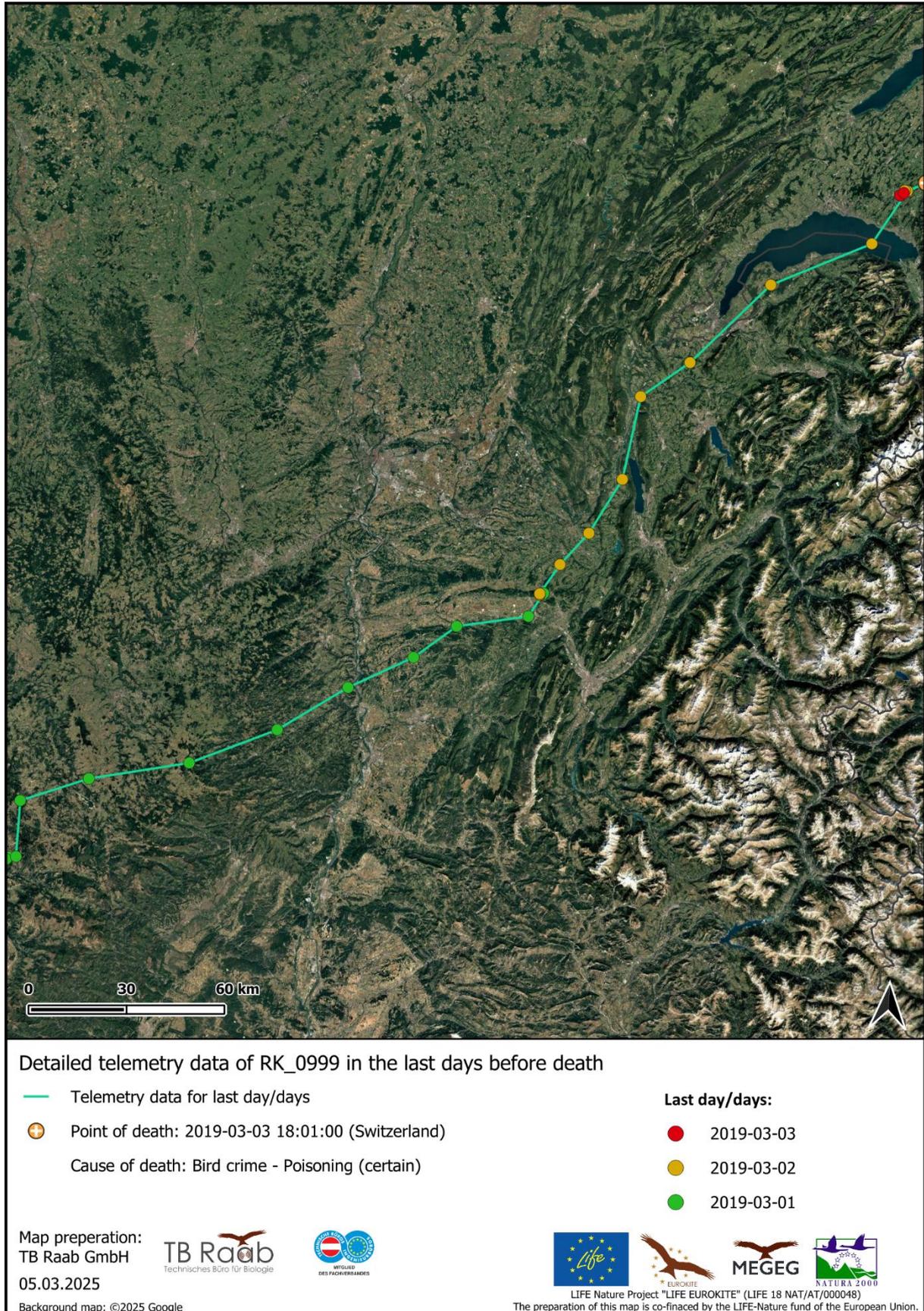


Figure 13: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0999 in the last days before death.



Figure 14: Telemetry data of RK_0999 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0736

General information about the bird

Name: 164

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 09.05.2015

Place of tagging: Gibloux, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 24.06.2015

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48500503527

Ring number: M023879

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Oppens, Région lémanique, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,7090329, 6,6918660

Date of bird crime: 13.03.2019, 05:01:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.404

Age at bird crime: 5. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: No information about logger, bird found

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Poisoning - Pentobarbital

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI). Pentobarbital was found.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: No information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received

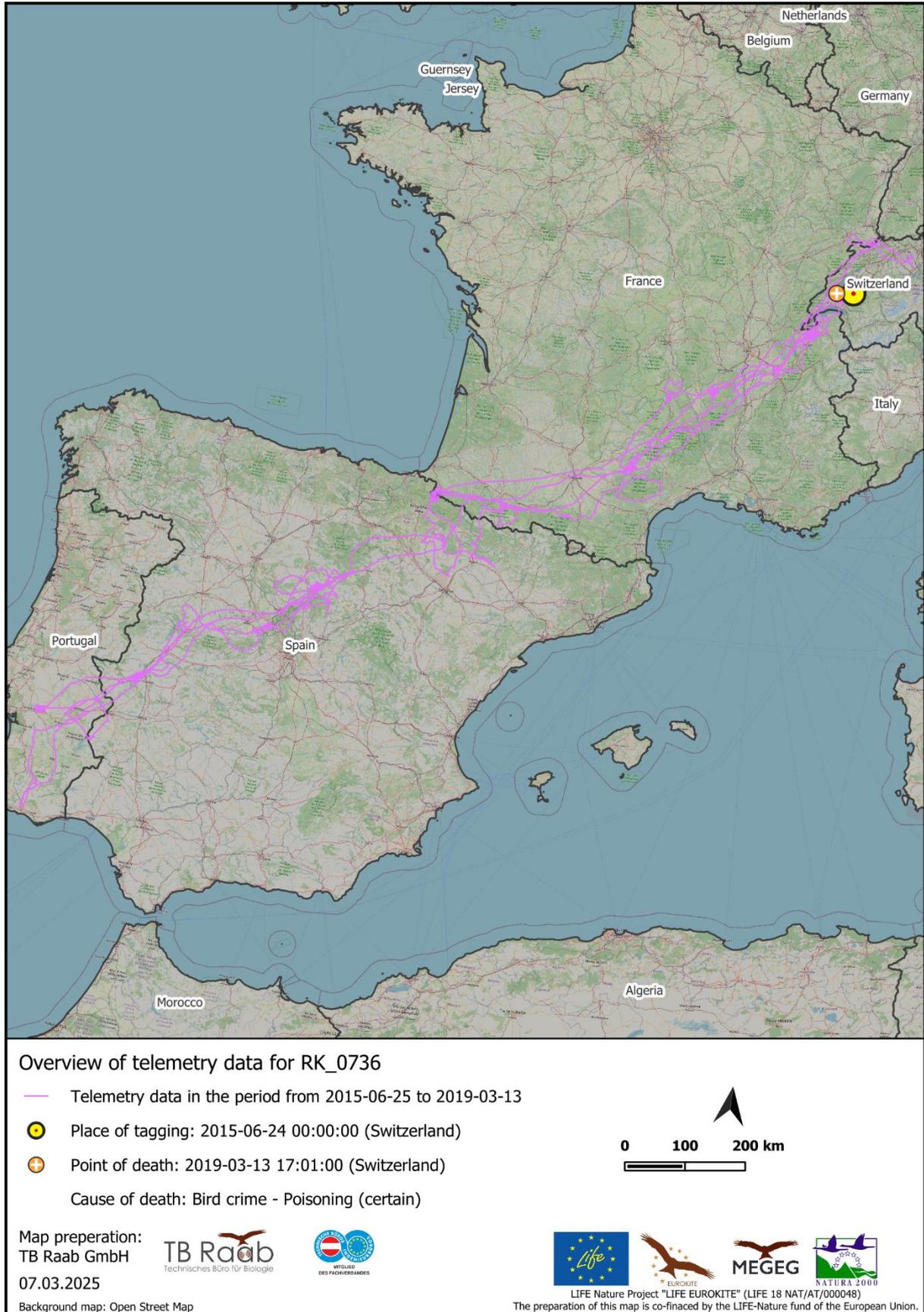


Figure 15: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0736.

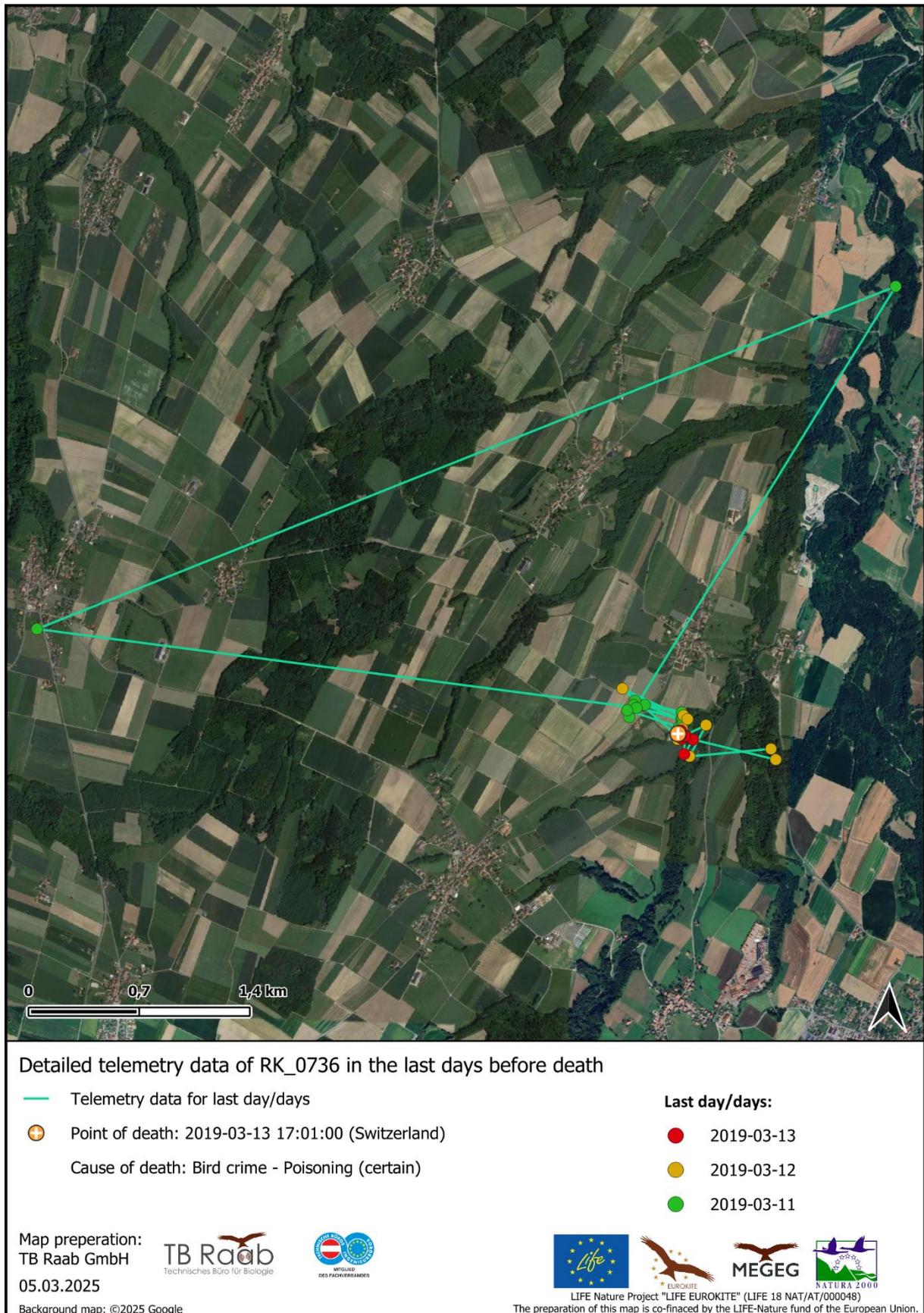


Figure 16: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0736 in the last days before death.

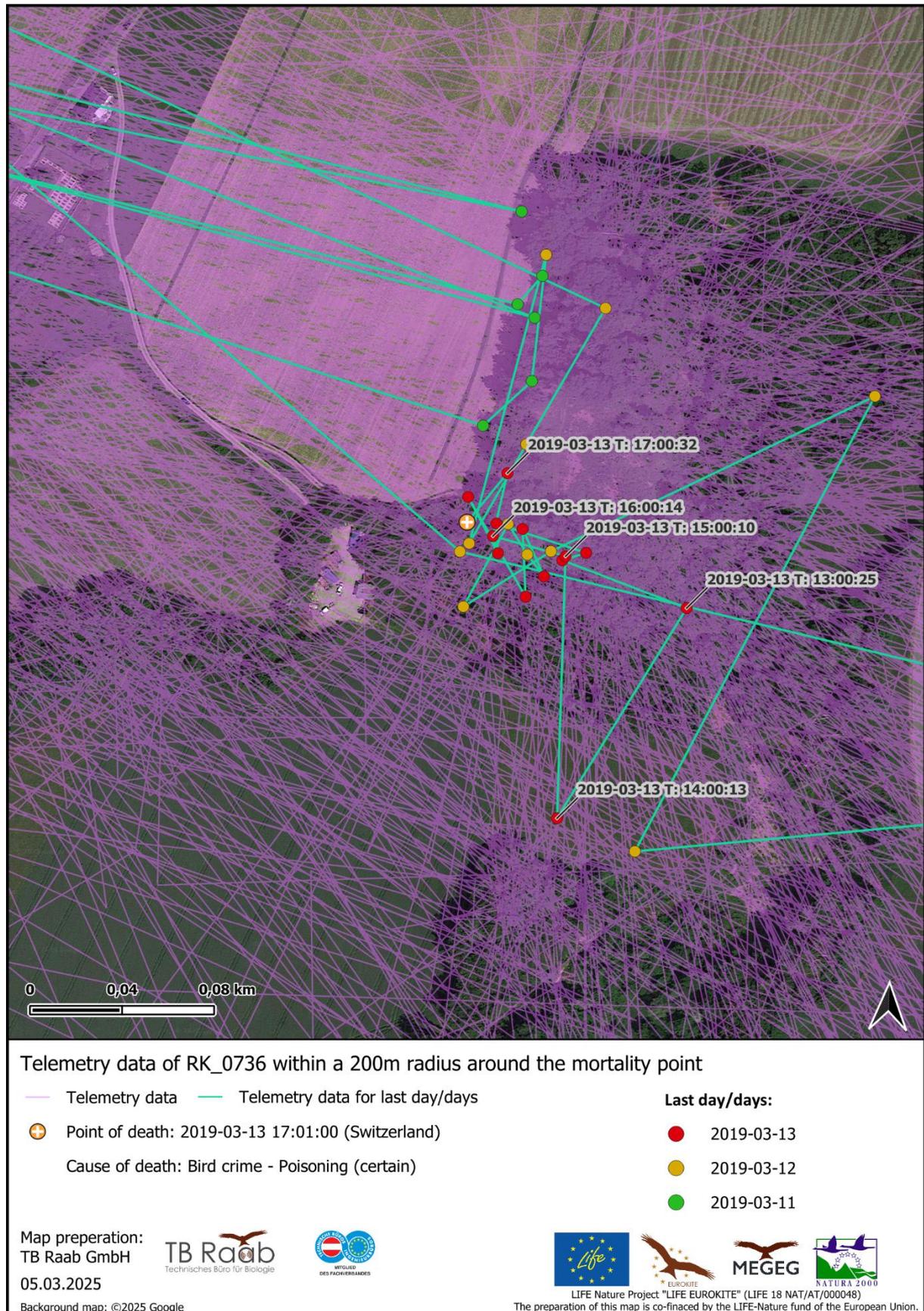


Figure 17: Telemetry data of RK_0736 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0951

General information about the bird

Name: 53

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 12.05.2016

Place of tagging: Grandvillard, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 19.06.2016

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48503142836

Ring number: M023951

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: La Verrerie, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,59645608, 6,92739939

Date of bird crime: 20.03.2019, 05:01:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.042

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: No Information received

Bird crime: Poisoning – Other substances

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment SOI). Terbufos was found

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: No information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received

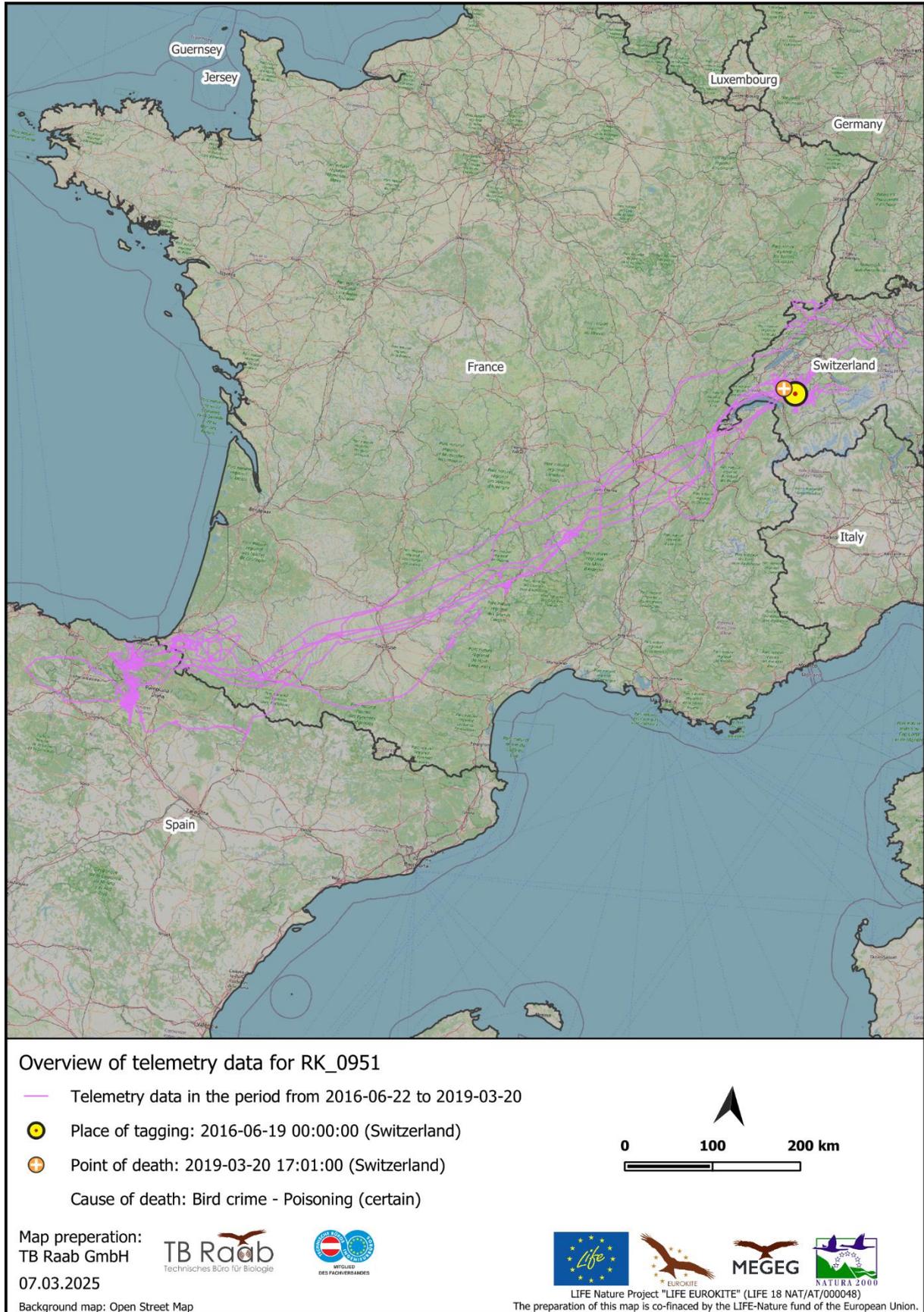


Figure 18: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0951.

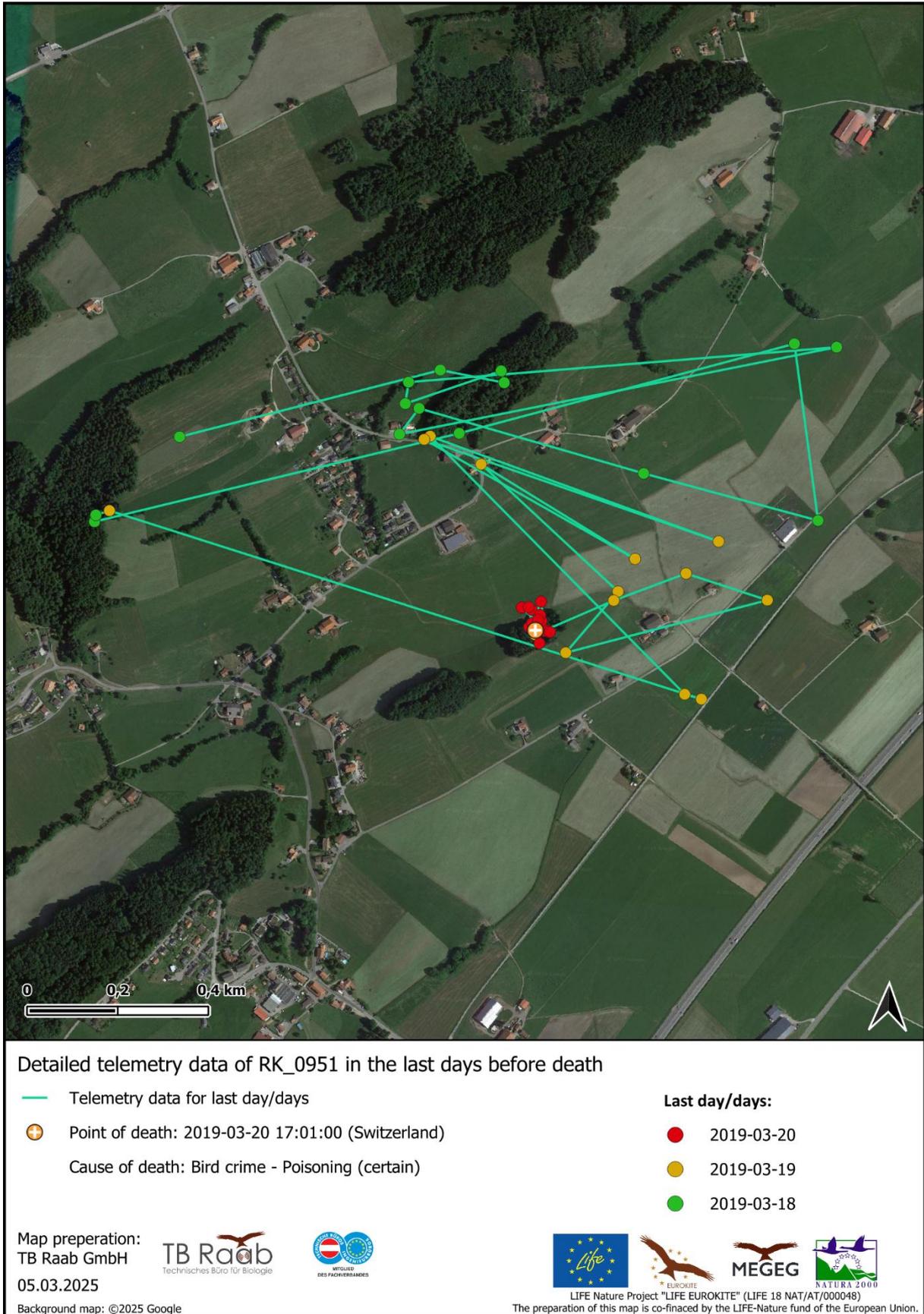


Figure 19: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0951 in the last days before death.

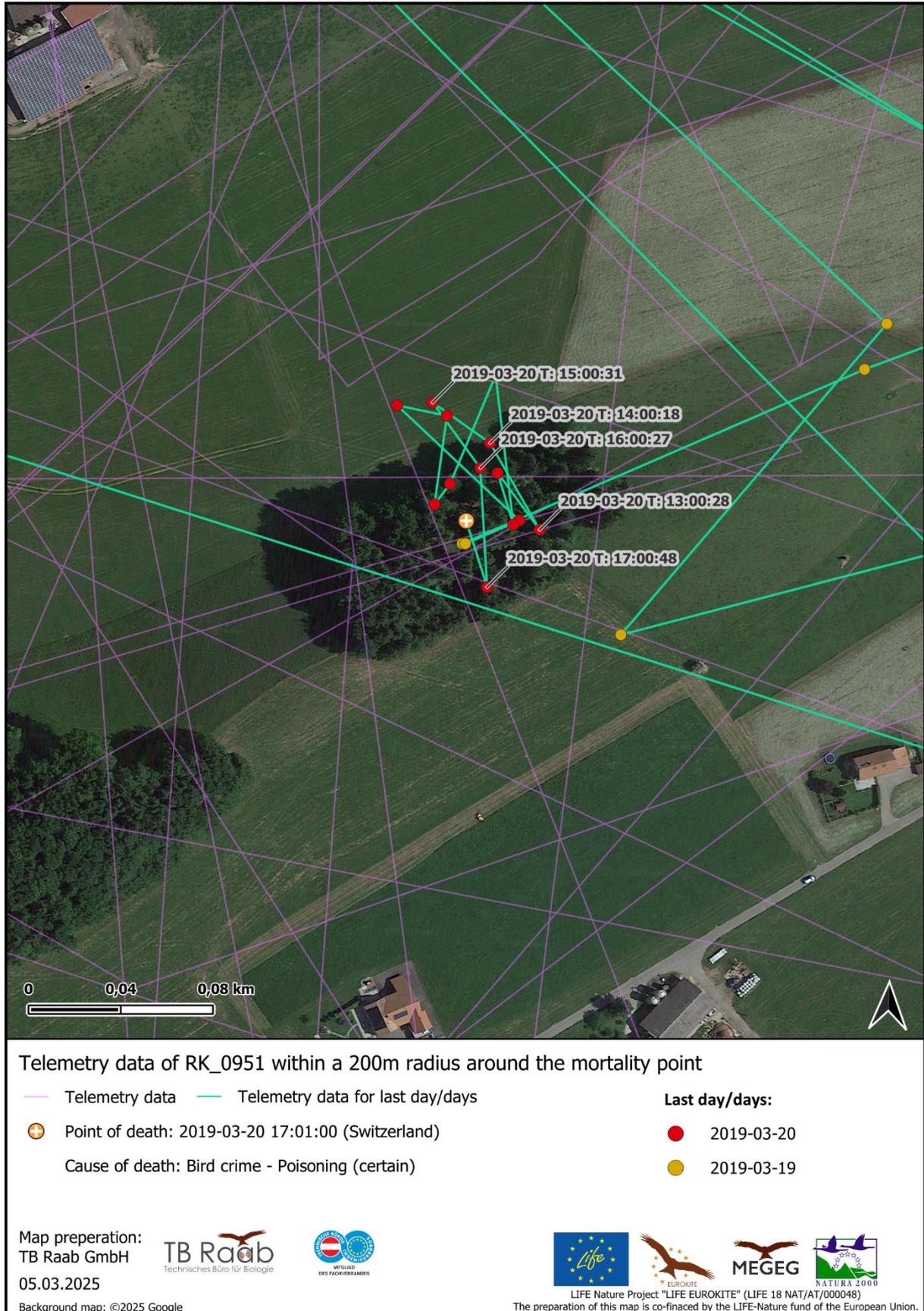


Figure 20: Telemetry data of RK_0951 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0753

General information about the bird

Name: 18

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 12.05.2016

Place of tagging: Sâles, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 14.06.2016

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48797731299

Ring number: M004945

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: La Verrerie, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,5999539, 6,94914979

Date of bird crime: 11.04.2019, 07:01:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.064

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Poisoning – Other substances

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI). Terbufos was found.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: No information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received

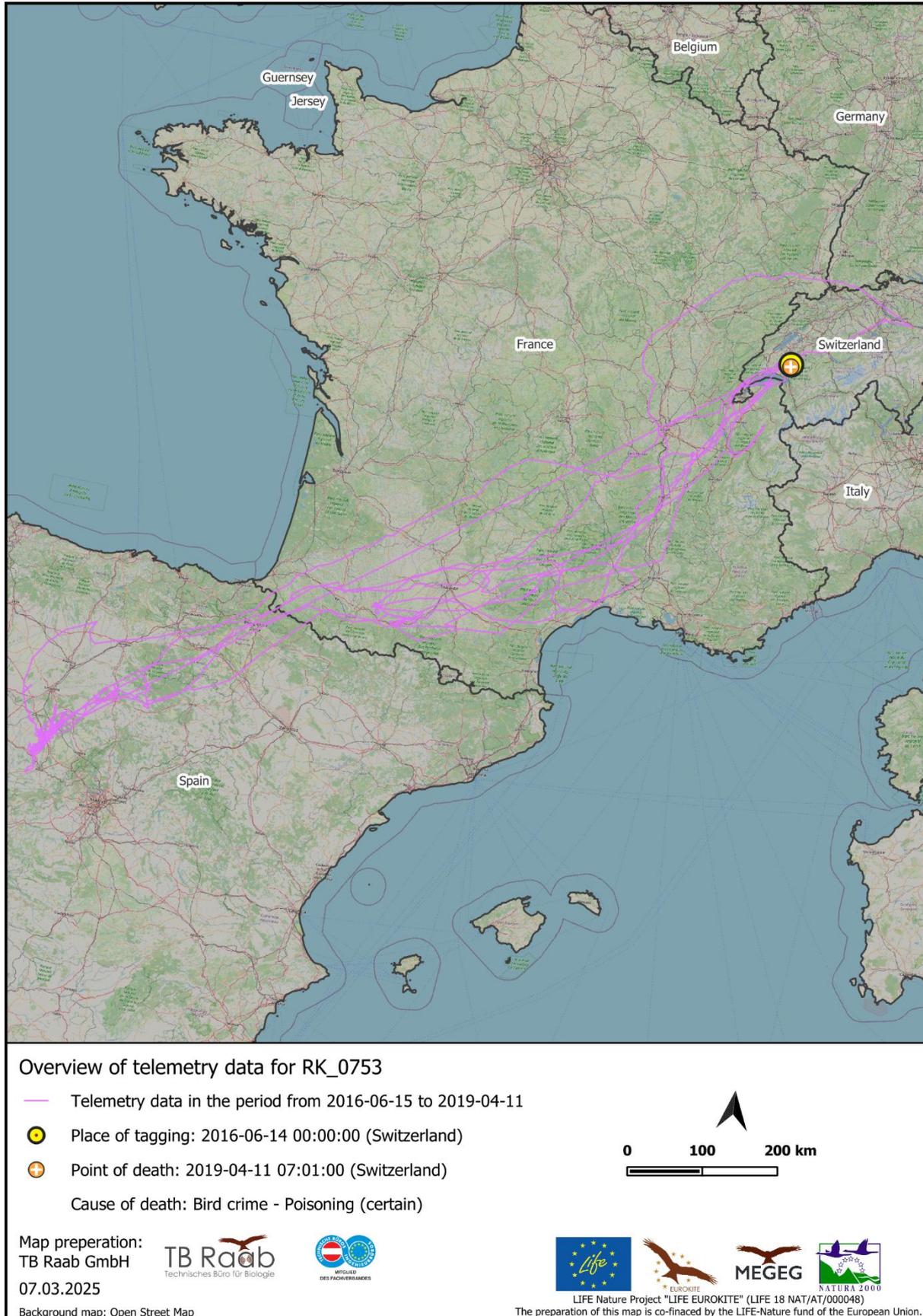


Figure 21: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0753.

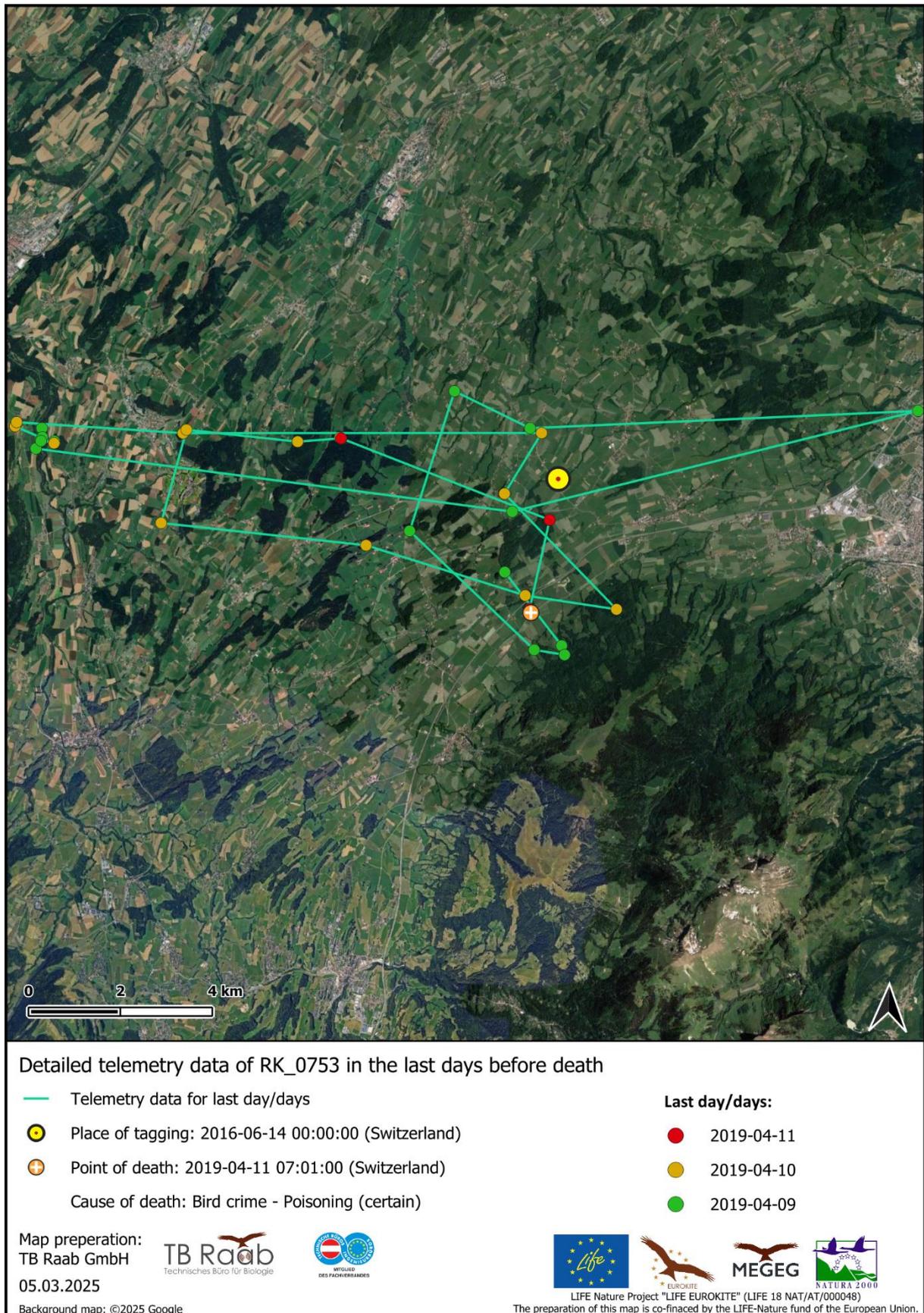


Figure 22: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0753 in the last days before death.



Figure 23: Telemetry data of RK_0753 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0669

General information about the bird

Name: 10

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 13.05.2013

Place of tagging: Schwarzenburg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 10.06.2016

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48511845249

Ring number: M035178

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Schwarzenburg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,8096159, 7,3640660

Date of bird crime: 11.04.2019, 10:00:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 2.159

Age at bird crime: 7. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Poisoning - Pentobarbital

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI). Pentobarbital was found.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: No information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received

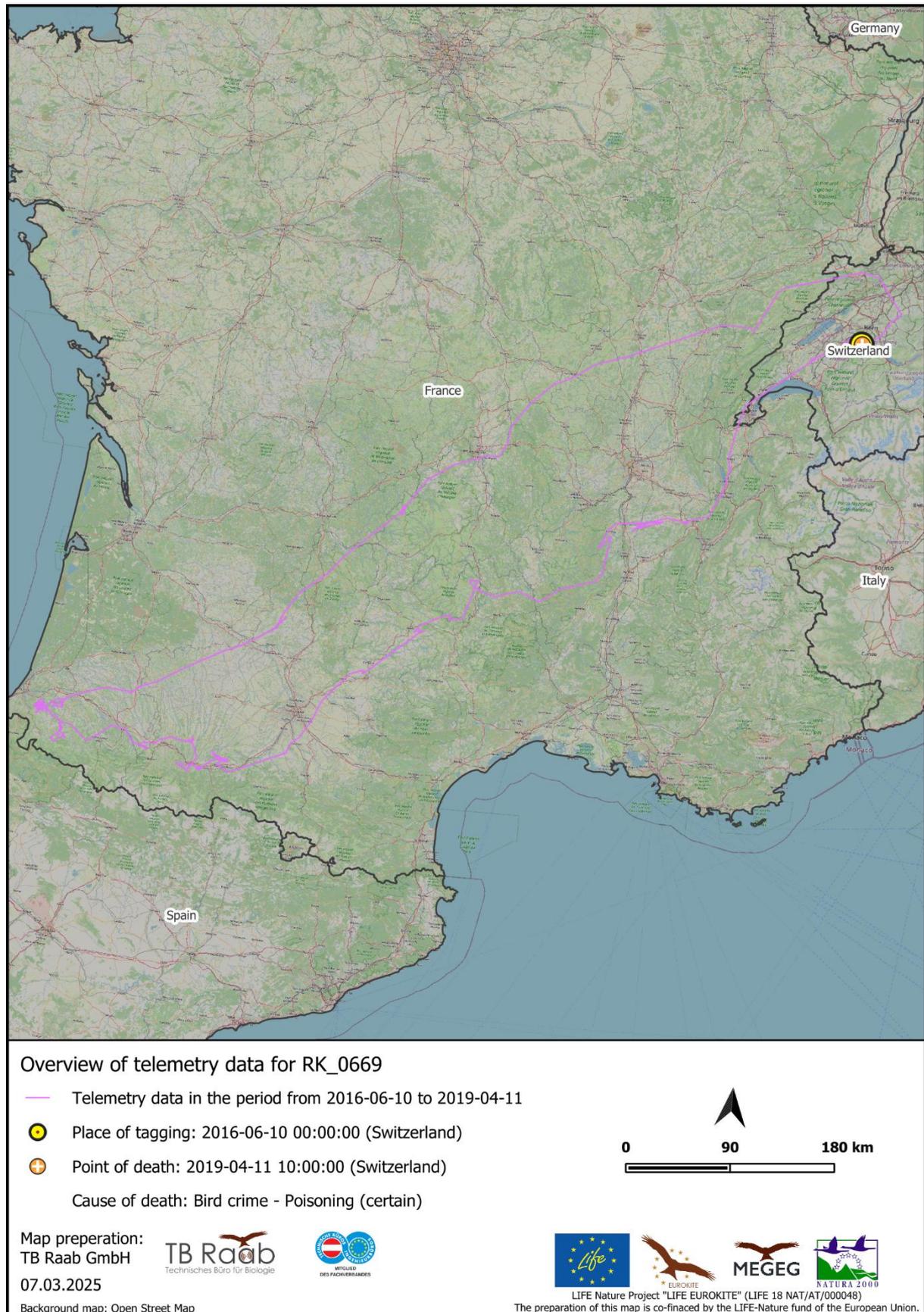


Figure 24: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0669.

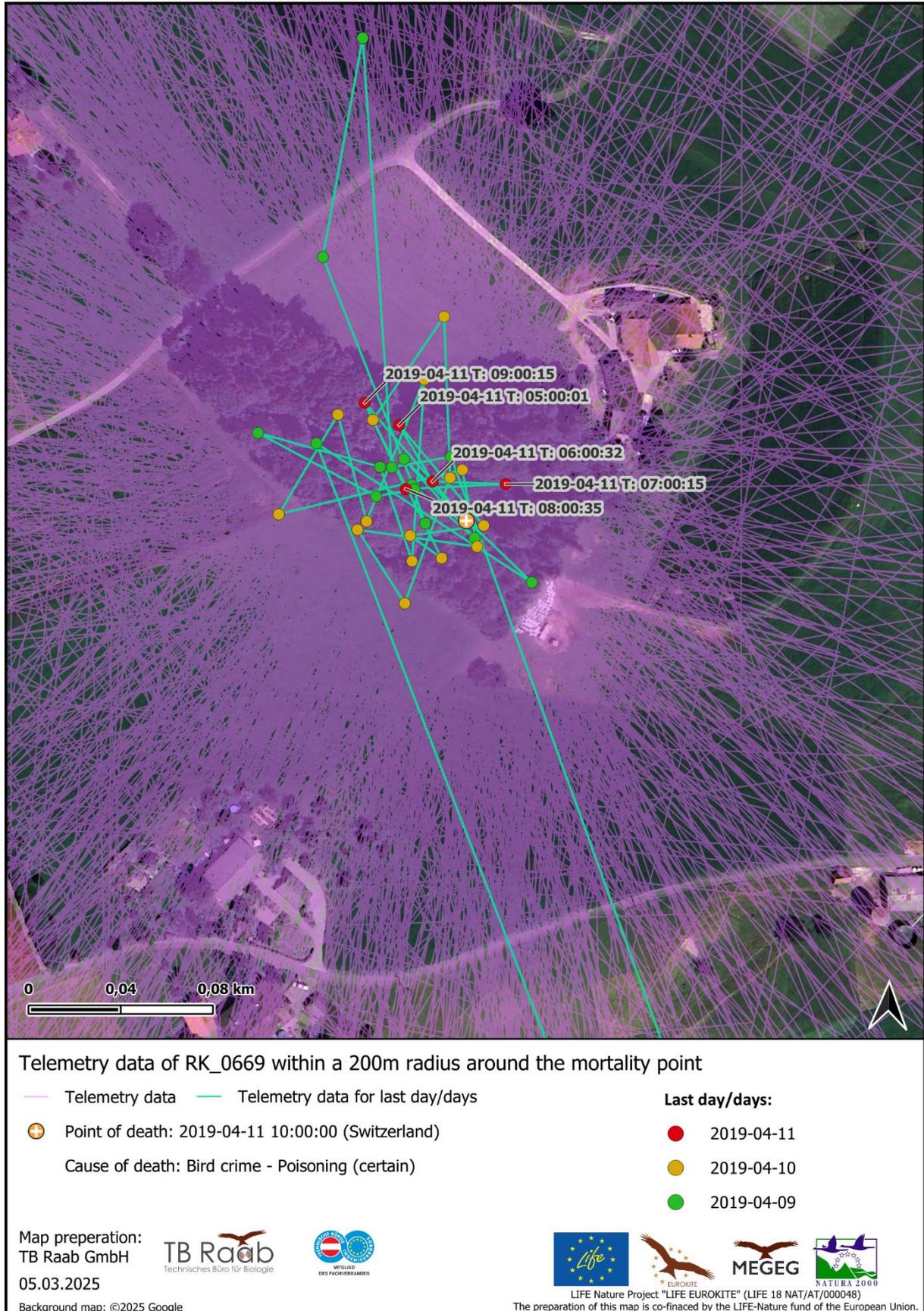


Figure 25: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0669 in the last days before death.



Figure 26: Telemetry data of RK_0669 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0929

General information about the bird

Name: 449

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 13.05.2014

Place of tagging: Schmitten, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 07.06.2017

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48505481853

Ring number: M039303

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Düringen, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,8311169, 7,2198820

Date of bird crime: 11.04.2019, 02:02:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.794

Age at bird crime: 6. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: No information received.

Bird crime: Poisoning - Pentobarbital

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI). Pentobarbital was found.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: No information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received

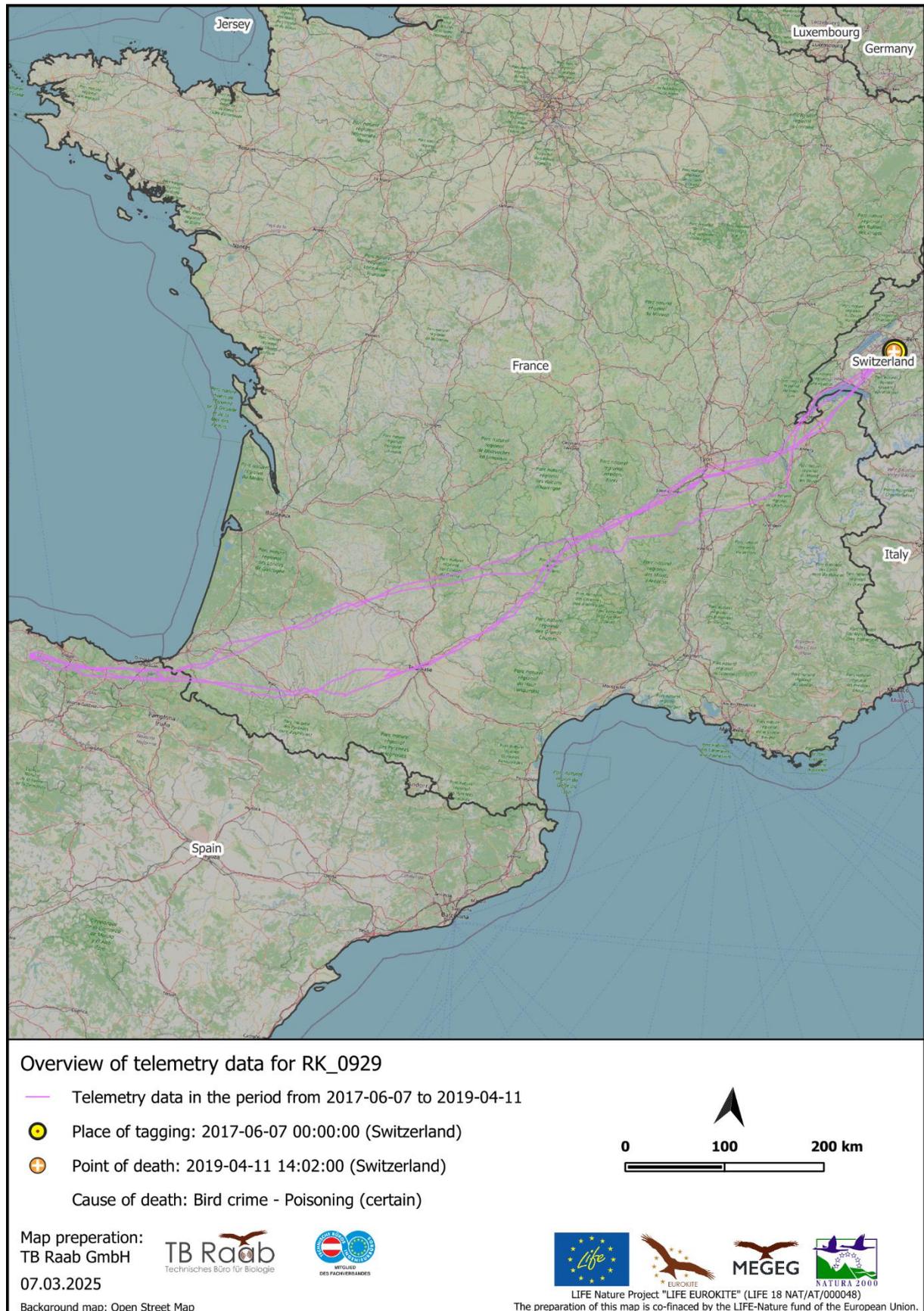


Figure 27: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0929.



Figure 28: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0929 in the last days before death.

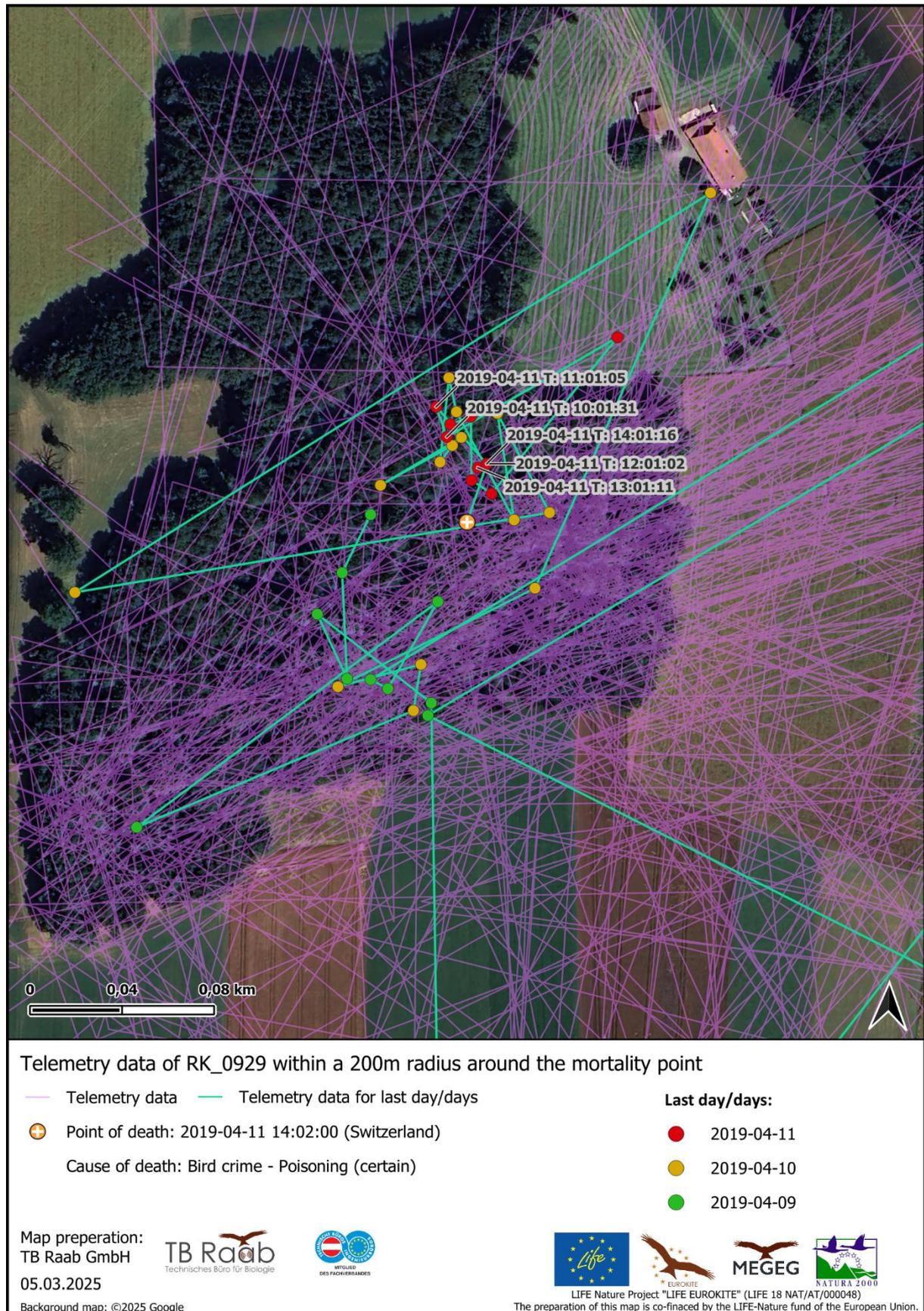


Figure 29: Telemetry data of RK_0929 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0250

General information about the bird

Name: Binaced_06

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 22.04.2017

Place of tagging: Binaced, Huesca, Spain

Date of tagging: 03.01.2019

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: A2

Logger number: Ornitela 047 - 181049 kite

Ring number: 7137535

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Hasliberg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,739905, 8,179156

Date of bird crime: 19.03.2021, 09:52:48 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.427

Age at bird crime: 5. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Very good

Bird crime: Poisoning - Pentobarbital

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Laboratory confirmed poisoning with Pentobarbital.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: Authority informed → No further information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received



Figure 30: Discovery situation of the red kite RK_0250, which died on 19.03.2021 in Hasliberg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (SOI)

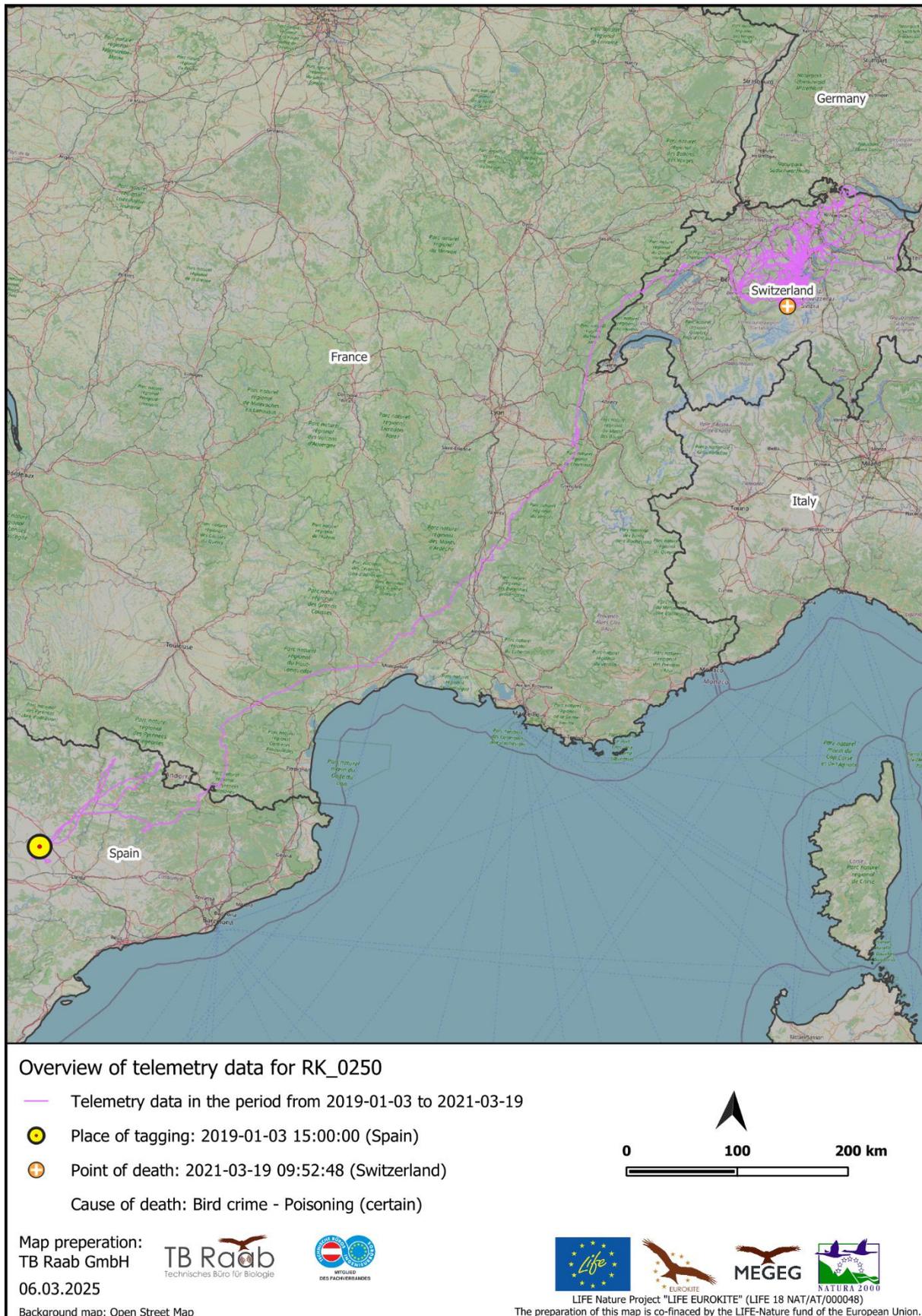


Figure 31: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0250.

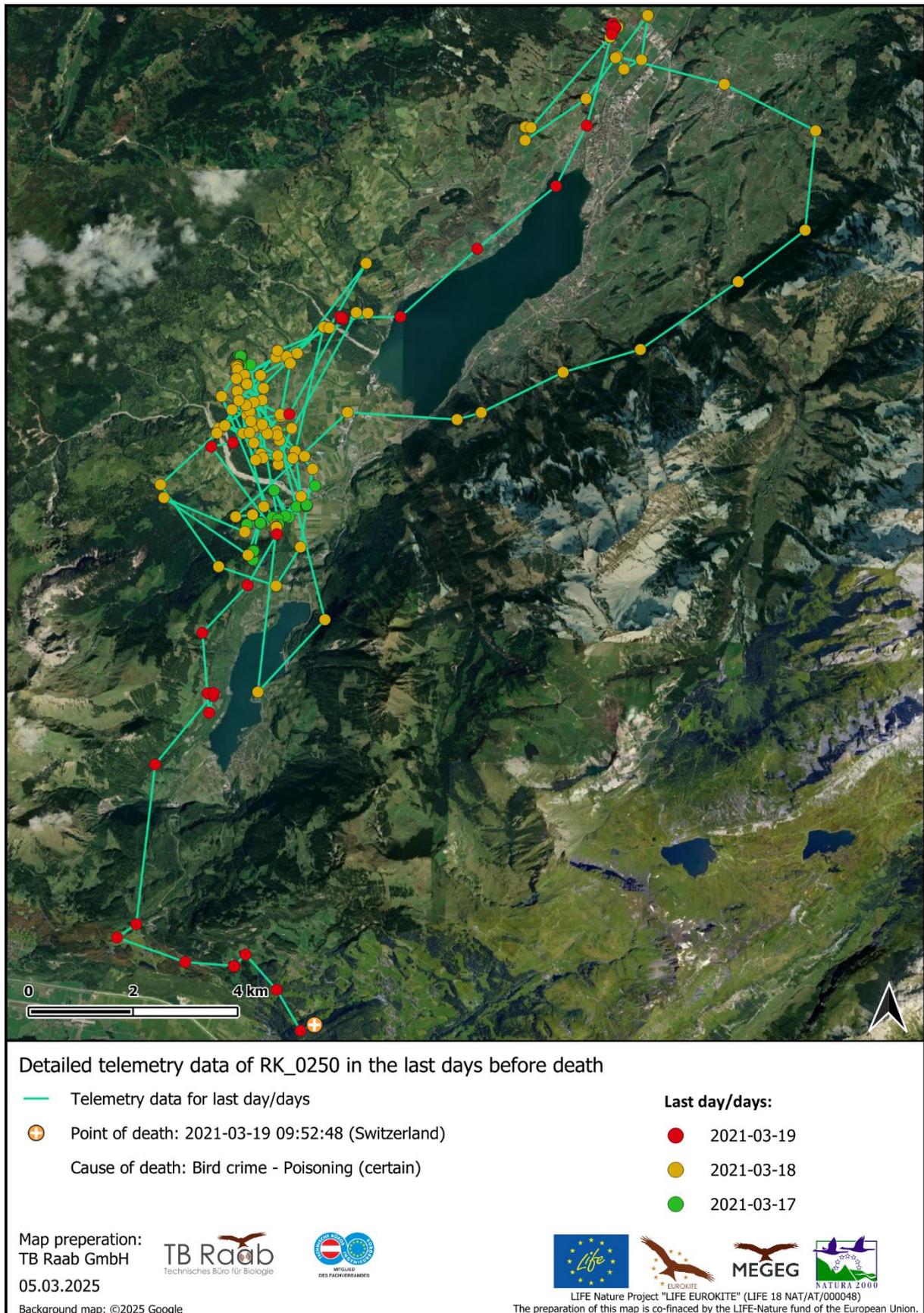


Figure 32: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0250 in the last days before death.

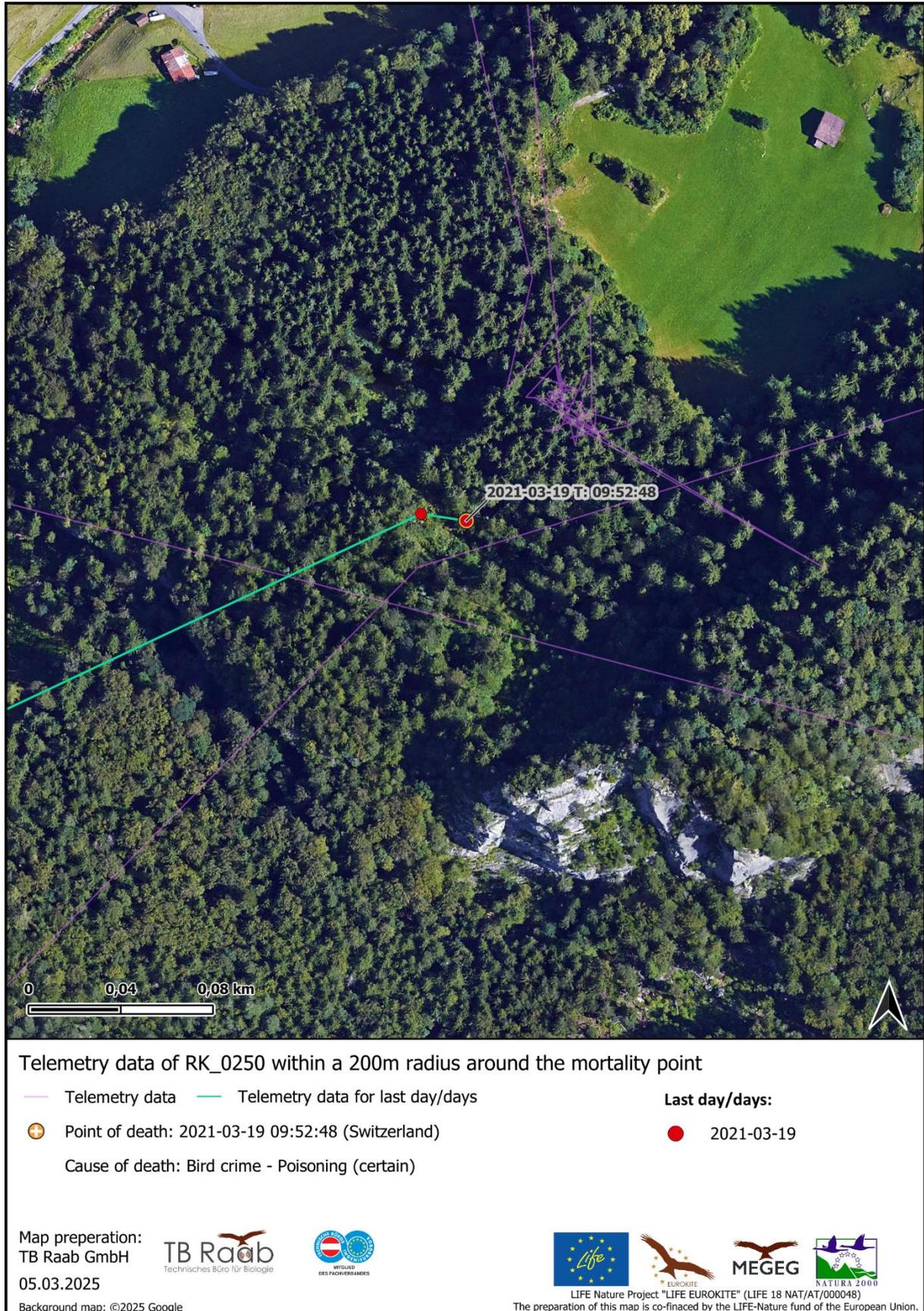


Figure 33: Telemetry data of RK_0250 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

3.2 Tagged individuals which died due to shooting

The birds are listed in chronological order by date of bird crime, commencing with the first recorded case.

RK_0748

General information about the bird

Name: 175

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 16.05.2015

Place of tagging: Ueberstorf, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 28.06.2015

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48500505229

Ring number: M023890

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Rüeggisberg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,7883440, 7,4289509

Date of bird crime: 26.11.2018, 11:00:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.290

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: No information about logger and bird

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI)

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: Completed

Police and/or authority investigation: Police informed → Completed

Legal proceeding: Yes → Completed

Conviction: Convicted to 10000.- CHF fine

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why? -

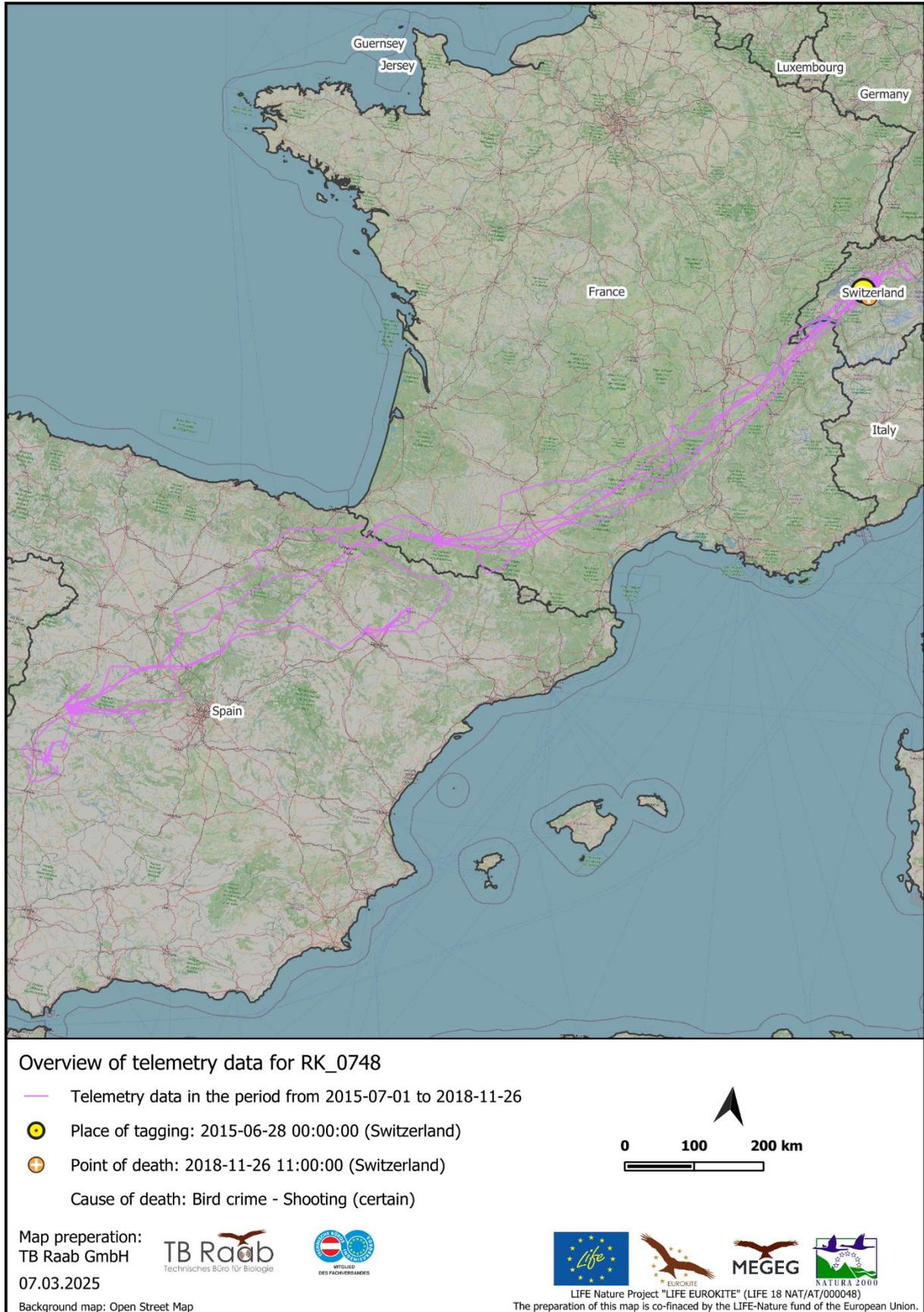


Figure 34: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0748.

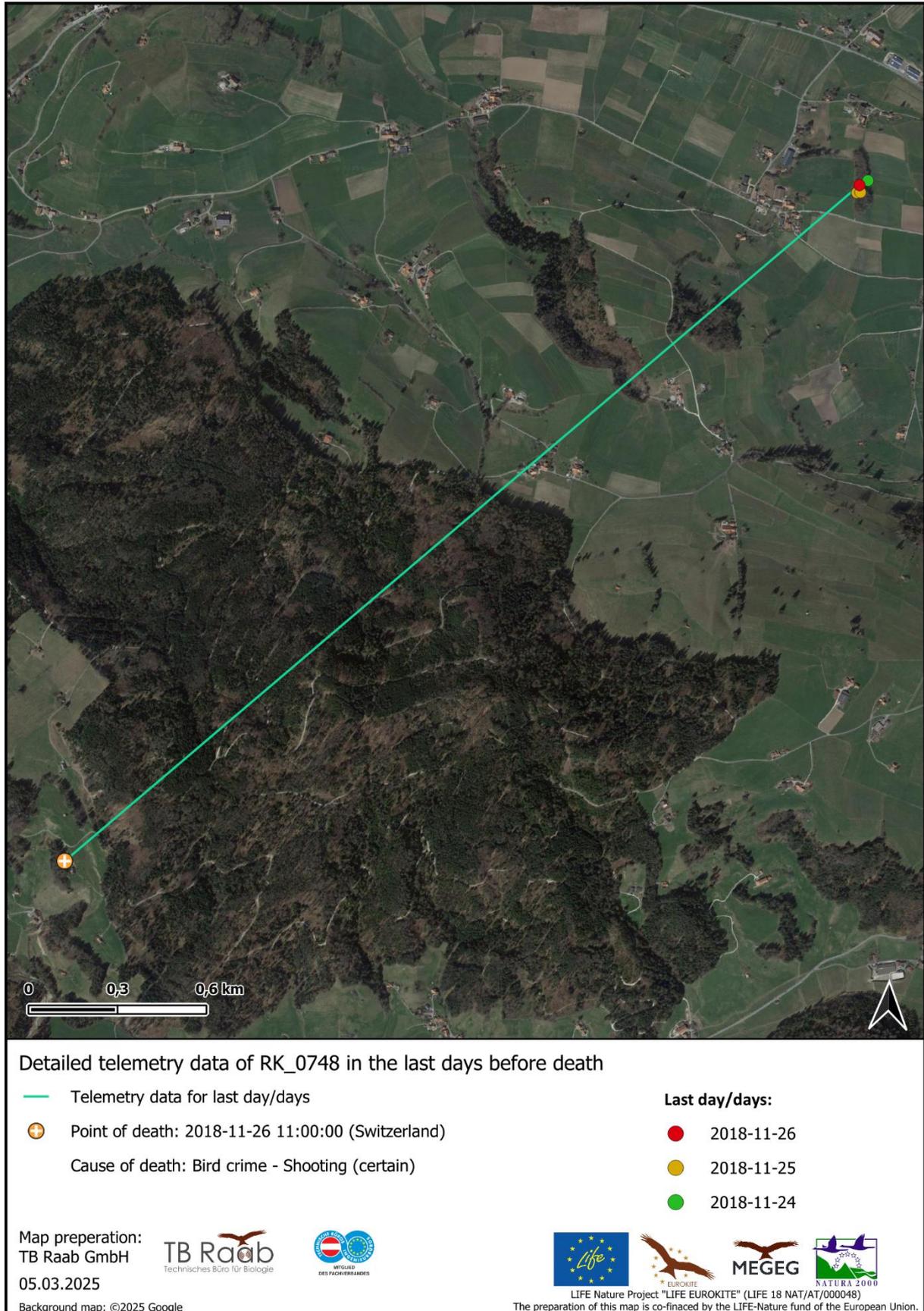


Figure 35: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0748 in the last days before death.

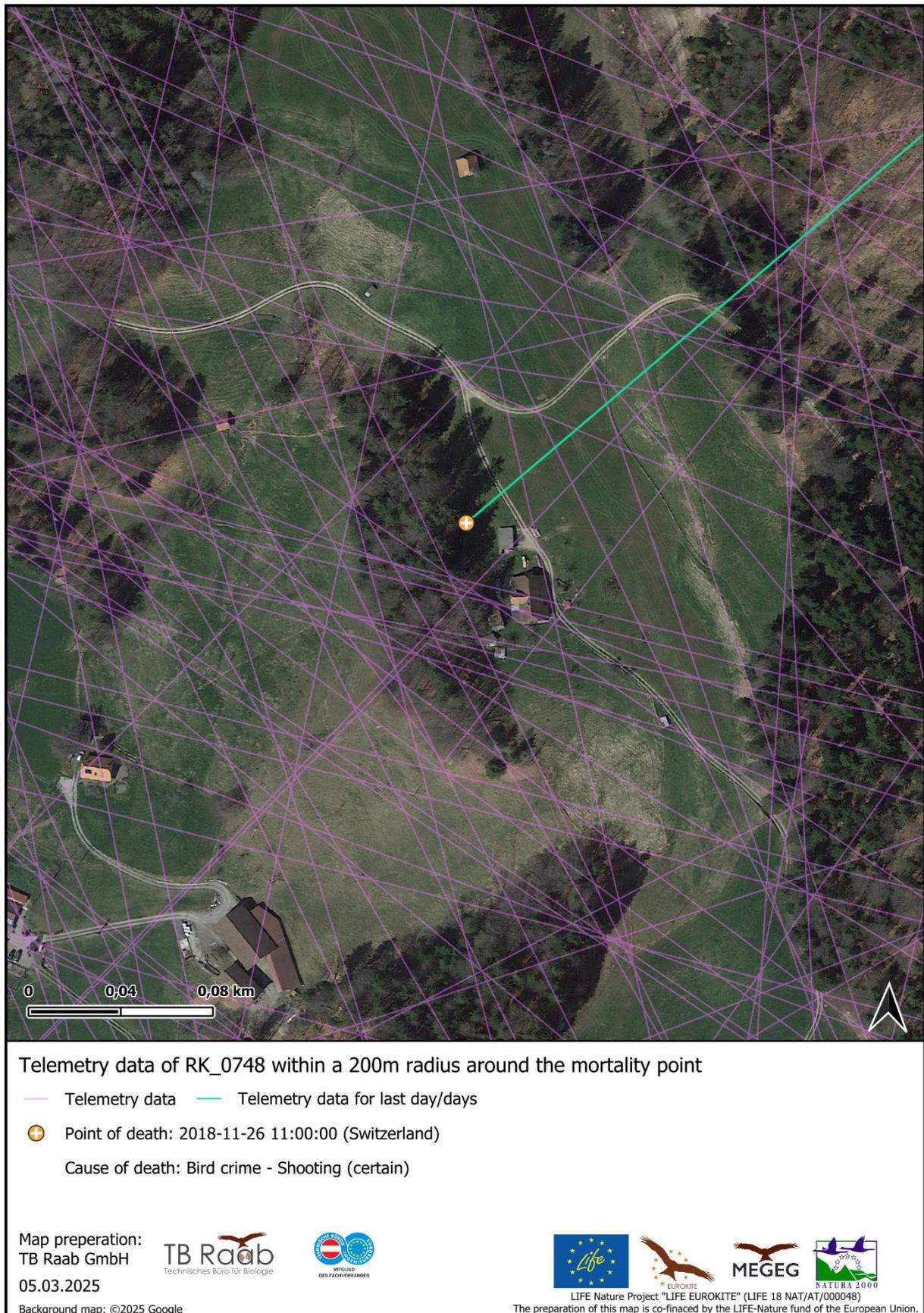


Figure 36: Telemetry data of RK_0748 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0793

General information about the bird

Name: 267

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 11.05.2017

Place of tagging: Ueberstorf, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 16.06.2017

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48505478161

Ring number: M039472

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Rüeggisberg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,788249, 7,42954897

Date of bird crime: 07.03.2019, 01:02:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 665

Age at bird crime: 3. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: No information about logger and bird

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Probable

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI)

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: Completed

Police and/or authority investigation: Police informed → Completed

Legal proceeding: Yes → Completed

Conviction: Convicted to 10000.- CHF fine

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why? -

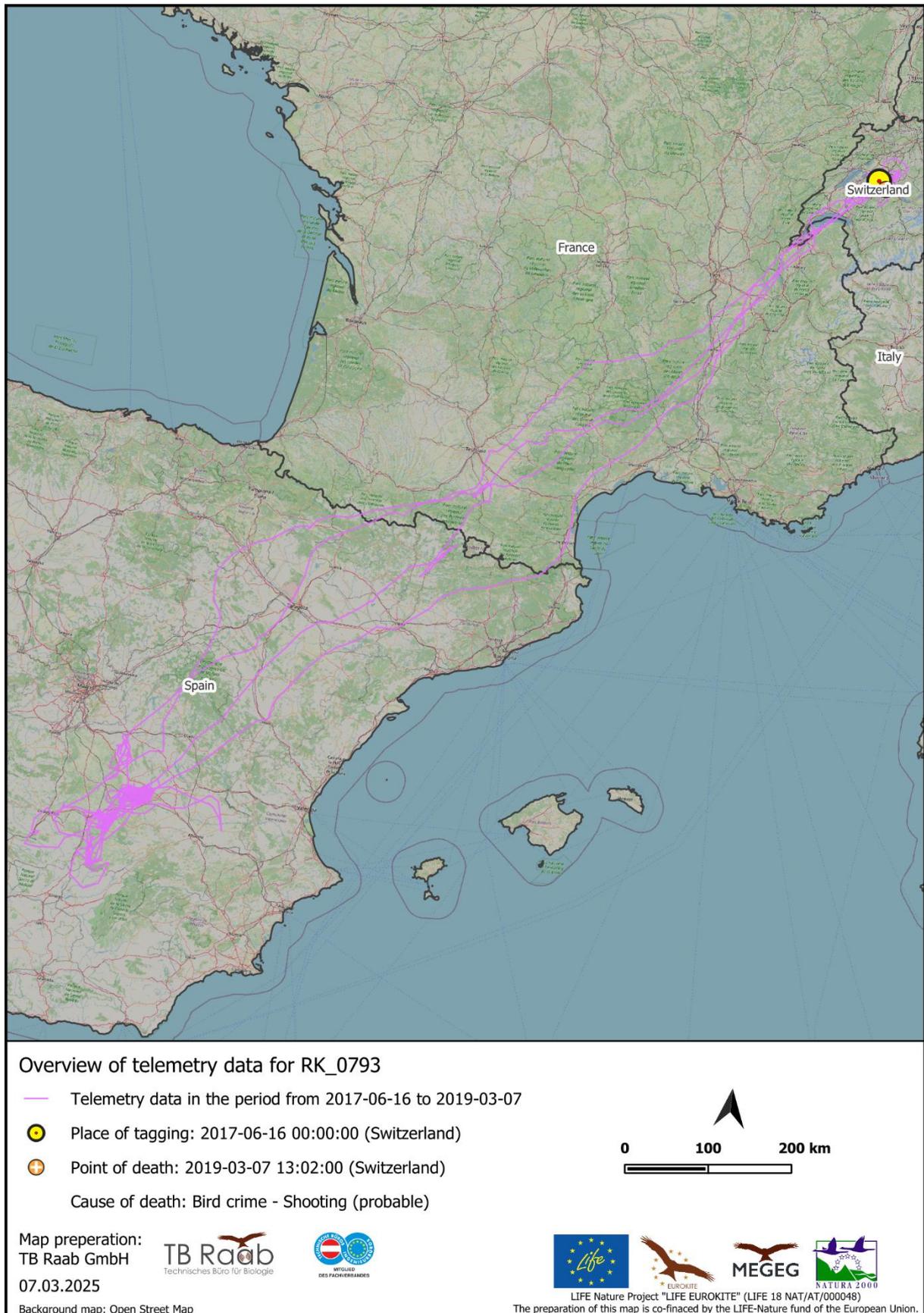


Figure 37: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0793.

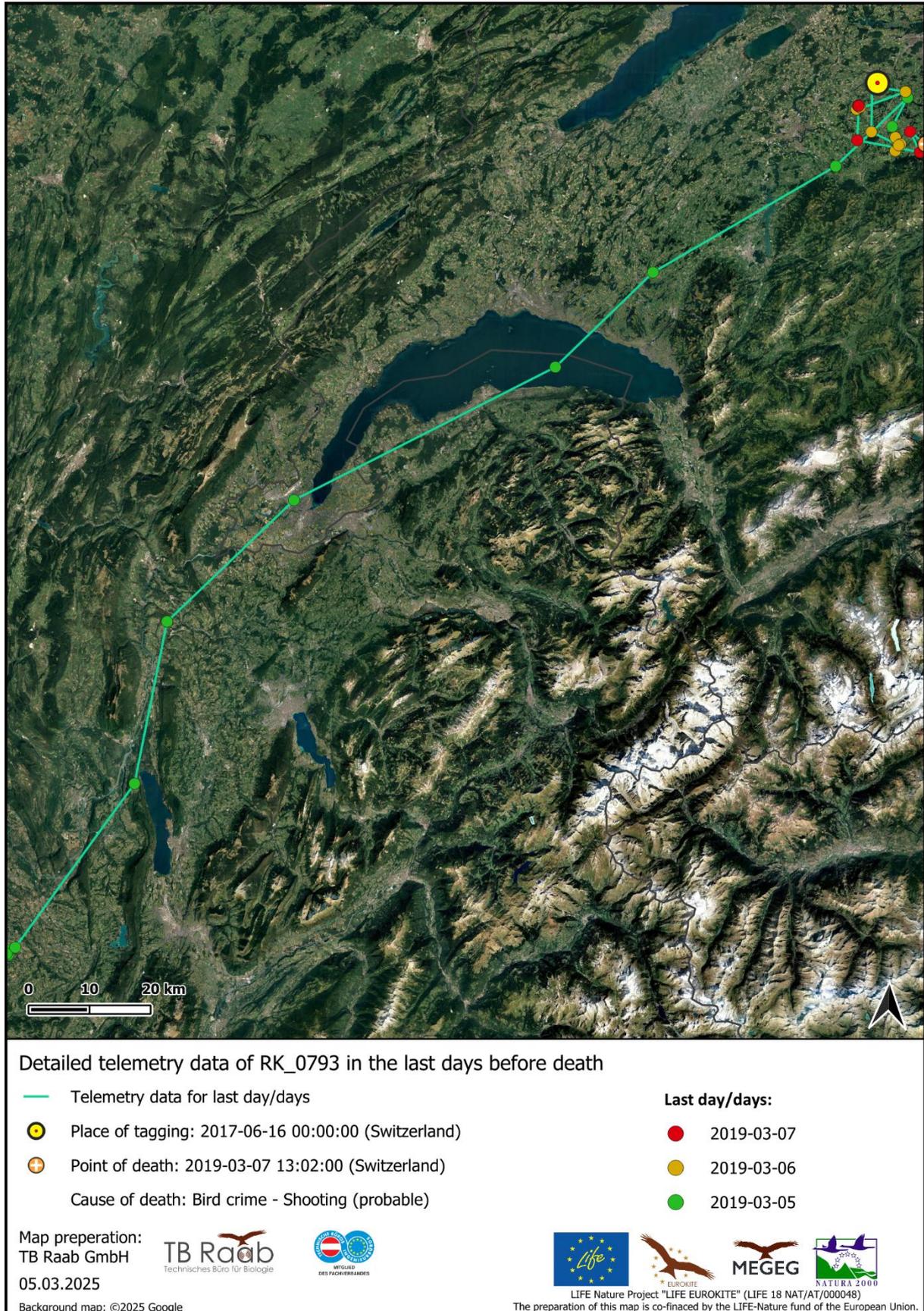


Figure 38: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0793 in the last days before death.



Figure 39: Telemetry data of RK_0793 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0702

General information about the bird

Name: 131

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 22.05.2016

Place of tagging: Guggisberg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 28.06.2016

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48503138267

Ring number: M023930

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Rüeggisberg, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,7887160, 7,4284990

Date of bird crime: 26.03.2019, 10:01:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.038

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: No information about logger and bird

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (SOI)

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: Completed

Police and/or authority investigation: Police informed → Completed

Legal proceeding: Yes → Completed

Conviction: Convicted to 10000.- CHF fine

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why? –

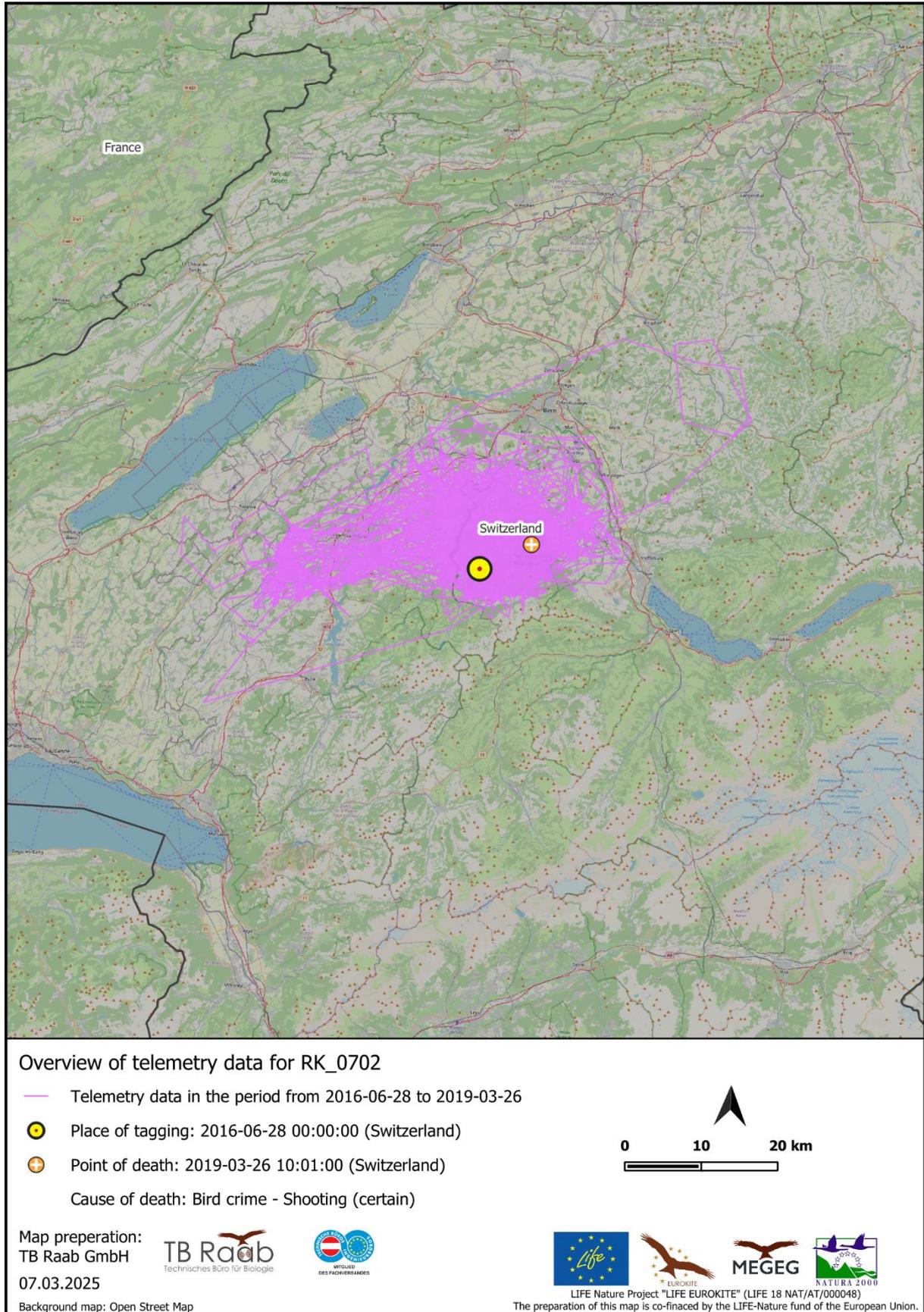


Figure 40: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0702.

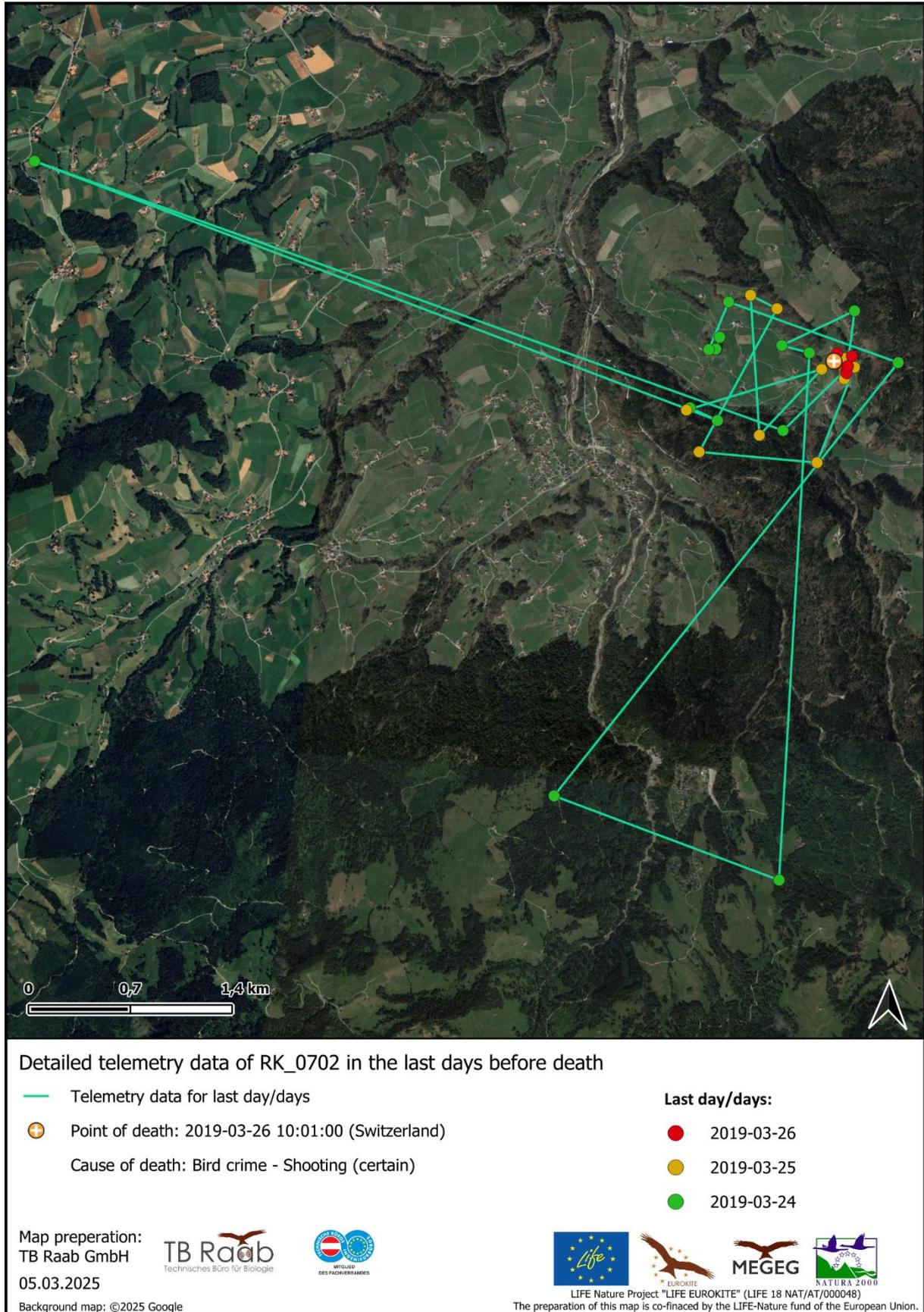


Figure 41: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0702 in the last days before death.

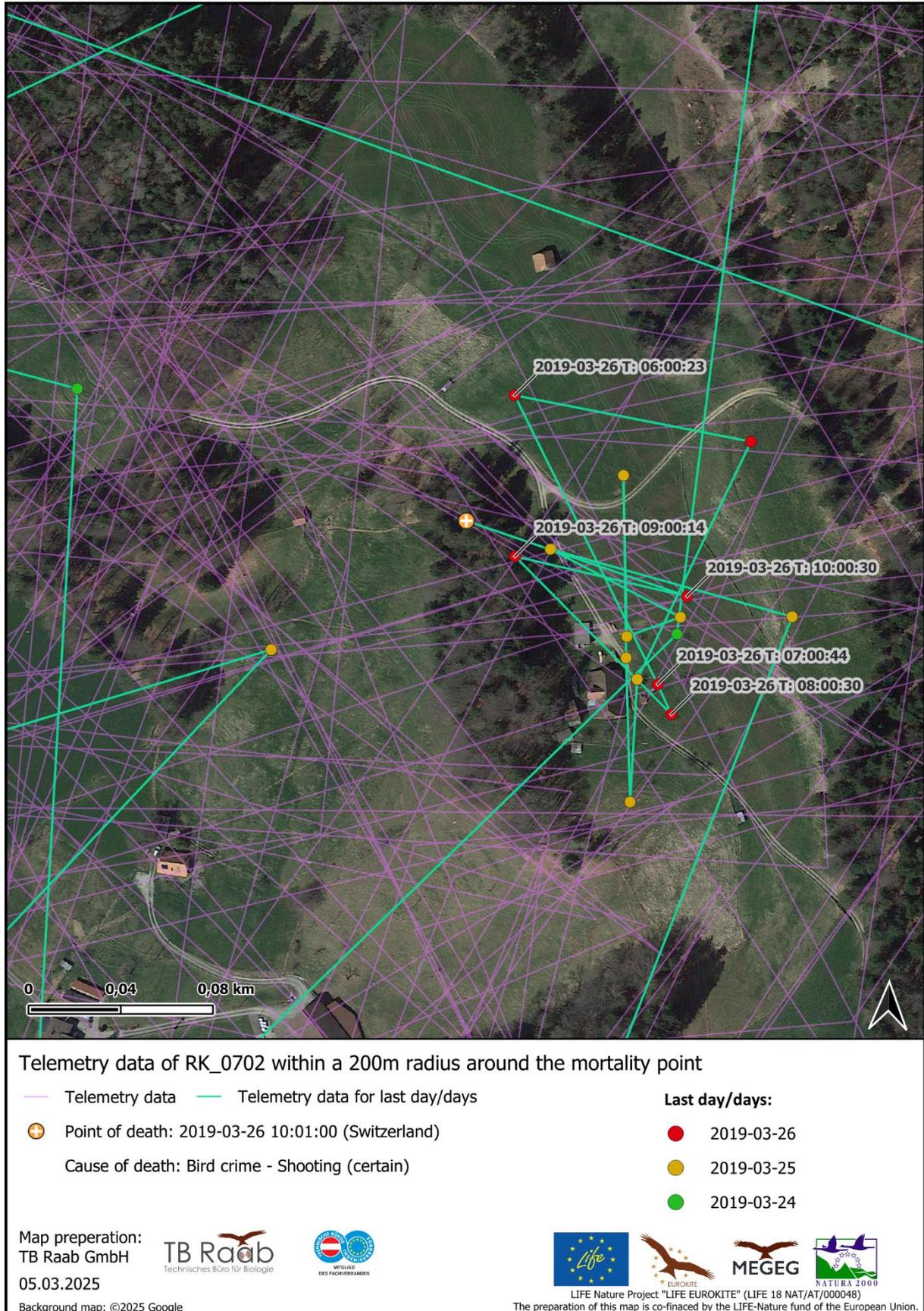


Figure 42: Telemetry data of RK_0702 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0832

General information about the bird

Name: 319

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 13.05.2017

Place of tagging: Ueberstorf, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Date of tagging: 21.06.2017

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_SOI

Logger number: 48503142891

Ring number: M039473

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Oberbalm, Espace Mittelland, Switzerland

Coordinates: 46,878549, 7,3941990

Date of bird crime: 06.05.2019, 10:00:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 724

Age at bird crime: 3. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: SOI

Logger and/or bird found: No information about logger and bird

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab)

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: Authority informed → No further information received

Legal proceeding: No information received

Conviction: No information received

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No information received

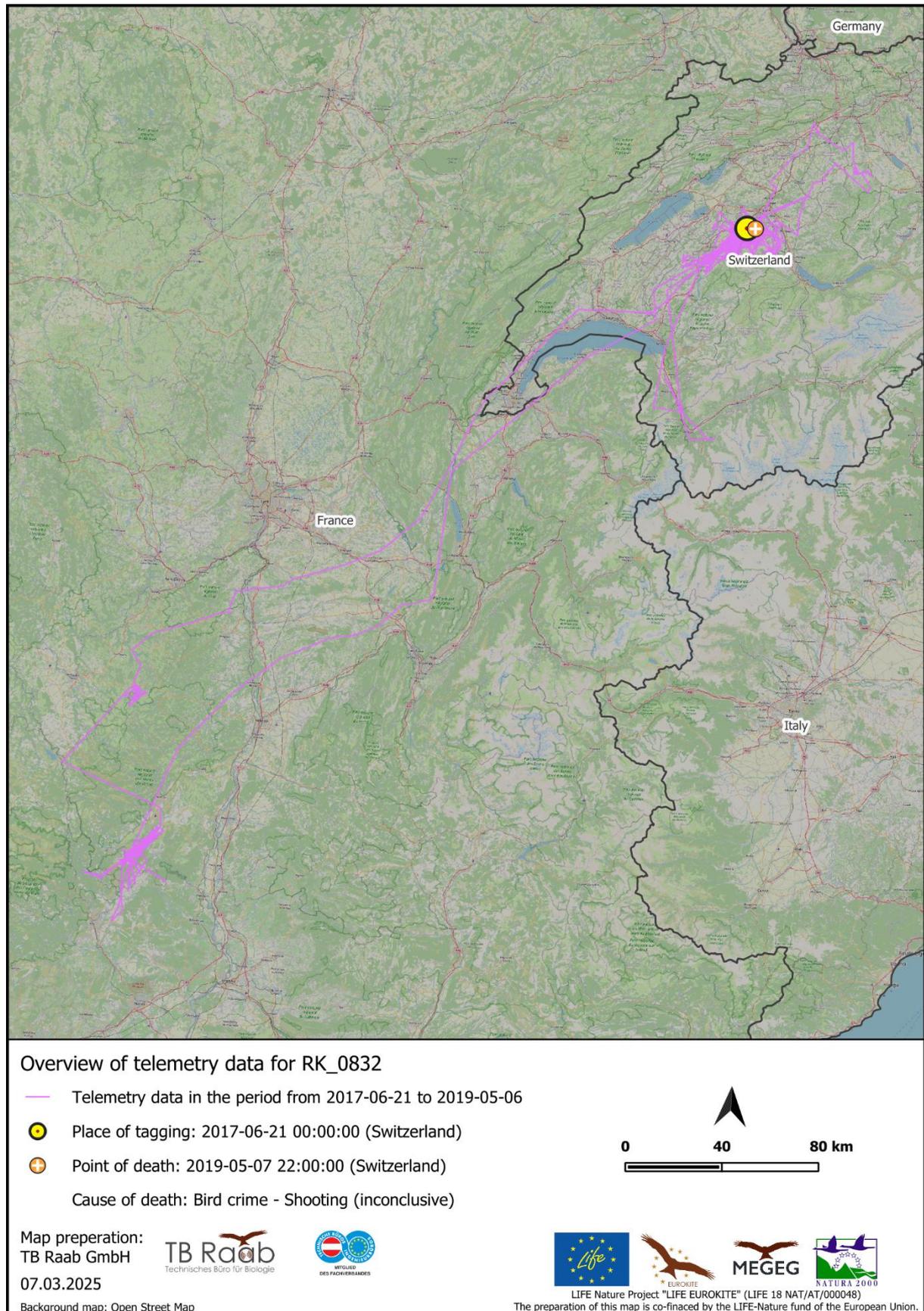


Figure 43: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0832.



Detailed telemetry data of RK_0832 in the last days before death

— Telemetry data for last day/days

⊕ Point of death: 2019-05-07 22:00:00 (Switzerland)

Cause of death: Bird crime - Shooting (inconclusive)

Last day/days:

● 2019-05-06

Map preparation:
TB Raab GmbH
05.03.2025



Background map: ©2025 Google

LIFE Nature Project "LIFE EUROKITE" (LIFE 18 NAT/AT/000048)
The preparation of this map is co-financed by the LIFE-Nature fund of the European Union.

Figure 44: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0832 in the last days before death.



Figure 45: Telemetry data of RK_0832 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

3.3 Summary of the Swiss results

Please note, that due to different number of tagged birds per countries and especially the different density of red kites per country the results can differ significant per country. Therefore, these results do not provide any information about the statistical frequencies of illegal activities in the respective country.

The interim results of the LIFE EUROKITE (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048) project 2020-2024 with additional results from 2013 onwards show, that a total of 155 tagged raptors died in Switzerland. Of those, 8 individuals (all red kites) died due to illegal activities. Most of them died due to poisoning (8), followed by shooting (4) (Table 1 to Table 2 & Figure 49).

Table 1: Overview of the numbers of tagged birds which died due to bird crime in Switzerland.

Mortality reason	Red kite	Total
Bird crime - Shooting	4	4
Bird crime - Poisoning	8	8
Total	12	12

Table 2: Overview of the districts where tagged birds died due to bird crime in Switzerland.

Federal State	Bird crime - Shooting	Bird crime - Poisoning	Total
Central Plateau (Espace Mittelland)	4	7	
Lake Geneva Region (Région lémanique)	-	1	1
Total	4	8	12

Detected substances

3 substances were detected in 8 toxicologically analysed birds in Switzerland. Pentobarbital was detected in 5, Terbufos was detected in 2 and Diazinon was detected in 1 bird (Figure 46).

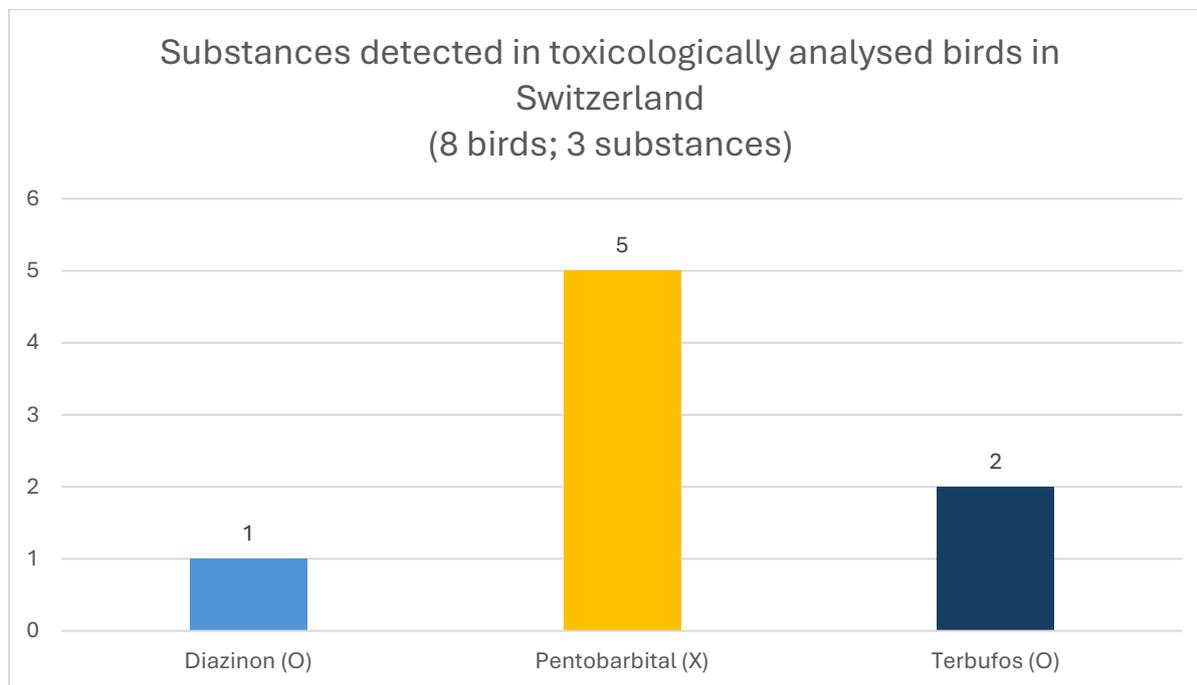


Figure 46: Substances detected (3 substances) in poisoned birds in Switzerland (8 toxicologically analysed birds with detected substances). In total, 8 birds were classified as poisoned based on field evidence and GPS data. Toxicological analyses were available for all 8 individuals. Detected substances are classified into the following chemical groups: (O) Organophosphates and (X) Other substances.

Out of 8 toxicologically analysed birds, the results revealed the presence of 3 active substances, including insecticides and veterinary drugs. Among the compounds identified were organophosphates like Diazinon and Terbufos. Both substances are not approved for use under current European legislation (European Parliament and Council of the European Union, 2009) (Table 3). The use of the veterinary drug Pentobarbital (European Community Number 200-983-8) is approved within the European Union.

Table 3: Regulatory status and legal framework of not approved toxic substances detected in poisoned raptors in Switzerland tagged in the LIFE EUROKITE project (2013–2024) according to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and Council.

Substance	Status	Regulation	Legislation
Diazinon	Not approved	Reg. (EC) No 1107/2009 (repealing Directive 91/414/EEC)	Reg. (EU) 2007/393
Terbufos	Not approved	Reg. (EC) No 1107/2009 (repealing Directive 91/414/EEC)	2002/2076

Substances confirmed as lethal

Toxicological analyses confirmed the presence of toxic substances in all 8 poisoned birds in Switzerland. To determine which substances were lethal, 8 individuals were analysed. In all of these birds, toxicological threshold values were exceeded, allowing the lethal substance to be clearly identified. 5 birds were found to be victims of Pentobarbital exposure. 2 birds were confirmed to have died from Terbufos and one died from Diazinon exposure (Figure 47).

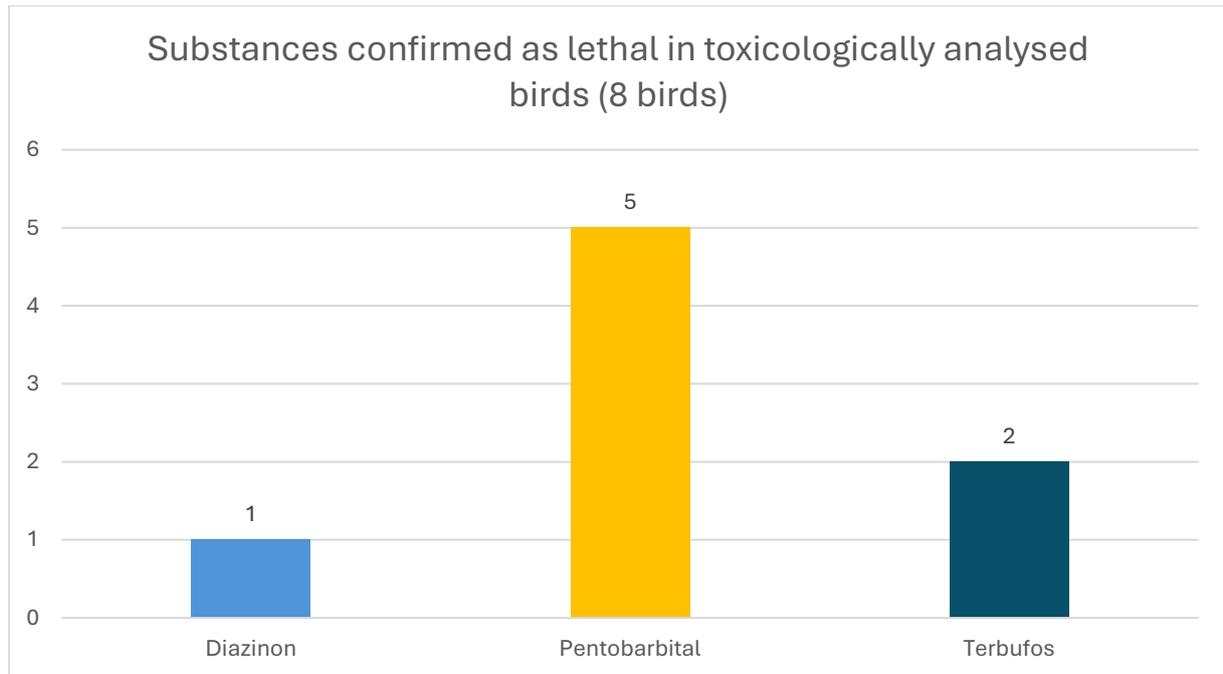


Figure 47: Toxic substances confirmed as lethal (3 substances) in poisoned birds in Switzerland. In total, 8 birds were classified as poisoned based on field evidence and GPS data. Toxicological analyses detected substances in 8 birds, of which all were confirmed to have died as a result of poisoning as the toxicological threshold values allowed the lethal substance to be clearly identified.

Assessment of intentional poisoning

Poisoning cases were evaluated using toxicological findings together with field observations. Birds were classified as intentionally poisoned when evidence clearly indicated deliberate poisoning, such as detection of substances banned in the European Union, discovery of poisoned bait near the carcass, the presence of multiple dead birds at the same site or when the perpetrator had been identified. When available evidence did not allow a clear determination of intentional poisoning, cases were classified as undefined. This group includes birds exposed to substances that are legally permitted in the EU (e.g. rodenticides, metaldehyde or cadmium), cases of secondary poisoning, birds recovered from landfill sites, and birds without toxicological examination. It also covers cases in which a detected substance was banned at the time of analysis but remained legally authorised when the poisoning event occurred. Overall, 3 of the 8 poisoned birds were classified as intentional poisoning cases, while 5 cases remained undefined (Figure 48).

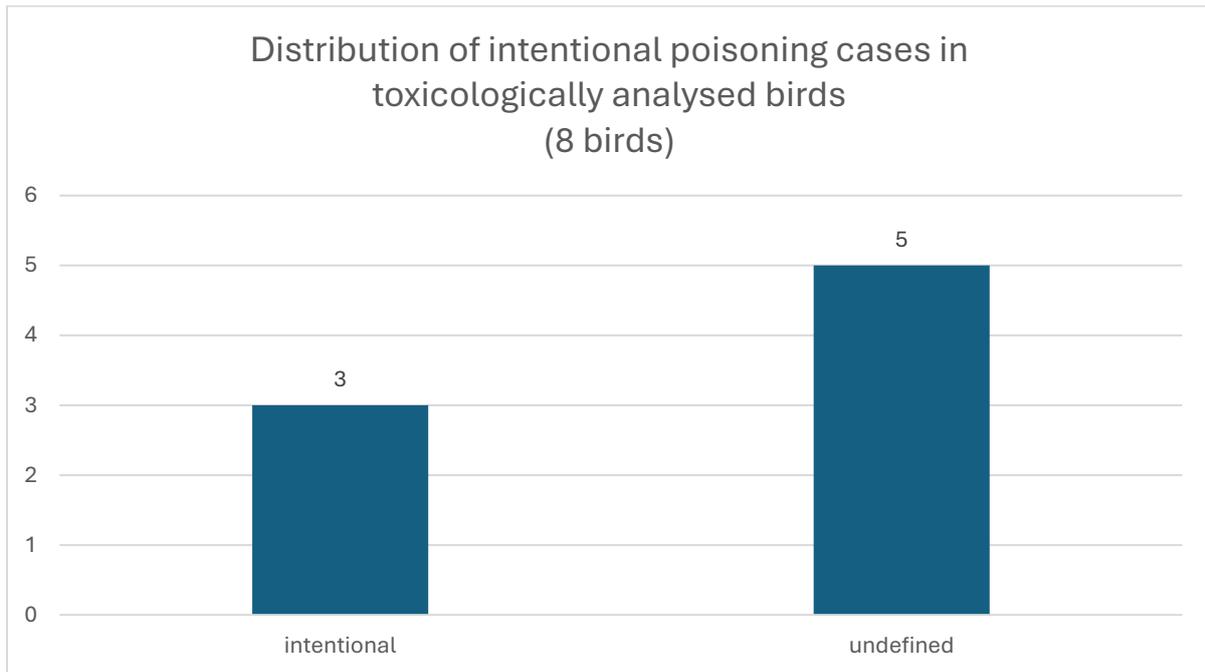


Figure 48: Number of poisoned birds classified as confirmed intentional poisoning or as cases with undetermined intent. Confirmed intentional poisoning includes cases involving toxic substances prohibited in the European Union, the presence of poisoned bait, multiple birds found dead at the same site or instances where the perpetrator has been identified. Cases with undetermined intent include birds exposed to legally permitted substances, secondary poisoning, landfill-related cases, or birds without toxicological analysis. Of the 8 toxicologically analysed poisoned birds in Switzerland, 3 were classified as confirmed intentional poisoning and 5 as cases with undetermined intent.

Results of the investigation

Regarding reporting to the police and authorities, 2 cases show that the authority was informed. In 7 cases, no information was received about the reporting. In 3 cases, only the police were informed (Table 4).

Table 4: Overview of Swiss reporting of bird crimes to the police/authorities

Reporting to the police/authority	
Police informed	3
Authority informed	2
No information received	7
Total	12

In terms of investigation status, 3 cases were completed, and for 9 cases, no information was received regarding the investigation. For legal proceedings, 3 cases were completed, while 9 cases had no information received about the status of the legal proceedings (Table 5).

Table 5: Overview of the status of Swiss investigation and prosecution measures for bird crime

	Investigation status	Prosecution status
Completed	3	3
No information received	9	9
Total	12	12

Regarding conviction, in 3 cases the perpetrator was convicted. One Perpetrator was responsible for three separate bird crimes. The perpetrator received a total fine of CHF 10,000 (approximately €9,500), which was imposed not solely for the bird-related offenses but also for additional, unrelated crimes. For 9 cases, no information was received about the conviction status (Table 6).

In the 3 cases where there was a conviction, the following sentences were issued:

- 1x ca. 9,500€ fine (10,000 CHF)

Table 6: Overview of the conviction status

Conviction	
Convicted	3
No information received	9
Total	12

For the cases with no conviction, 9 cases had no information received about the reason for the lack of conviction (Table 7).

Table 7: Overview of the reasons, why there was no conviction of the bird crimes

Reason for no conviction	
No information received	9
Total	9

4 References

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- Natsukawa, H. & Sergio, F. Top predators as biodiversity indicators: A meta-analysis. *Ecol. Lett.* **25**, 2062-2075 (2022).
- Panter, C.T. et al. High human-caused mortality in GPS-tracked red kites across Europe. (Under review)

5 List of tagged individuals which died in Switzerland

Red kite

RK_0250.....	46
RK_0669.....	36
RK_0702.....	61
RK_0736.....	21
RK_0748.....	51
RK_0753.....	31
RK_0793.....	56
RK_0832.....	66
RK_0871.....	11
RK_0929.....	41
RK_0951.....	26
RK_0999.....	16

CPEW
Campaign against criminal poisoning of European Wildlife

**POISONING
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**THESE CRIMES MUST STOP.
SIGN OUR PETITION NOW.**

<https://chng.it/zCZhxGhQSy>

www.stopwildlifepoisoning.eu

Coordinating beneficiary



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



Project partner (Associated Beneficiary)



Co-financier



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



Cooperation partner



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