



LIFE EUROKITE CRIME REPORT

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

PART 8 - COUNTRY SPECIFIC RESULTS - GERMANY

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.

Address of the lead author

TB Raab GmbH
A-2232 Deutsch-Wagram,
Quadenstraße 13,
E-Mail: office@tbraab.at



Editors

Hannah Böing, MSc
Mia Bausch, BSc
Luisa Scholze, MSc
DI Andreas Gärtner
DI Manuel Wojta
DI Dr. Techn. Maximilian Raab, BSc
Mag. Dr. Rainer Raab

GIS and map preparation by

DI Jochen Steindl
Adam Šupčík, MSc
Kurt Gruber, MSc

Citation

LIFE EUROKITE (2026): LIFE EUROKITE Crime Report. Illegal persecution of tagged red kites and other raptor species in Europe. Part 8 - Country specific results – Germany. First interim report on the results of the LIFE EUROKITE (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048) project 2020-2024 with additional results from 2013 onwards. February 2026.

Deutsch-Wagram, Austria 23.02.2026

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



Co-funded by
the European Union

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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 Overall summary 1
- 2 Introduction 2
- 3 German results 11
 - 3.1 Tagged individuals that have been poisoned 11
 - 3.2 Tagged individuals that have been poisoned by lead 62
 - 3.3 Tagged individuals that have been poisoned by landfill poisoning 64
 - 3.4 Tagged individuals that have been shot 74
 - 3.5 Tagged individuals that died due to bird crime 114
 - 3.6 Tagged individuals that died due to traceable human activity 121
 - 3.7 Summary of the German results 126
- 4 References..... 133
- 5 List of tagged individuals which died in Germany 134



1 Overall 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 Germany and will give a detailed inside of the status of investigations and legal procedure.

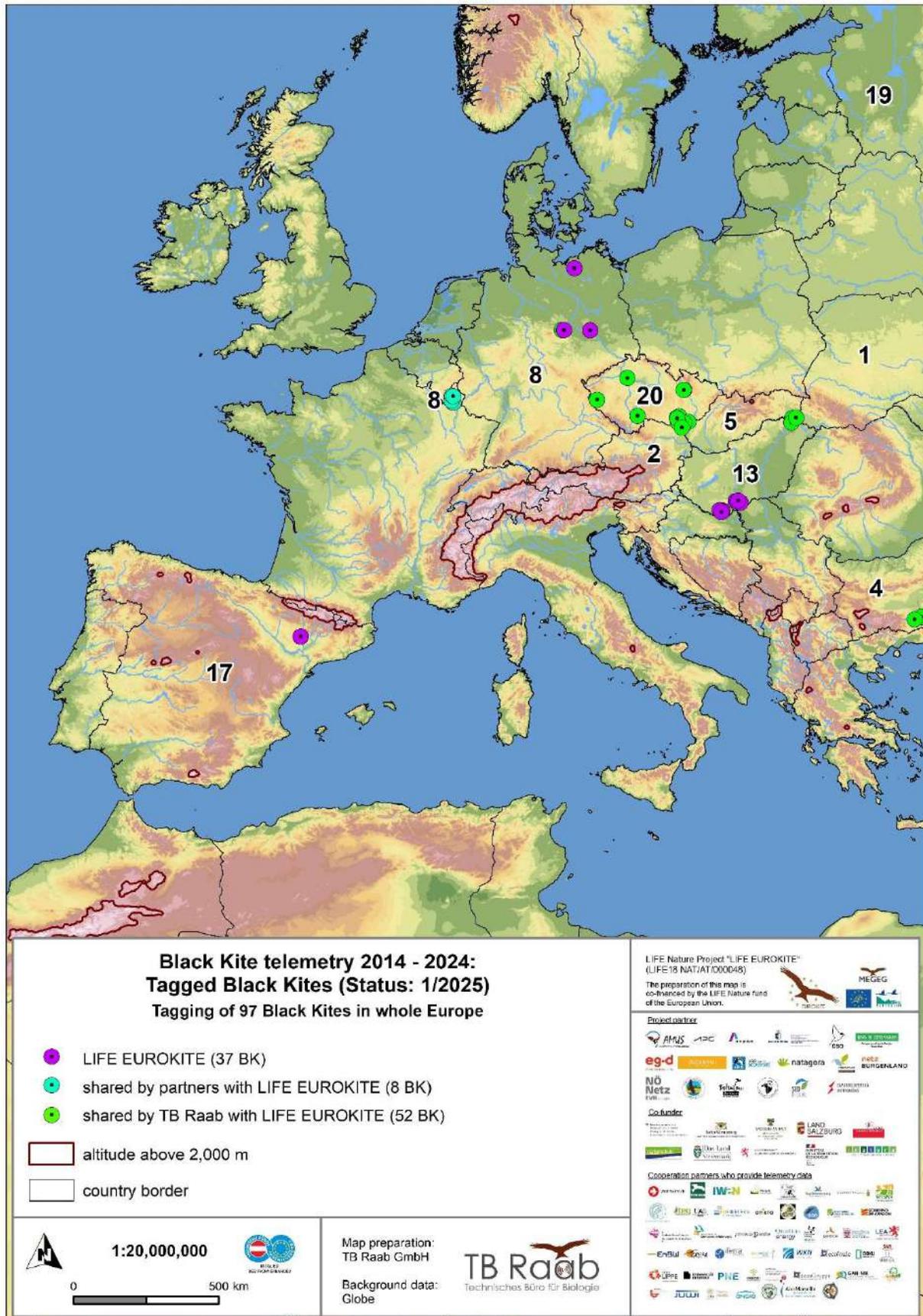


Figure 2: Tagging of 97 black kites by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe in the years 2014- 2024.

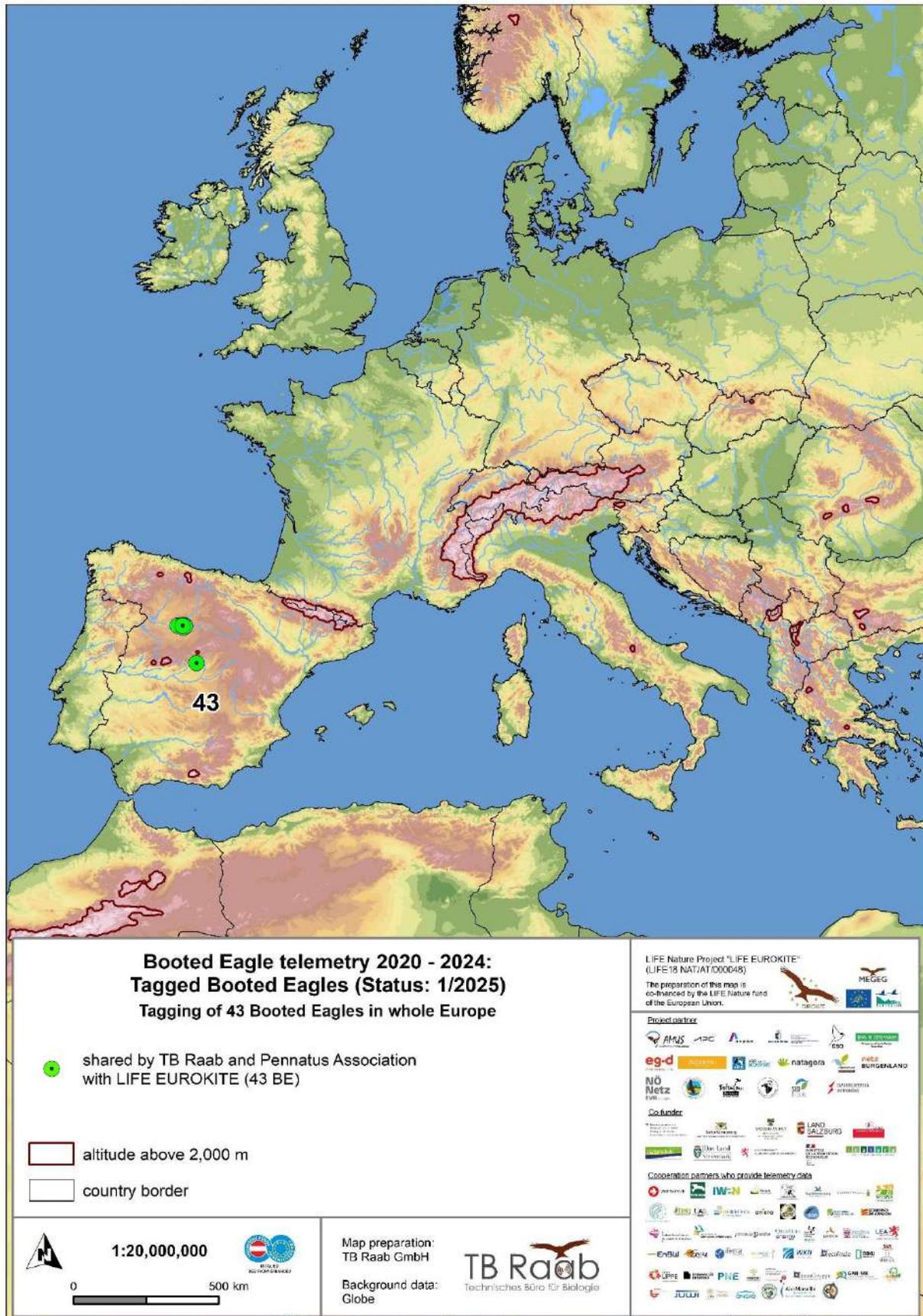


Figure 3: Tagging of 43 booted eagles by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe in the years 2020- 2024.

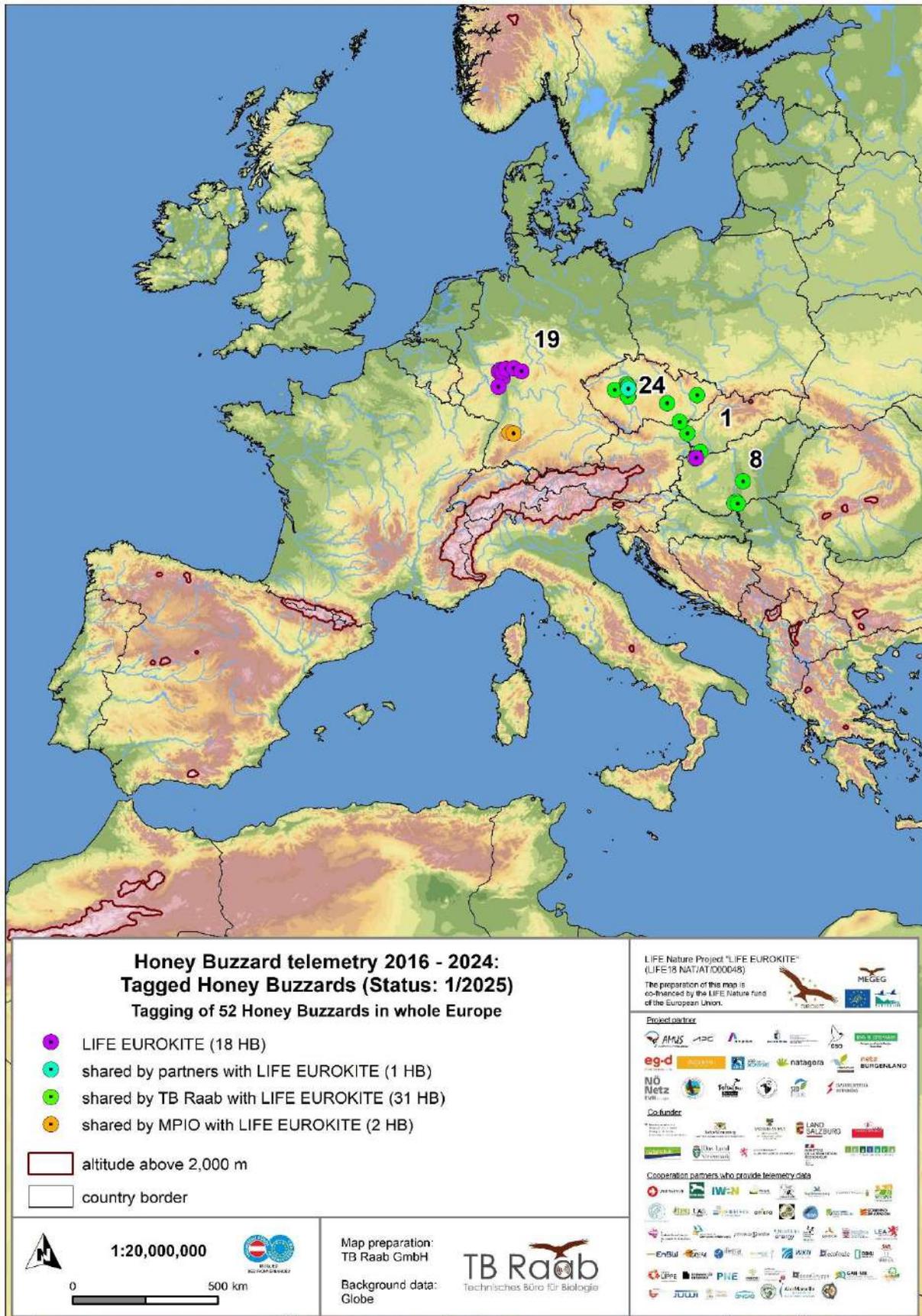


Figure 4: Tagging of 52 honey buzzards by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe in the years 2016-2024.

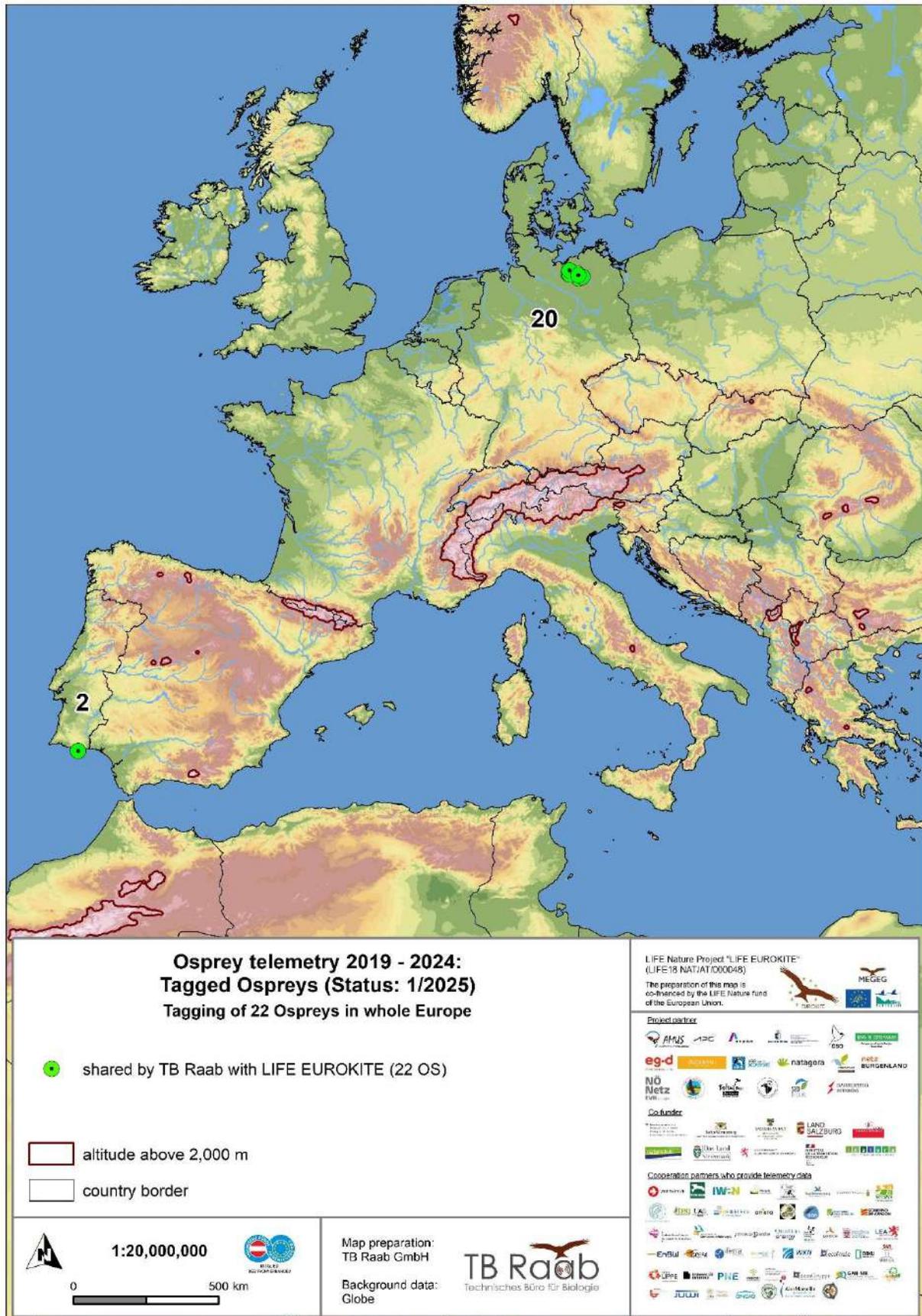


Figure 6: Tagging of 22 Ospreys by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe the years 2019-2024.

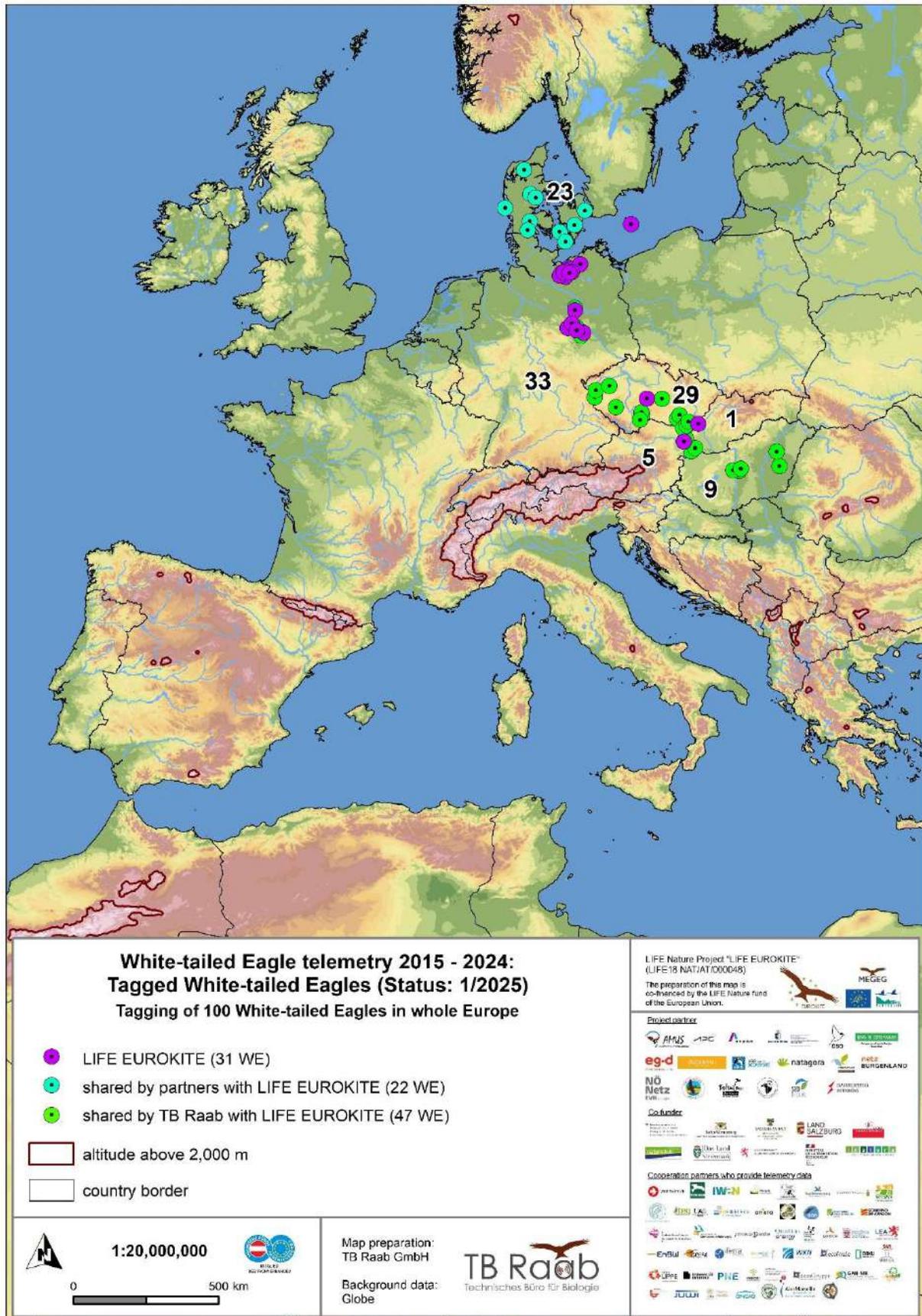


Figure 7: Tagging of 100 white-tailed eagles by the LIFE EUROKITE project and numerous cooperation and project partners across Europe the years 2015-2024.

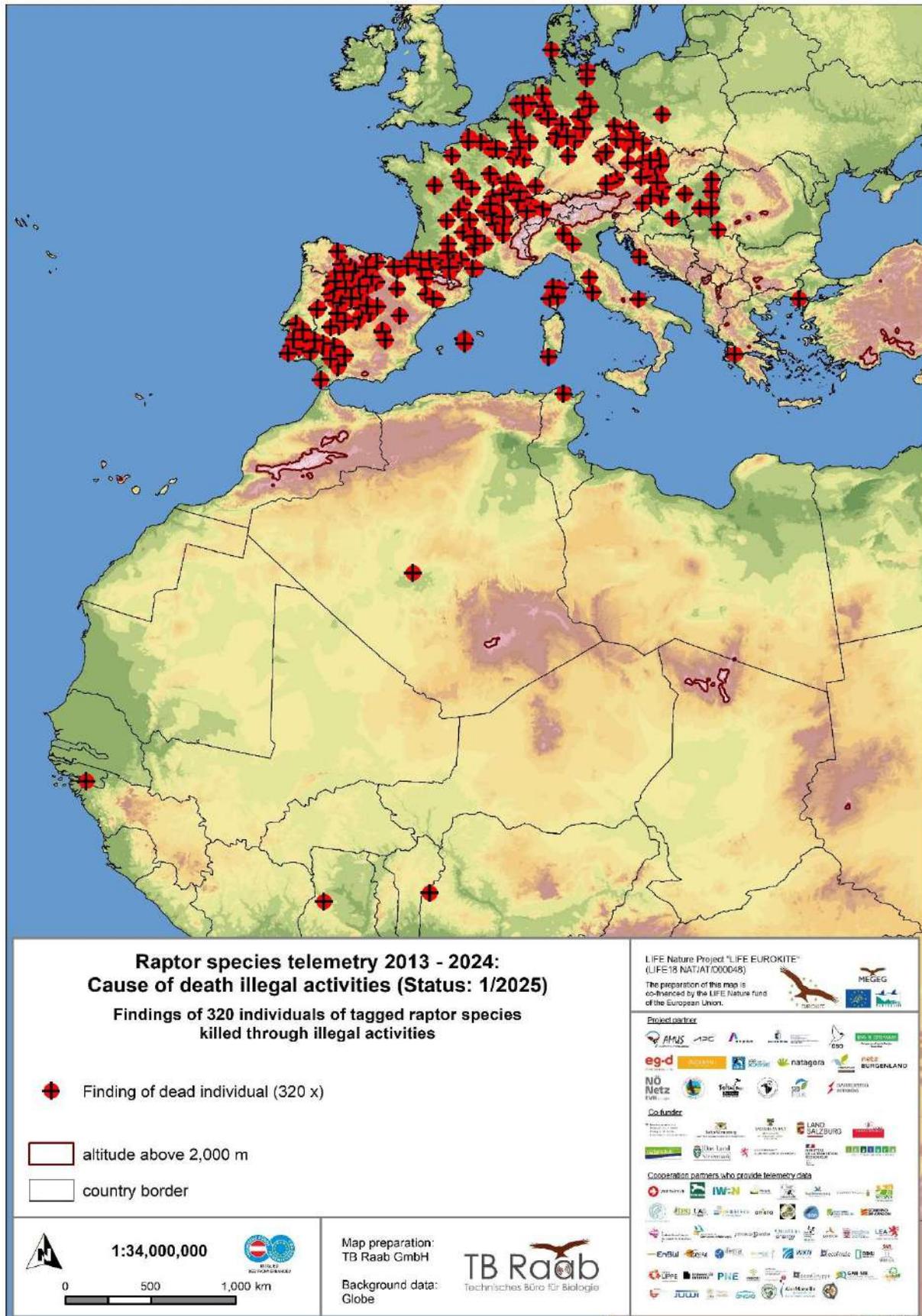


Figure 8: Interim results of 320 tagged birds which died due to illegal activities in the years 2013 to 2024.

3 German results

The subsequent section provides a detailed overview of the cases with illegal mortality reasons in Germany. A total of 24 tagged birds have been confirmed as victims of illegal activities. Of these, 13 succumbed to poisoning, 8 were shot, and 3 died as a result of bird crime.

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_0121

General information about the bird

Name: Cuellar_01

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 22.04.2016

Place of tagging: Arroyo de Cuéllar, Segovia, Spain

Date of tagging: 03.02.2018

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: A2

Logger number: Ornitela 001 - 171065 kite

Ring number: 7137505

Sex: Probably Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Ahlen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Coordinates: 51.732455, 7.892601

Date of bird crime: 31.03.2019, 02:57:47 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.073

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Good

Bird crime: Poisoning – Other substances

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: According to laboratory results, two red kites (one female and one male) and 2 rabbits were found. The two red kites had ingested food immediately before death and died with meat residues in their beaks and upper digestive tract. This is a typical finding in cases of poisoning with acutely toxic substances. The substance identified was Bendiocarb.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: Stopped

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

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

The committee against bird slaughter (CABS) never received any feedback on this, which is why it is assumed that the proceedings have now been discontinued without result.



Figure 9: Finding situation of the red kite RK_0121, which died on 31.03.2019, in Ahlen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Malte Busch)

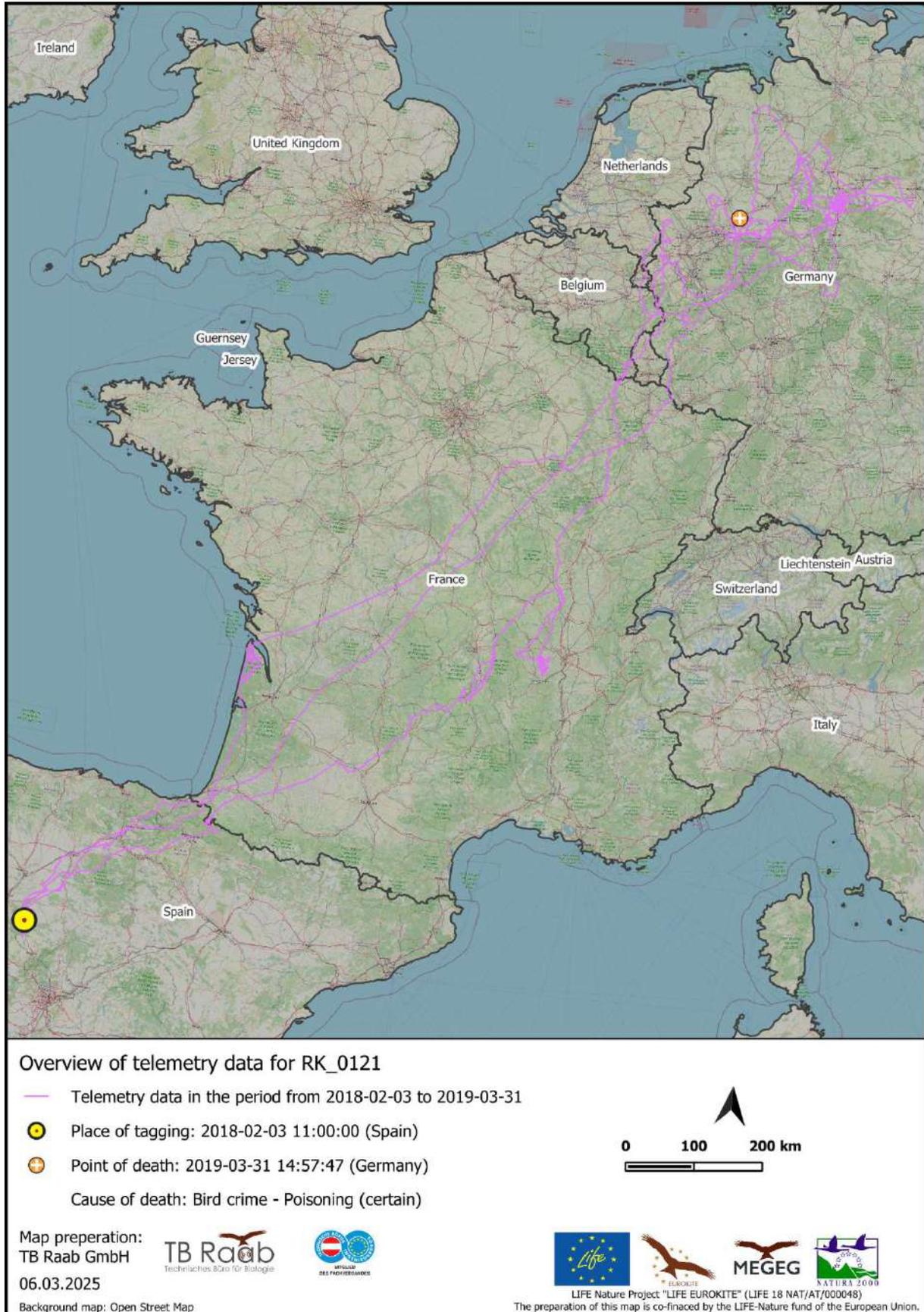


Figure 10: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0121.

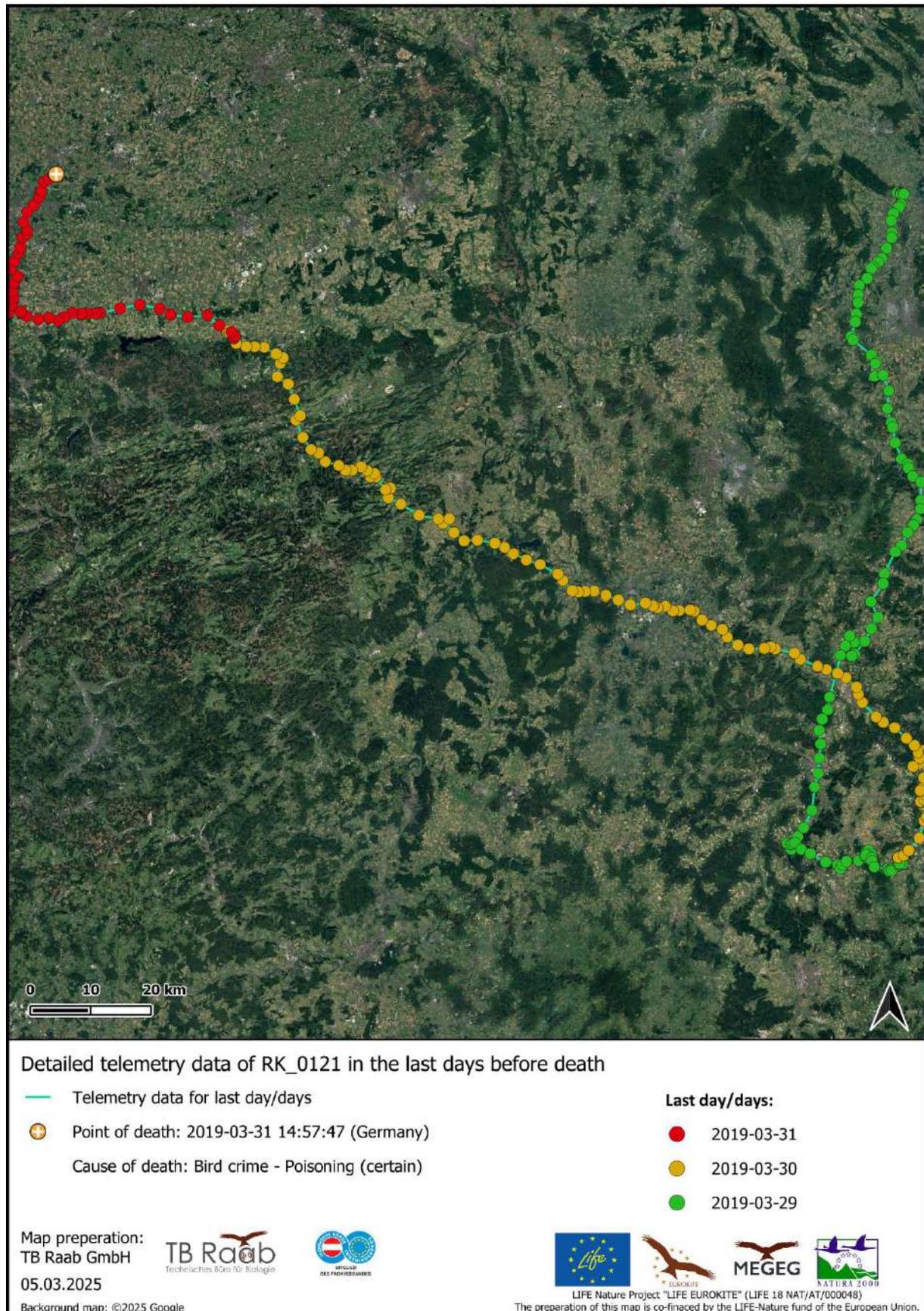


Figure 11: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0121 in the last days before death.



Figure 12: Telemetry data of RK_0121 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_1367

General information about the bird

Name: Kievitshaar_01

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 12.05.2019

Place of tagging: Kievitshaar, East-Netherlands, Netherlands

Date of tagging: 09.06.2019

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_StefVanRijn

Logger number: 192223

Ring number: 6193862

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Georgsmarienhütte, Lower Saxony, Germany

Coordinates: 52,2072560, 8,1208980

Date of bird crime: 01.09.2019, 05:16:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 112

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: Private person

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Poisoning

Certainty category: Probable

Additional information: Expert assessment (Deltamileu projectes).

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

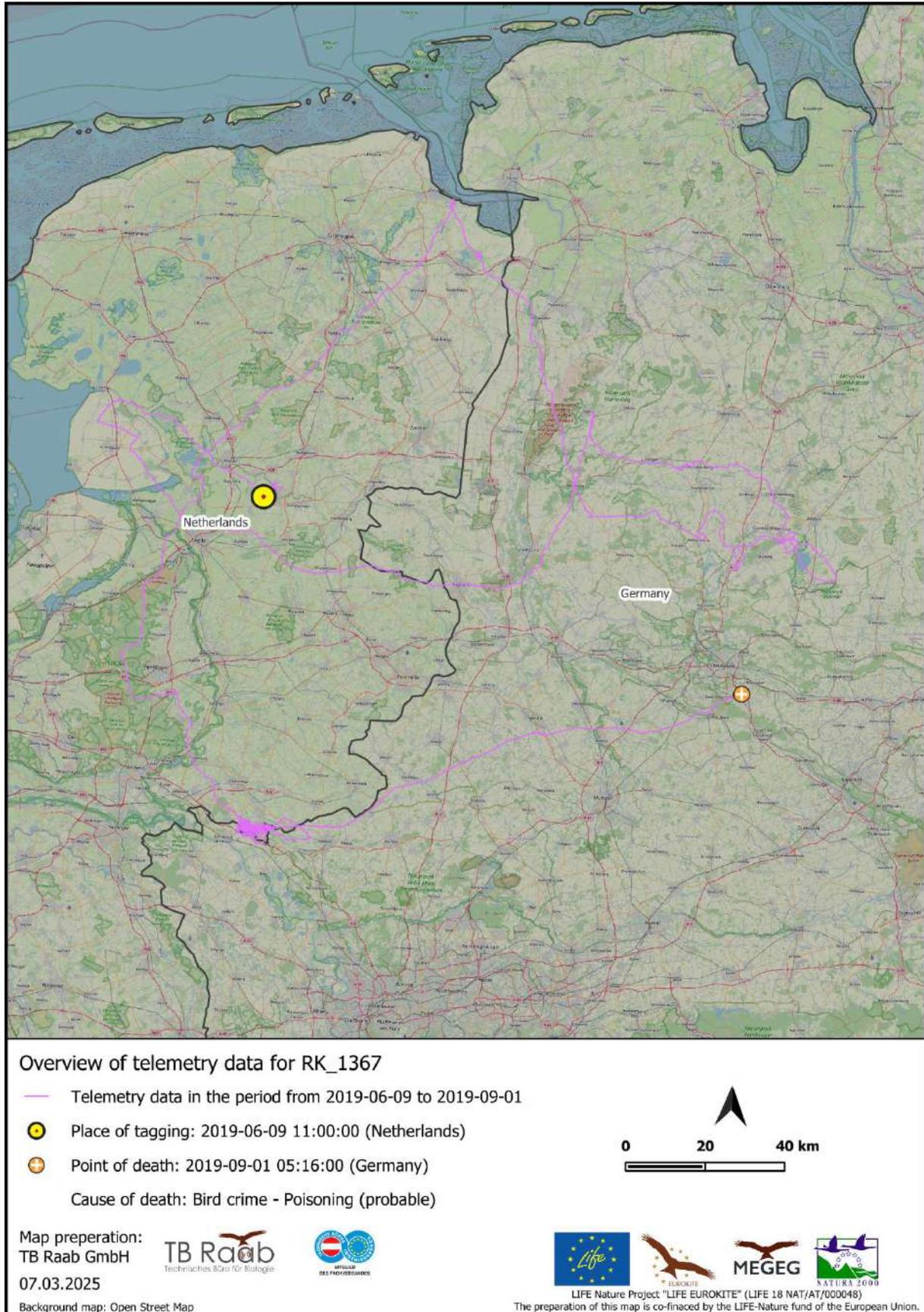


Figure 13: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1367.



Figure 14: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1367 in the last days before death.

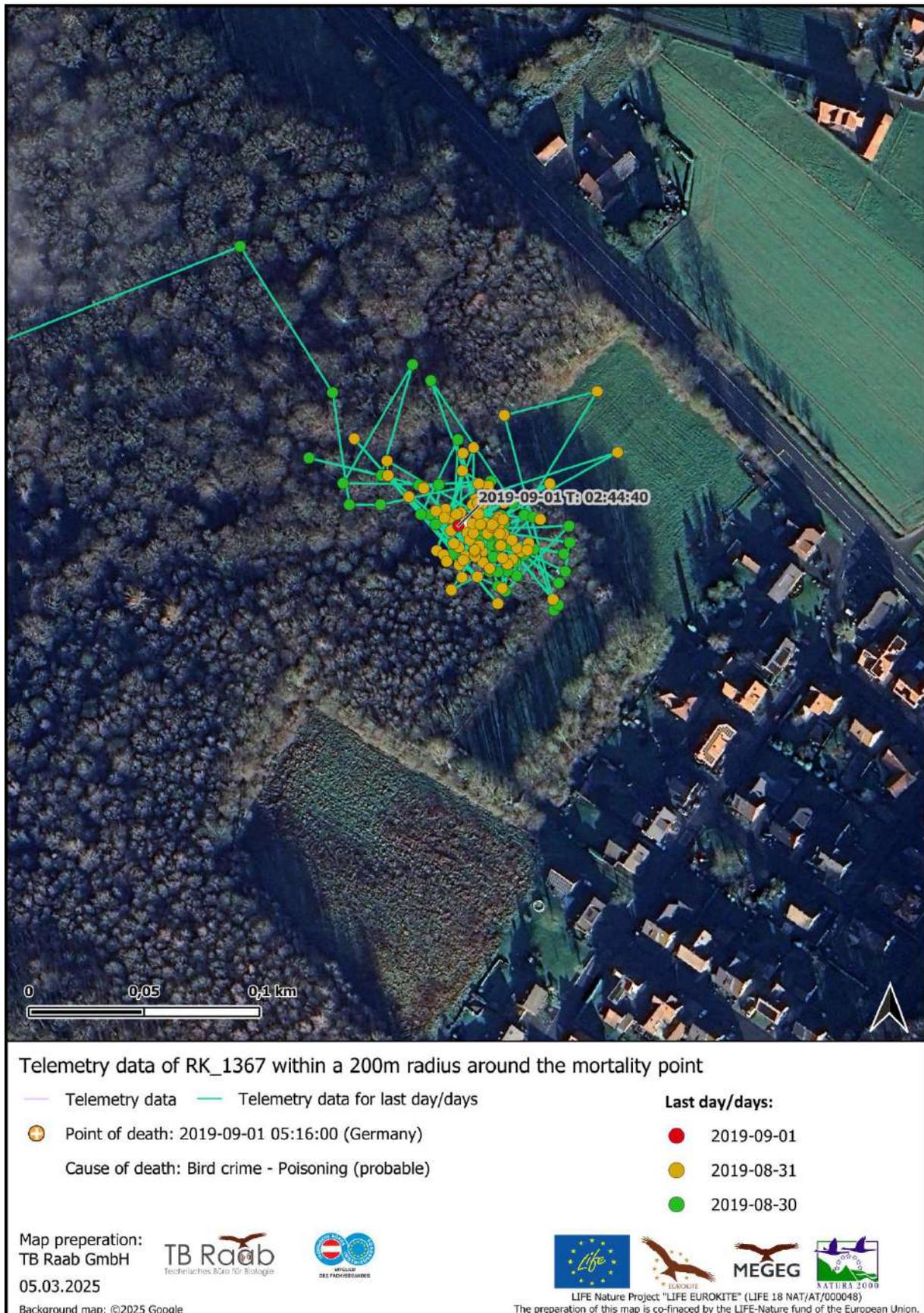


Figure 15: Telemetry data of RK_1367 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0339

General information about the bird

Name: Egendorf_01

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 13.05.2019

Place of tagging: Egendorf, Thuringia, Germany

Date of tagging: 13.08.2019

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: From rescue station

Ownership category: E_TBRAAB_1

Logger number: Ornitela 194 - 192584 - kite

Ring number: EA216821

Sex: Probably Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Wipfratal, Thuringia, Germany

Coordinates: 50,7742999, 10,9642750

Date of bird crime: 05.10.2019, 06:01:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 145

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Medium

Bird crime: Poisoning

Certainty category: Probable

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab). Nicotinamide, alpha tocopherol, neophytadiene and fatty acids were detected in the stomach contents.

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 16: Finding situation of the red kite RK_0339, which died on 05.10.2029, in Wipfratal, Thuringia, Germany.
© LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Thomas Pfeiffer)

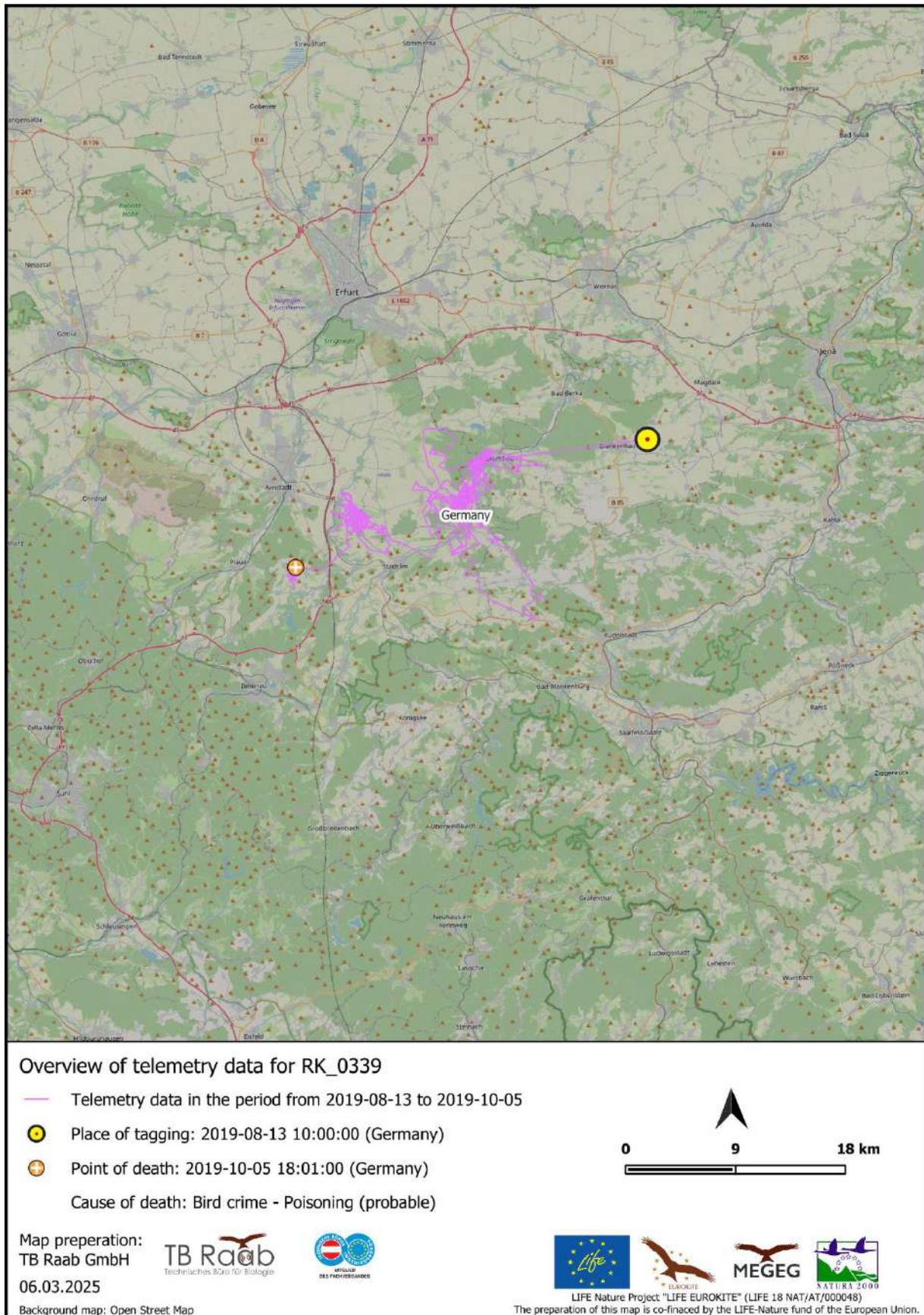


Figure 17: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0339.

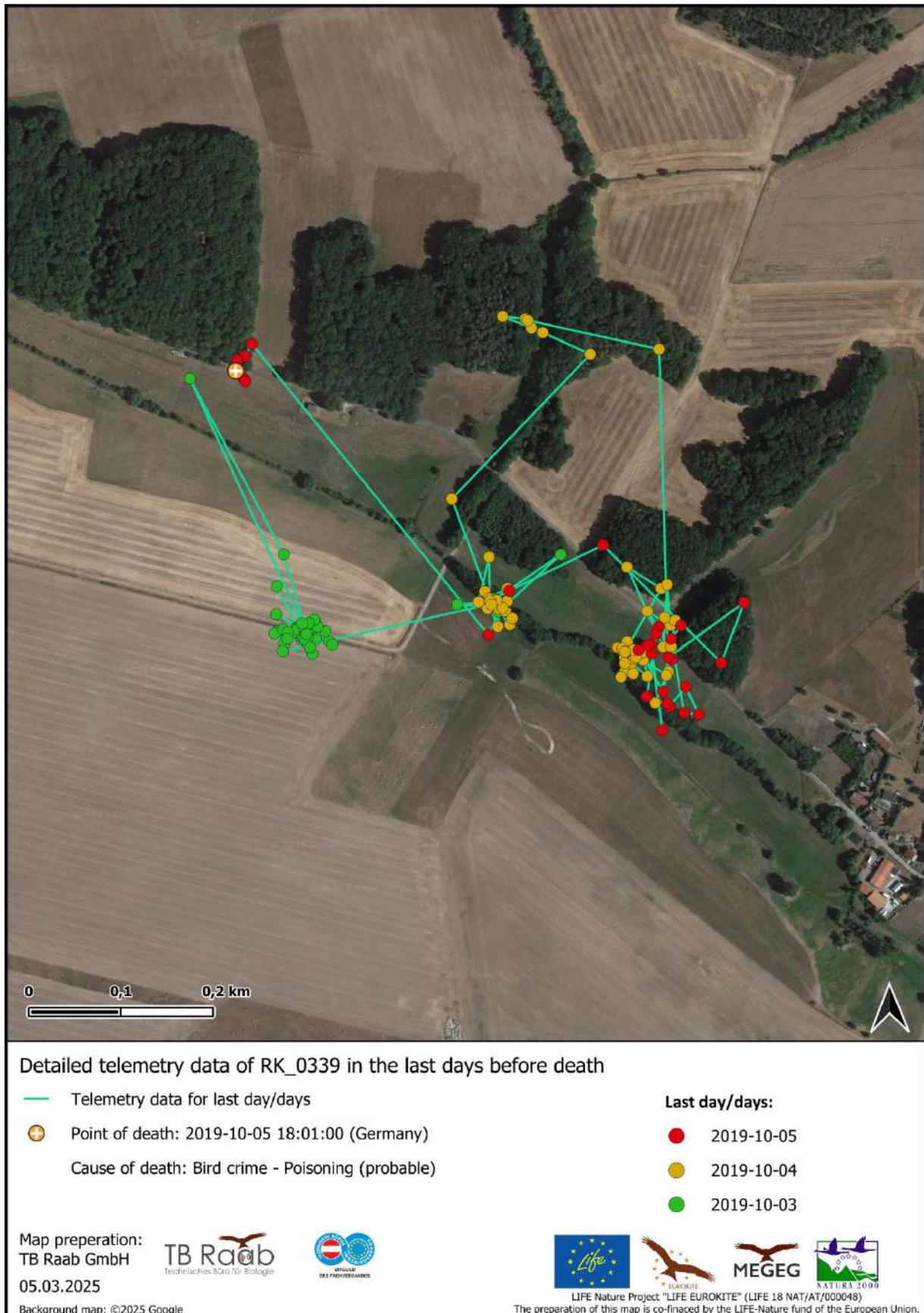


Figure 18: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0339 in the last days before death.

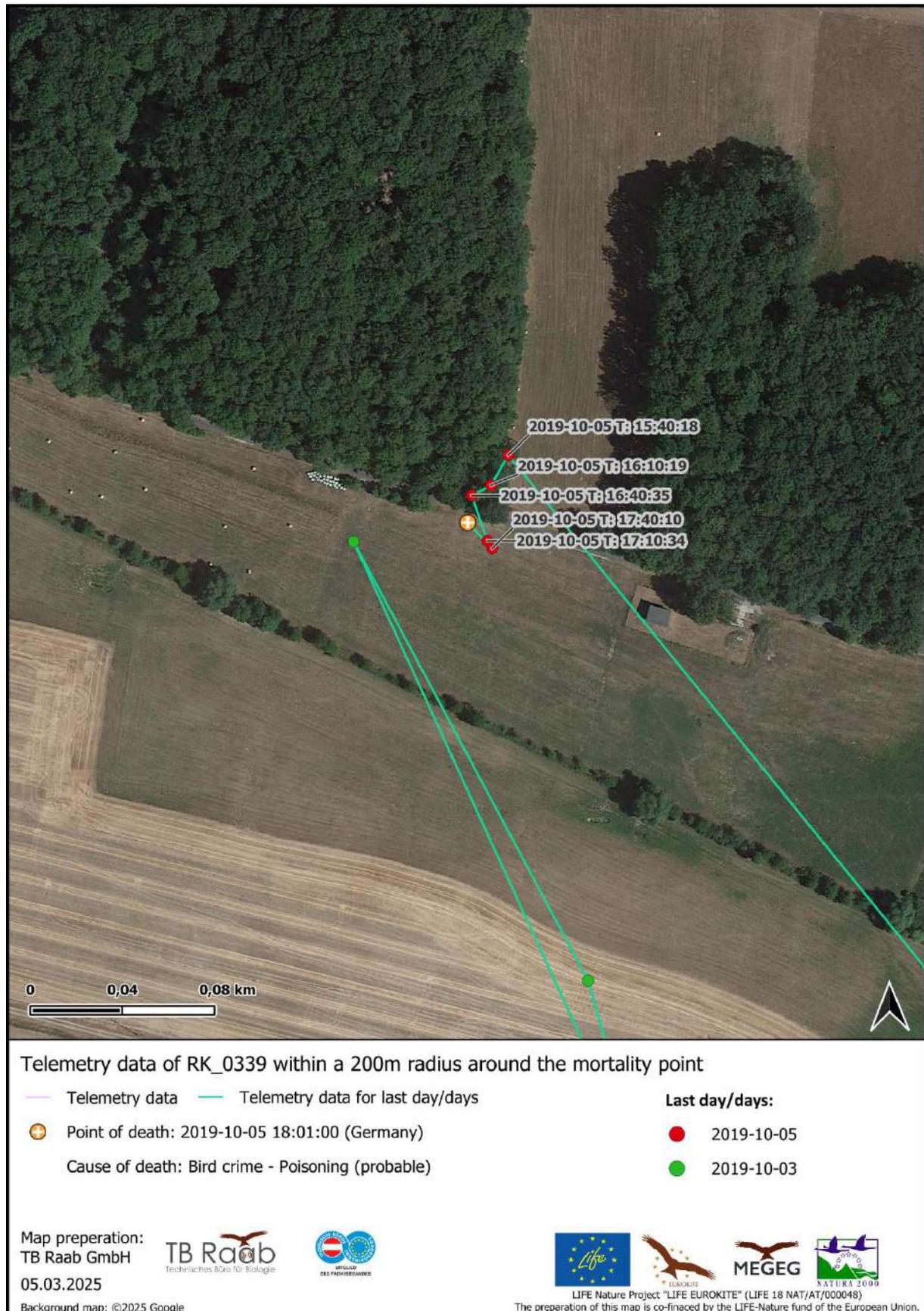


Figure 19: Telemetry data of RK_0339 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0344

General information about the bird

Name: Araba_16

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 22.04.2018

Place of tagging: Álava, Zaldondo, Araba/Álava, Spain

Date of tagging: 15.02.2020

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: E_TBRAAB_1

Logger number: Ornitela 154 - 192158 kite

Ring number: H34615

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Laubach, Hesse, Germany

Coordinates: 50,5033260, 9,02812499

Date of bird crime: 14.05.2020, 05:05:00 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 753

Age at bird crime: 3. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger found and bird not found (only feathers)

Carcass state: Very bad

Bird crime: Poisoning

Certainty category: Probable

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab). Teflon bands of the transmitter destroyed/torn off.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: Neither police nor authority informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Neither police nor authority informed. Bird not found



*Figure 20: Discovered remains of the red kite RK_0344, which died on 14.05.2020, in Laubach, Hesse, Germany.
© LIFE EUROKITE Archive*

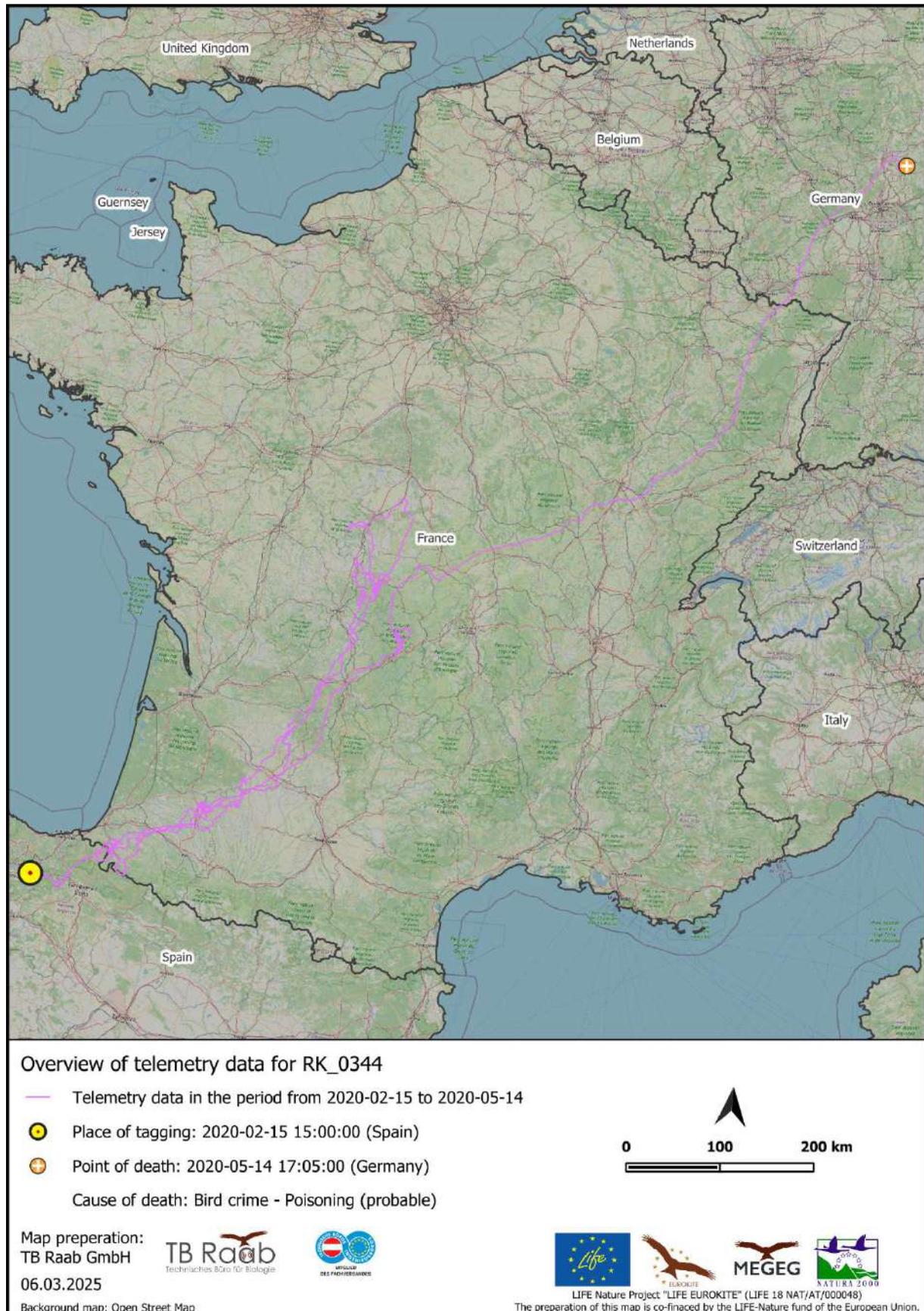


Figure 21: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0344.



Figure 22: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0344 in the last days before death.

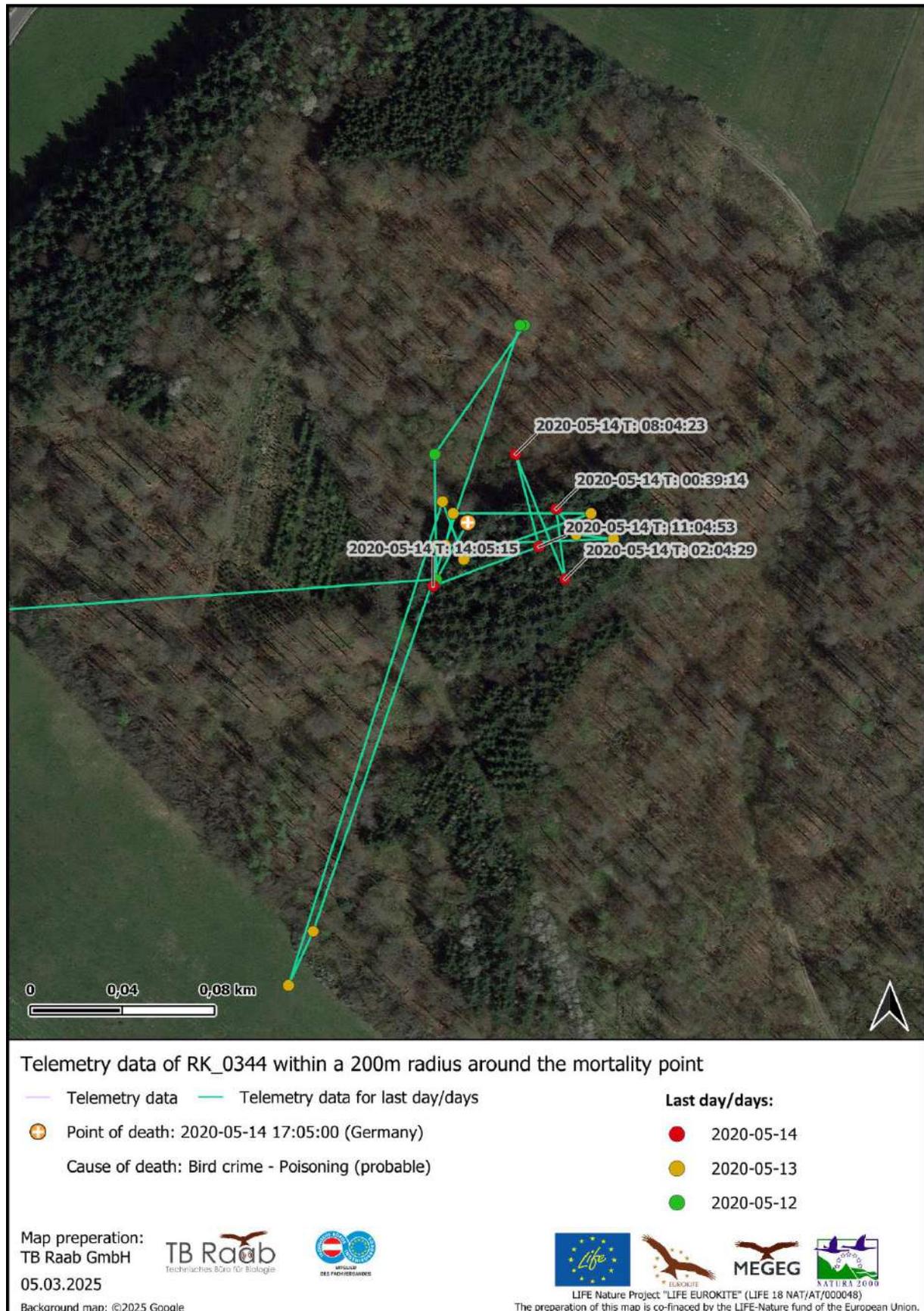


Figure 23: Telemetry data of RK_0344 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0487

General information about the bird

Name: Nauendorf_02

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 01.06.2020

Place of tagging: Nauendorf, Thuringia, Germany

Date of tagging: 04.07.2020

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: A1

Logger number: ANITRA 168 - 20484

Ring number: EA225242

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Kirtorf, Hesse, Germany

Coordinates: 50.763388, 9.152745

Date of bird crime: 19.09.2020, 07:25:08 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 110

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Medium

Bird crime: Poisoning – Other substances

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: The laboratory found out that the bird died due to a Metaldehyde Intoxication.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: Authority informed → No

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

The case was reported to the database, but no charges were filed.



*Figure 24: Discovery situation of the red kite RK_0487, which died on 19.09. 2020, in Kirtorf, Hesse, Germany.
© LIFE EUROKITE Archive*

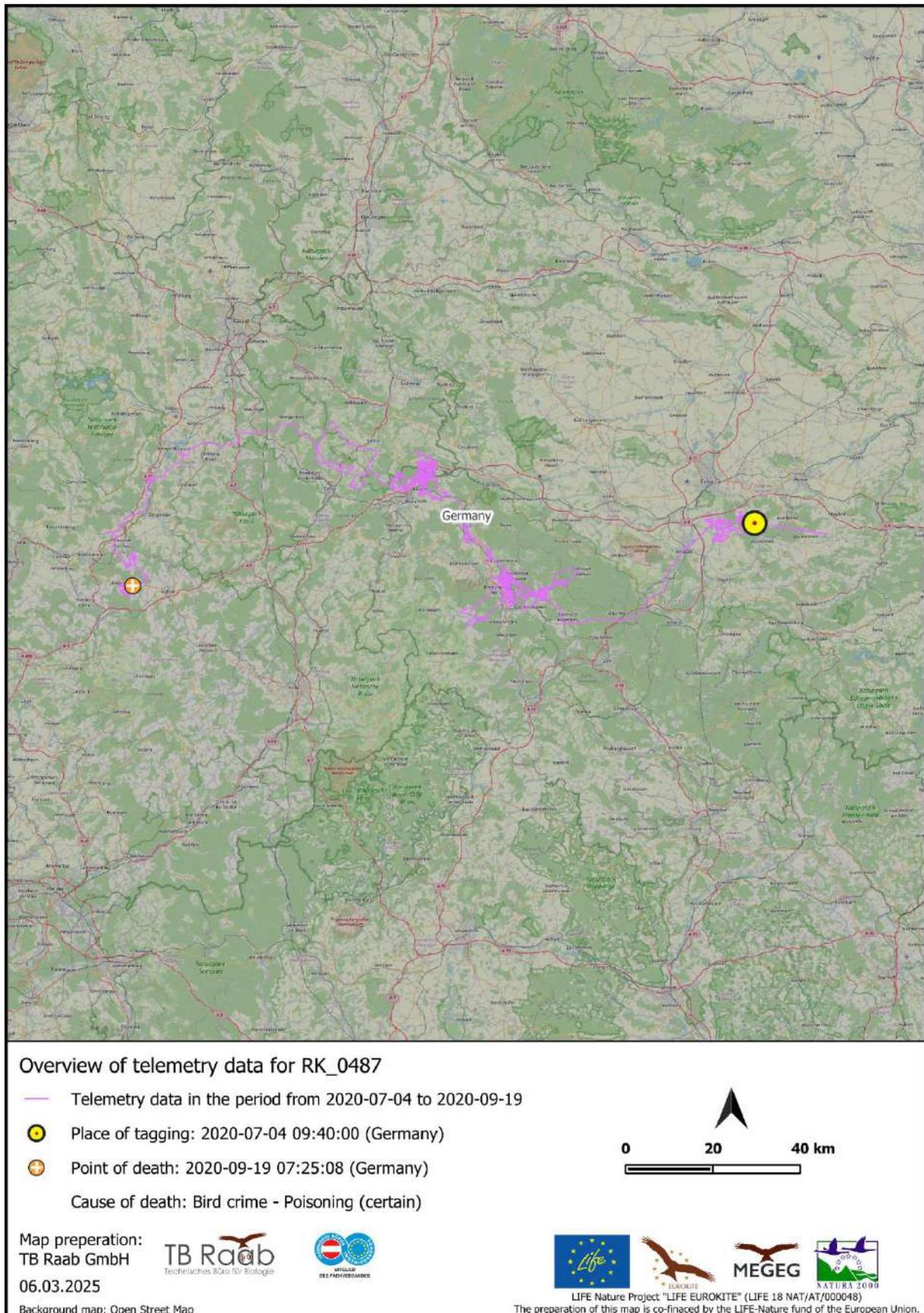


Figure 25: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0487.

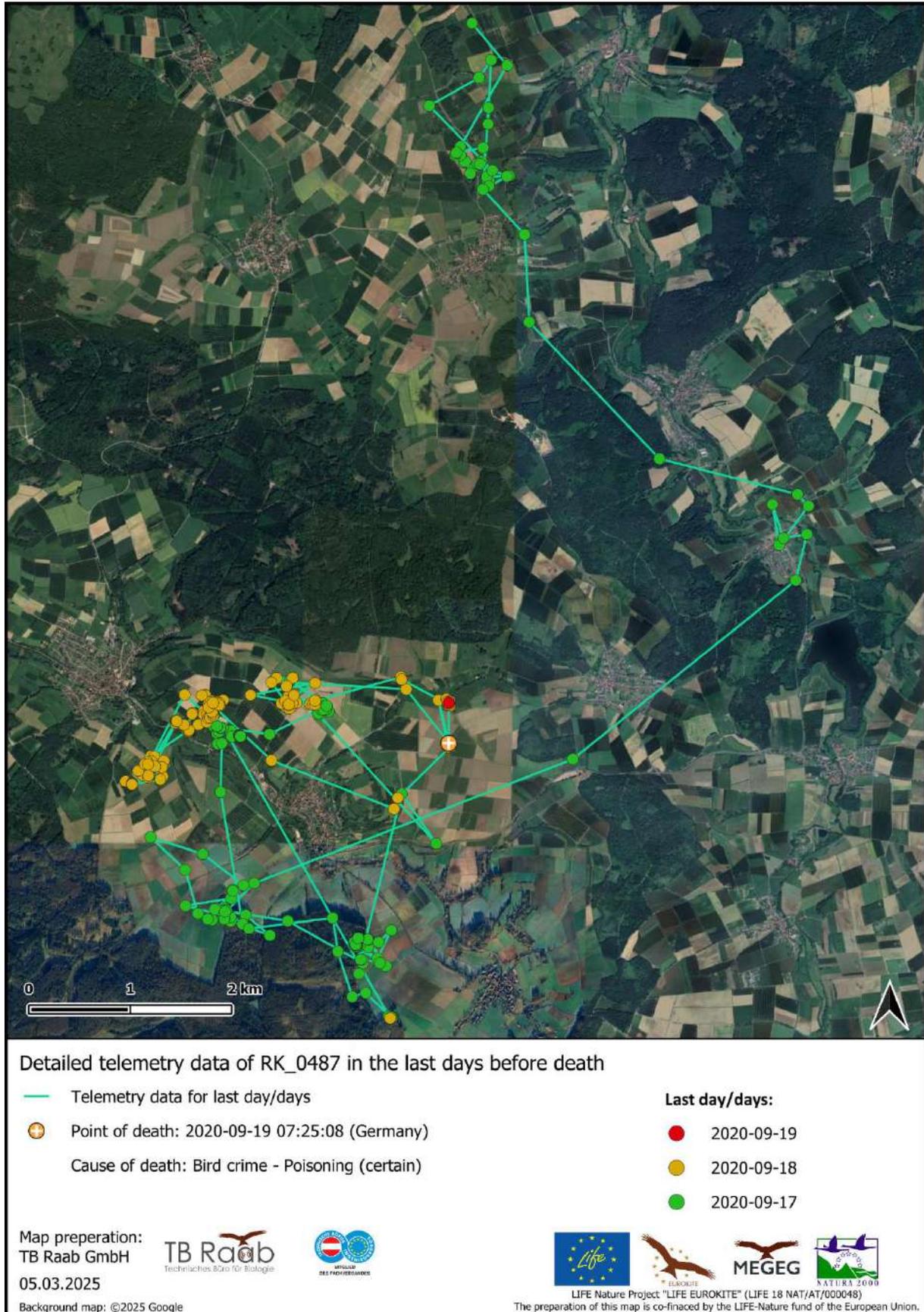


Figure 26: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0487 in the last days before death.

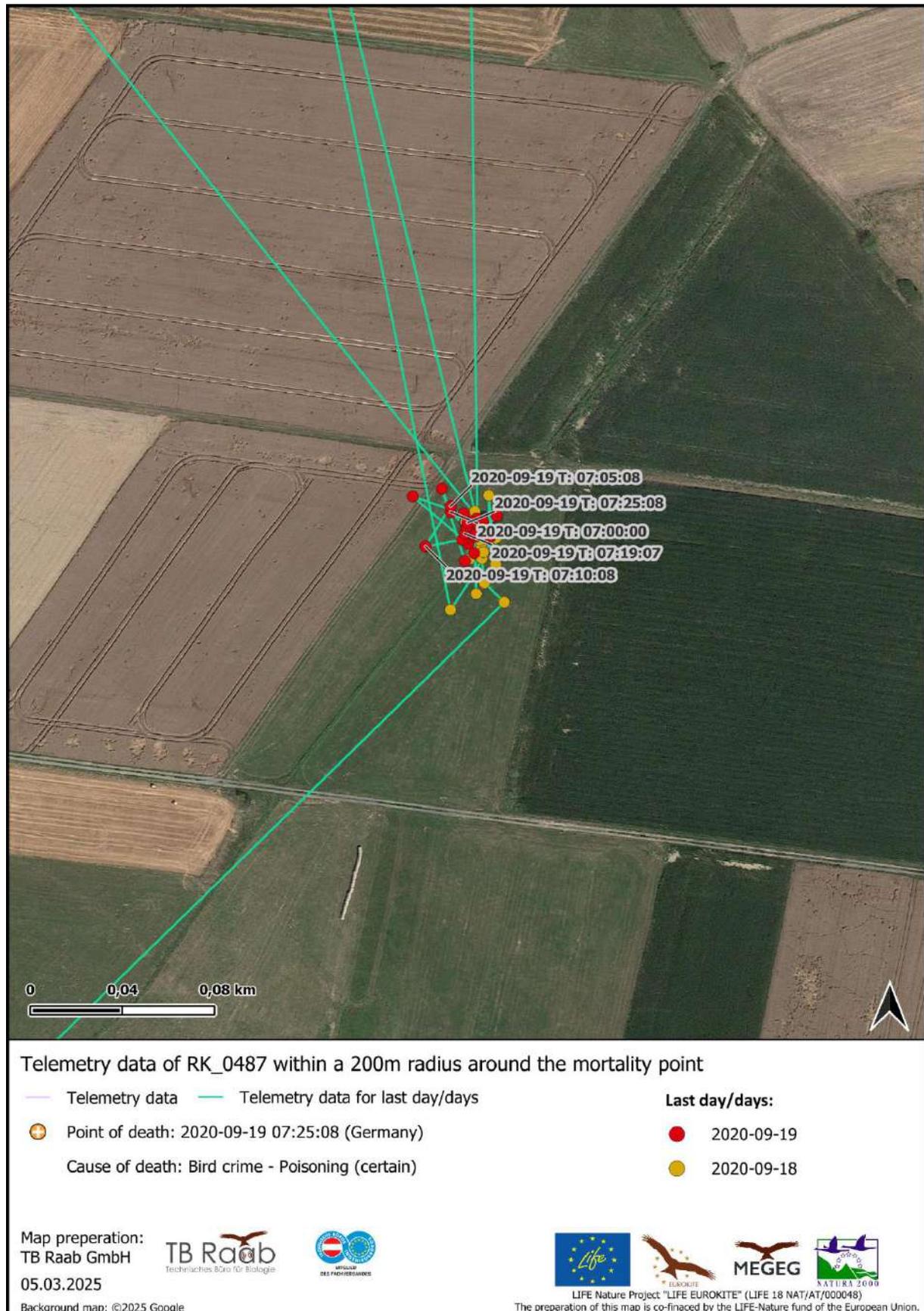


Figure 27: Telemetry data of RK_0487 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_2100

General information about the bird

Name: Losser_01

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 18.05.2022

Place of tagging: Enschede, East- Netherlands, Netherlands

Date of tagging: 28.06.2022

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_StefVanRijn

Logger number: 223891

Ring number: 6225764

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Rùthen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Coordinates: 51,5344770, 8,42457699

Date of bird crime: 30.08.2022 10:44:05 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 105

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: Private person

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Poisoning – Other substances

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: The laboratory found Rodentices in the liver.

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

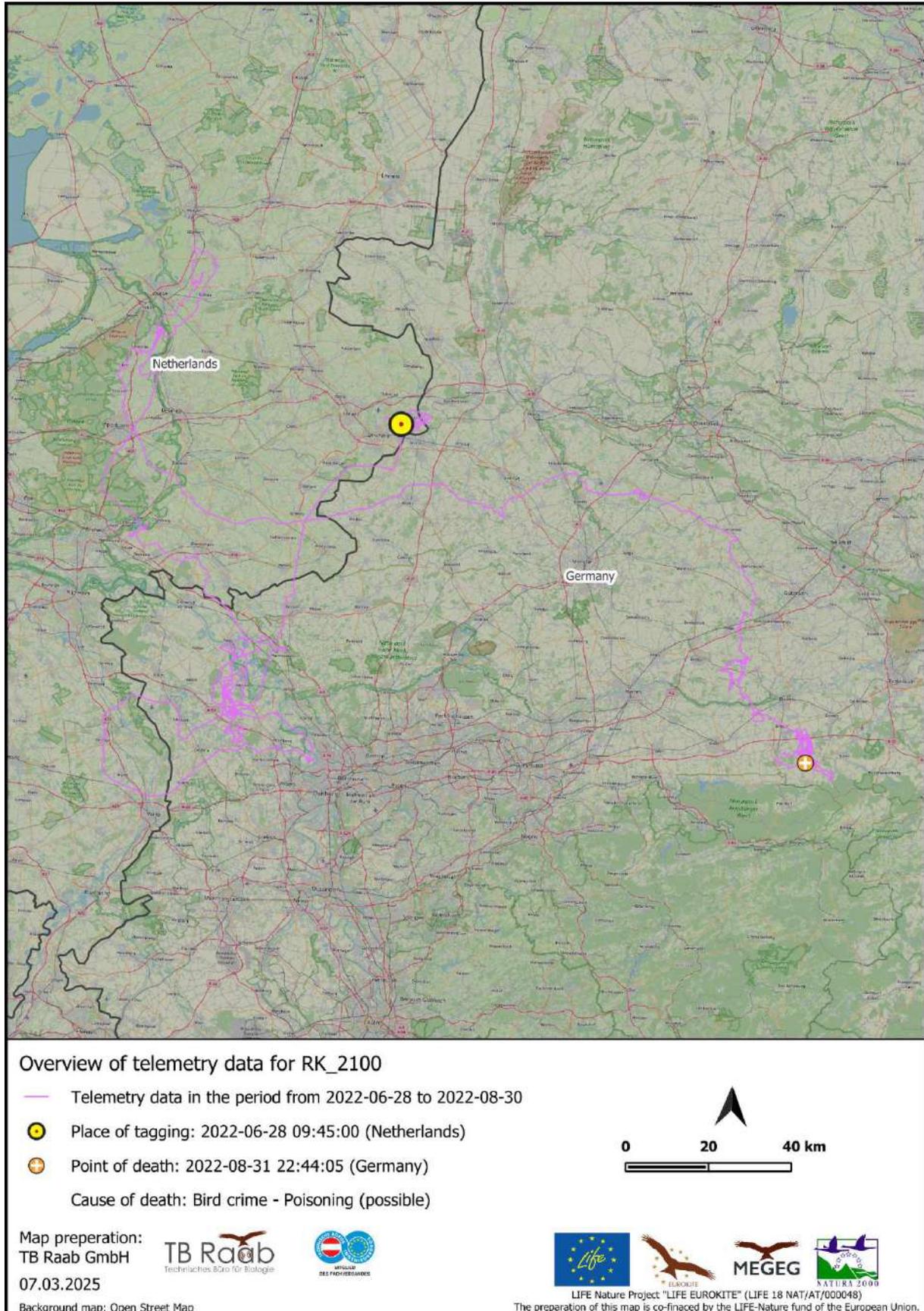


Figure 28: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_2100.

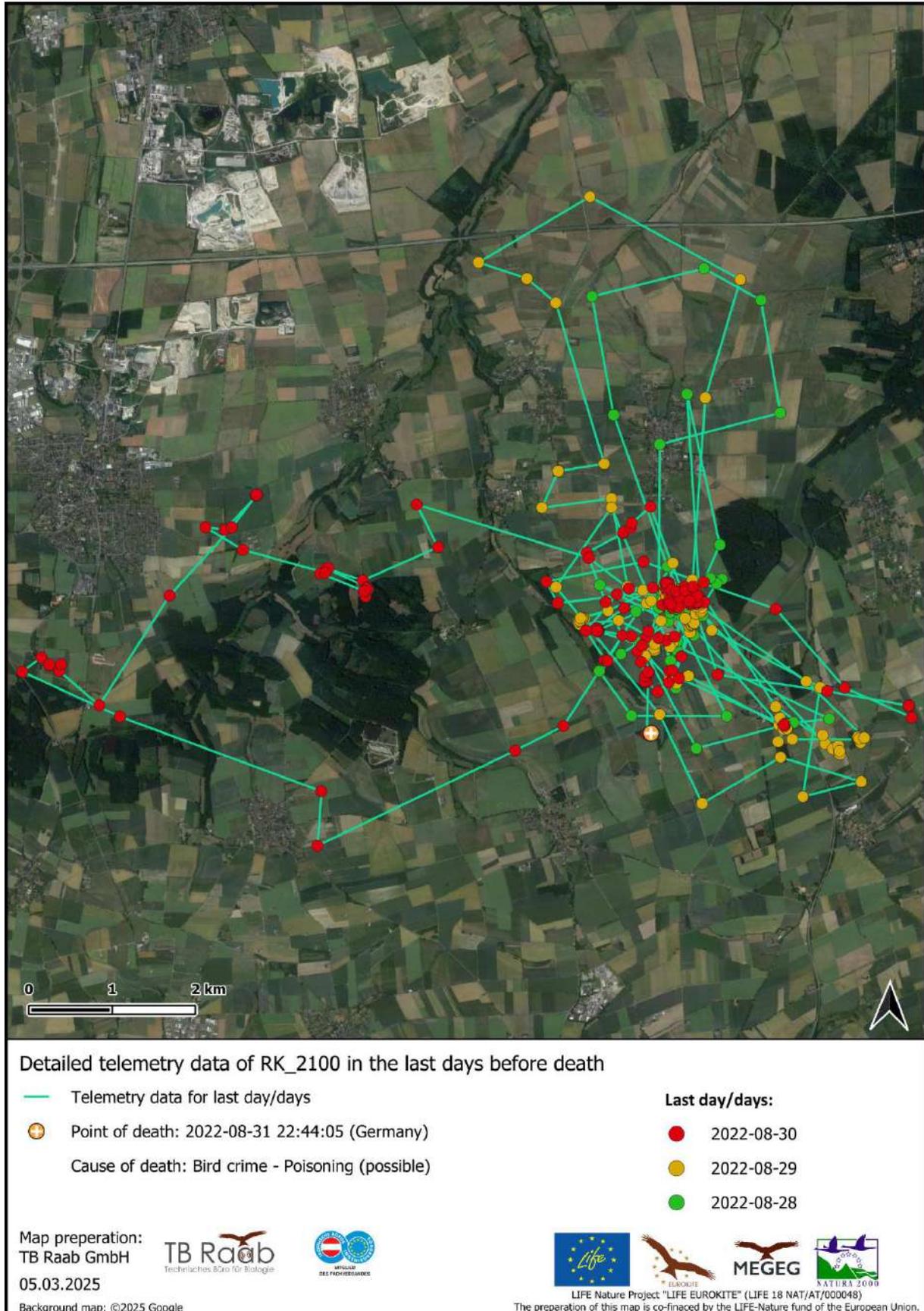


Figure 29: Detailed telemetry data of RK_2100 in the last days before death.

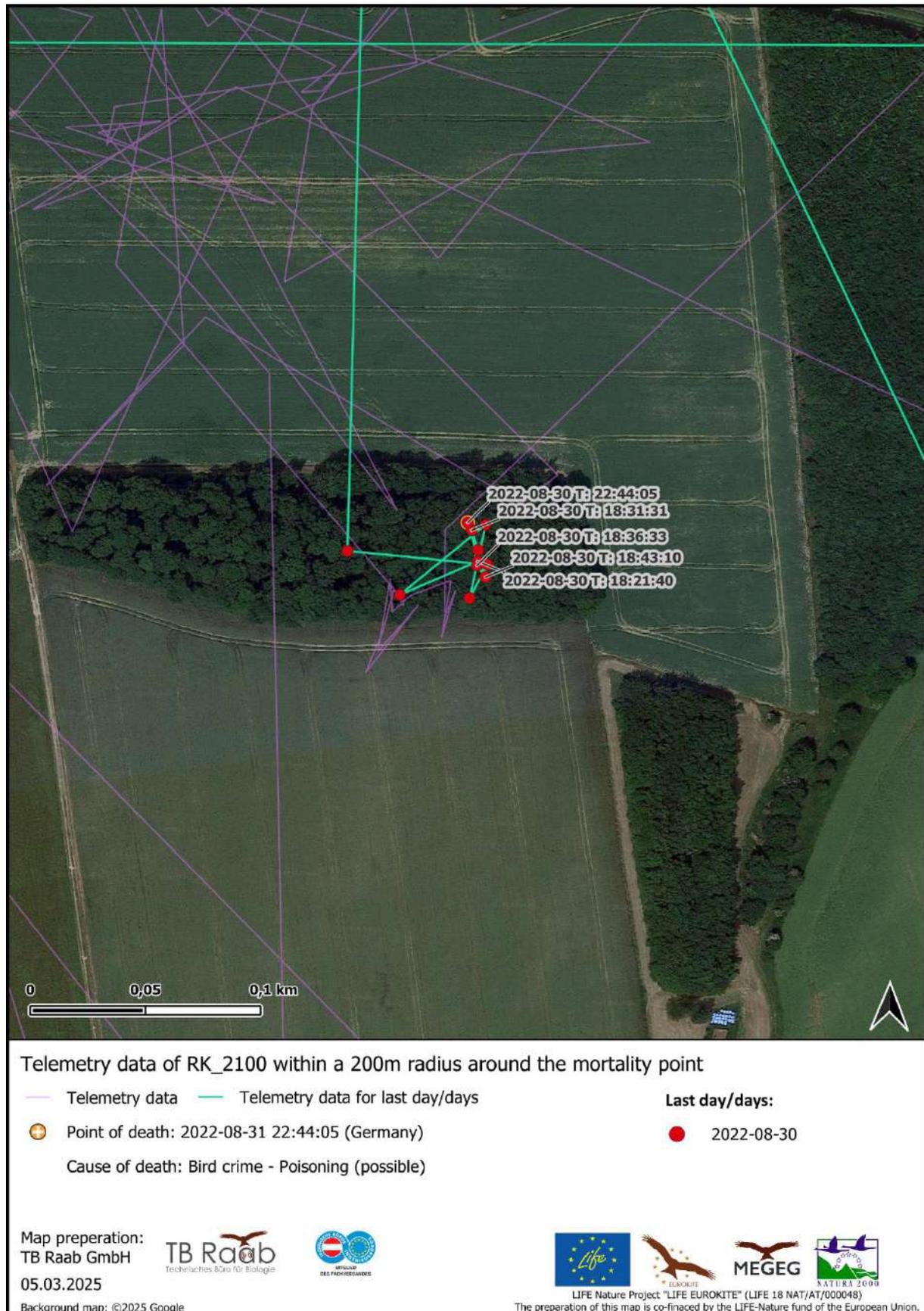


Figure 30: Telemetry data of RK_2100 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_2683

General information about the bird

Name: Vippachedelhausen_03

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 14.05.2023

Place of tagging: Am Ettersberg, Thuringia, Germany

Date of tagging: 19.06.2023

Age at tagging: 1.CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: B_MEGEG (Pfeiffer, Thomas)

Logger number: 12235

Ring number: EA236342

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Vippachedelhausen, Thuringia, Germany

Coordinates: 51.078546, 11.209112

Date of bird crime: 15.07.2023, 02:05:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 62

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: No information received

Bird crime: Poisoning- Anticoagulants / Coumarin derivatives

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: The laboratory confirm poisoning with Difenacoum/Brodifacoum.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No information received

Police and/or authority investigation: Police informed → 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 31: Above: Discovery situation of the red kite RK_2683, which died on 15.07.2023, in Vippachedelhausen, Thuringia, Germany. Below: Close-up of the head of red kite RK_2683. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Thomas Pfeiffer)



Figure 32: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_2683.

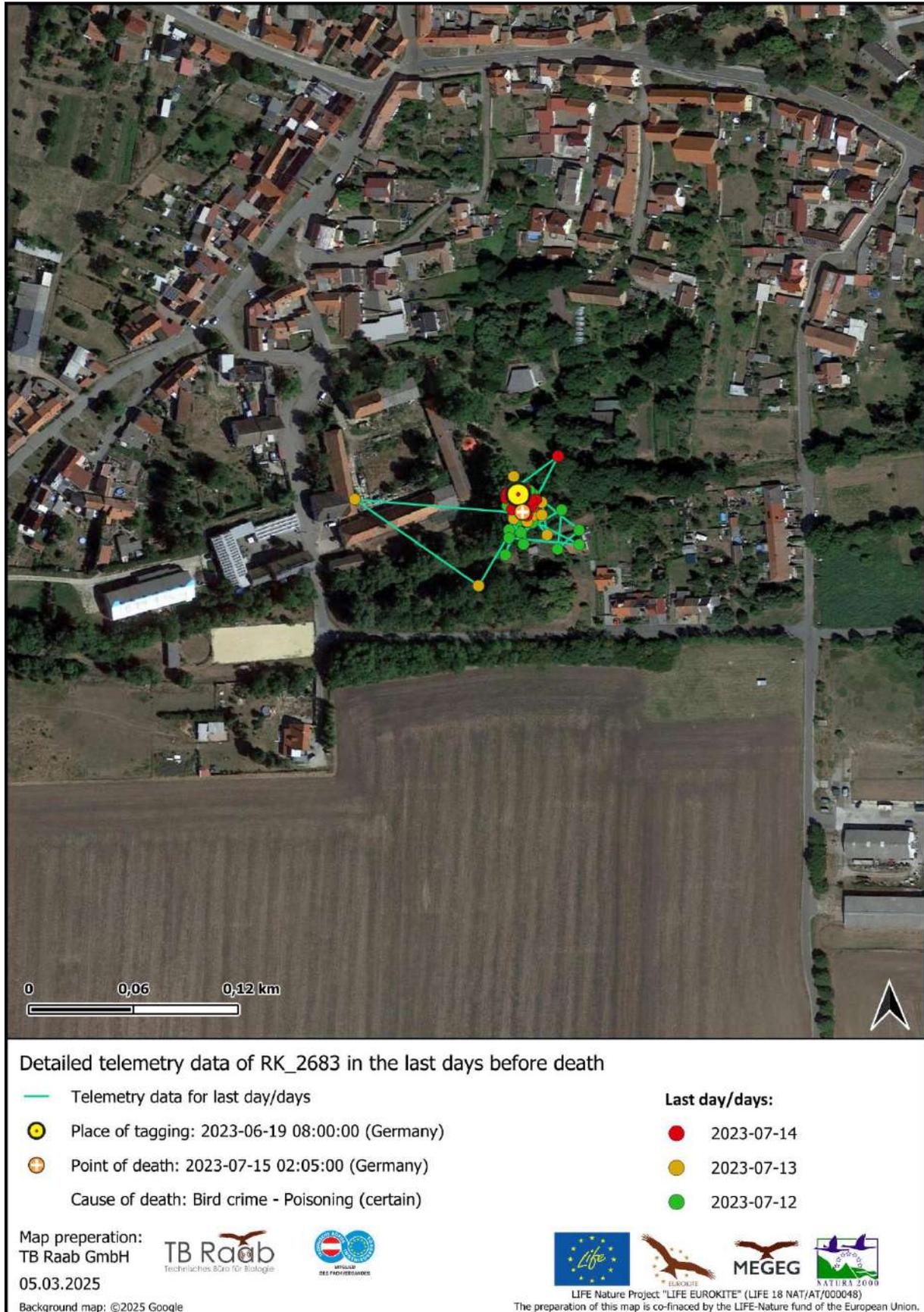


Figure 33: Detailed telemetry data of RK_2683 in the last days before death.

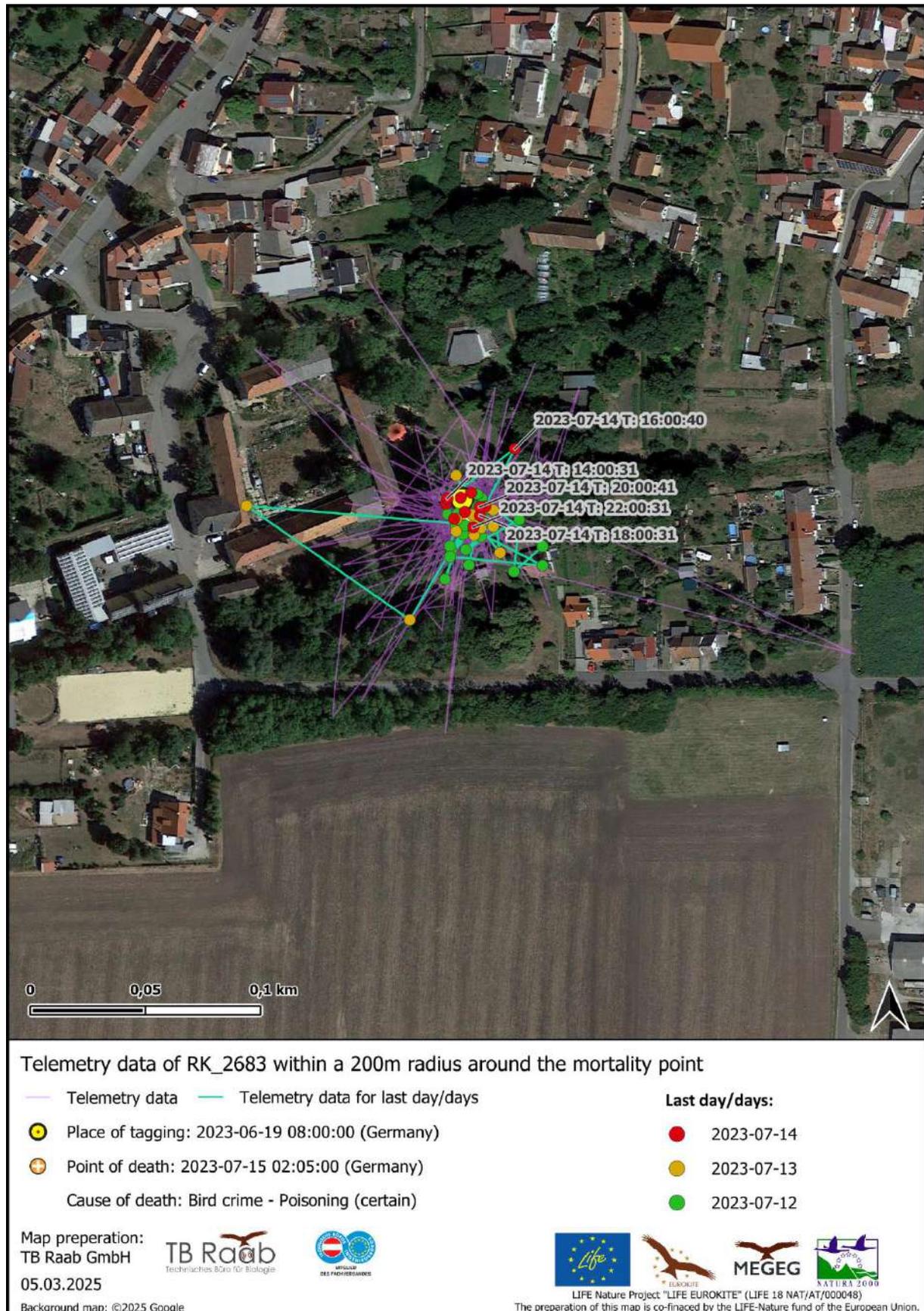


Figure 34: Telemetry data of RK_2683 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_1388

General information about the bird

Name: Wijhe_01

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 12.05.2021

Place of tagging: Wijhe, East-Netherlands, Netherlands

Date of tagging: 30.06.2021

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: A1

Logger number: 212187

Ring number: 6172087

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Molbergen, Lower Saxony, Germany

Coordinates: 52.869514, 7.874041

Date of bird crime: 07.10.2023, 09:47:21 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 878

Age at bird crime: 3. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Poisoning

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab).

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No investigation

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority not informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Police and authority not informed

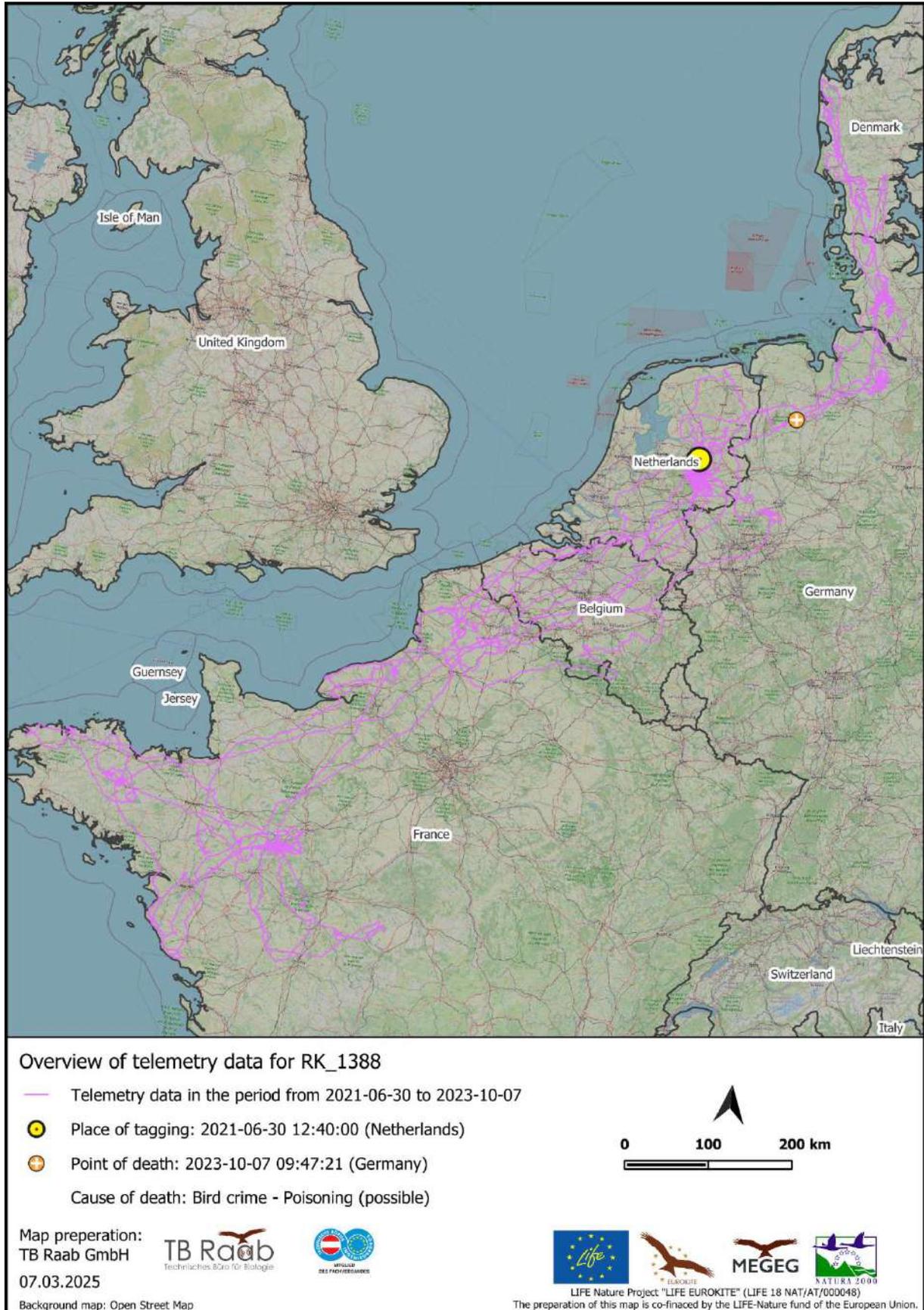


Figure 35: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1388.

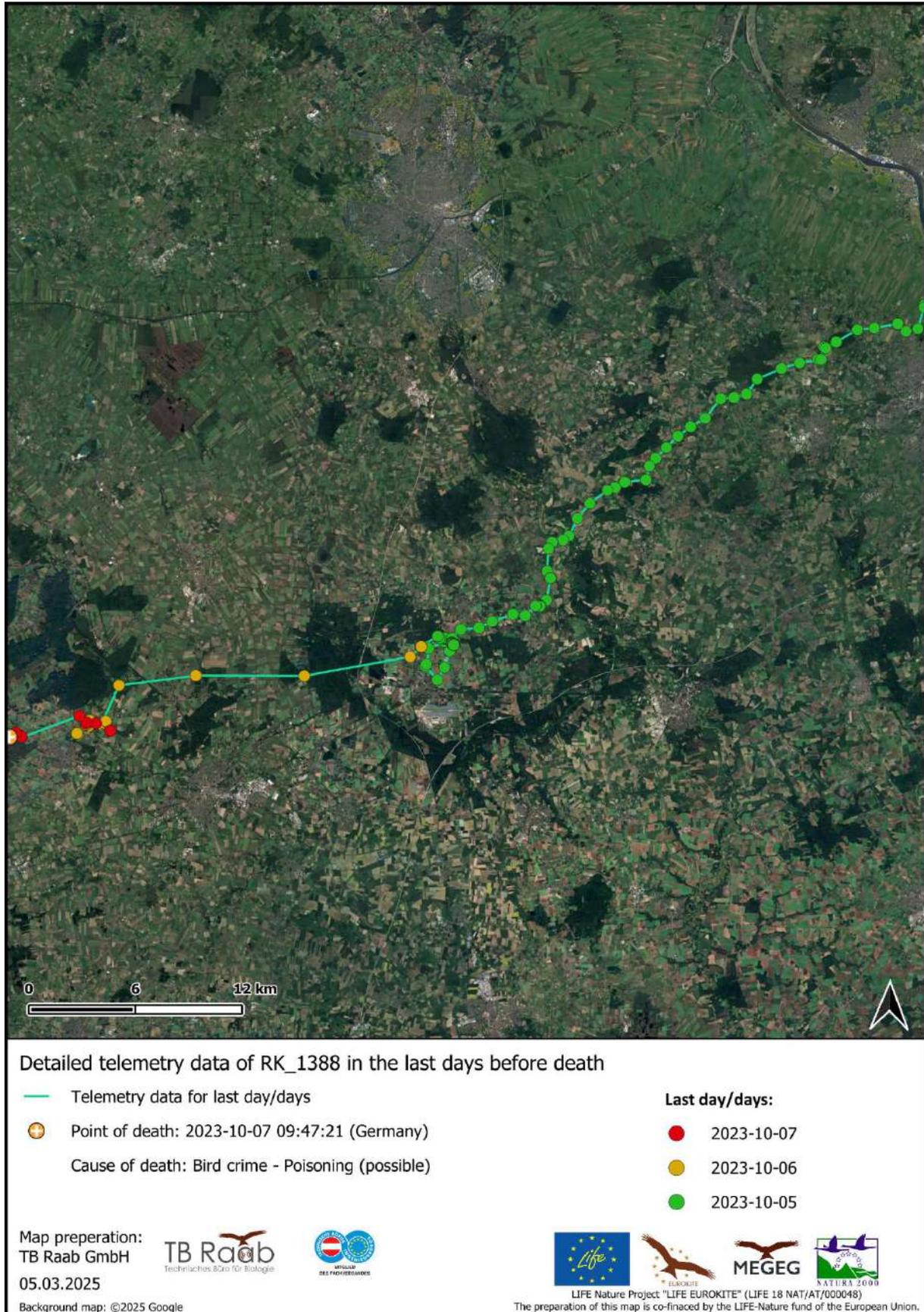


Figure 36: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1388 in the last days before death.



Figure 37: Telemetry data of RK_1388 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_2483

General information about the bird

Name: Eisenhutsrot_02

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 10.05.2023

Place of tagging: Hohenlohekreis, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Date of tagging: 13.06.2023

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: B_MEGEG (Q-energy)

Logger number: 23565

Ring number: JC84073

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Lipprichhausen, Bavaria, Germany

Coordinates: 49.569936, 10.105257

Date of bird crime: 23.05.2024, 10:20:09 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 379

Age at bird crime: 2. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab & Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS)

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Very good

Bird crime: Poisoning - Carbofuran

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: The bird was found lying on its belly right next to scattered deer bones. After investigation, it was determined that the bird died from Carbofuran poisoning. However, no poison was found on the deer bones. In a neighbouring community, poisoned birds are repeatedly being found.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: Ongoing

Police and/or authority investigation: Police informed → Ongoing

Legal proceeding: Yes → Ongoing

Conviction: Not yet

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Despite the fact that the poison was detected, the evidence is insufficient to identify a perpetrator. As of now (December 5, 2024), the case is still with the public prosecutor's office. However, it is expected that the case will be closed without a conviction in the near future. If new evidence emerges, the case will be reopened.



Figure 38: Left: Discovery situation of the red kite RK_2483, which died on 23.05.2024, in Lipprichhausen, Bavaria, Germany. Right: Full-body photo of the red kite RK_2483, where the chunks of meat in its beak are visible.
© LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Linda Pfeiffer)

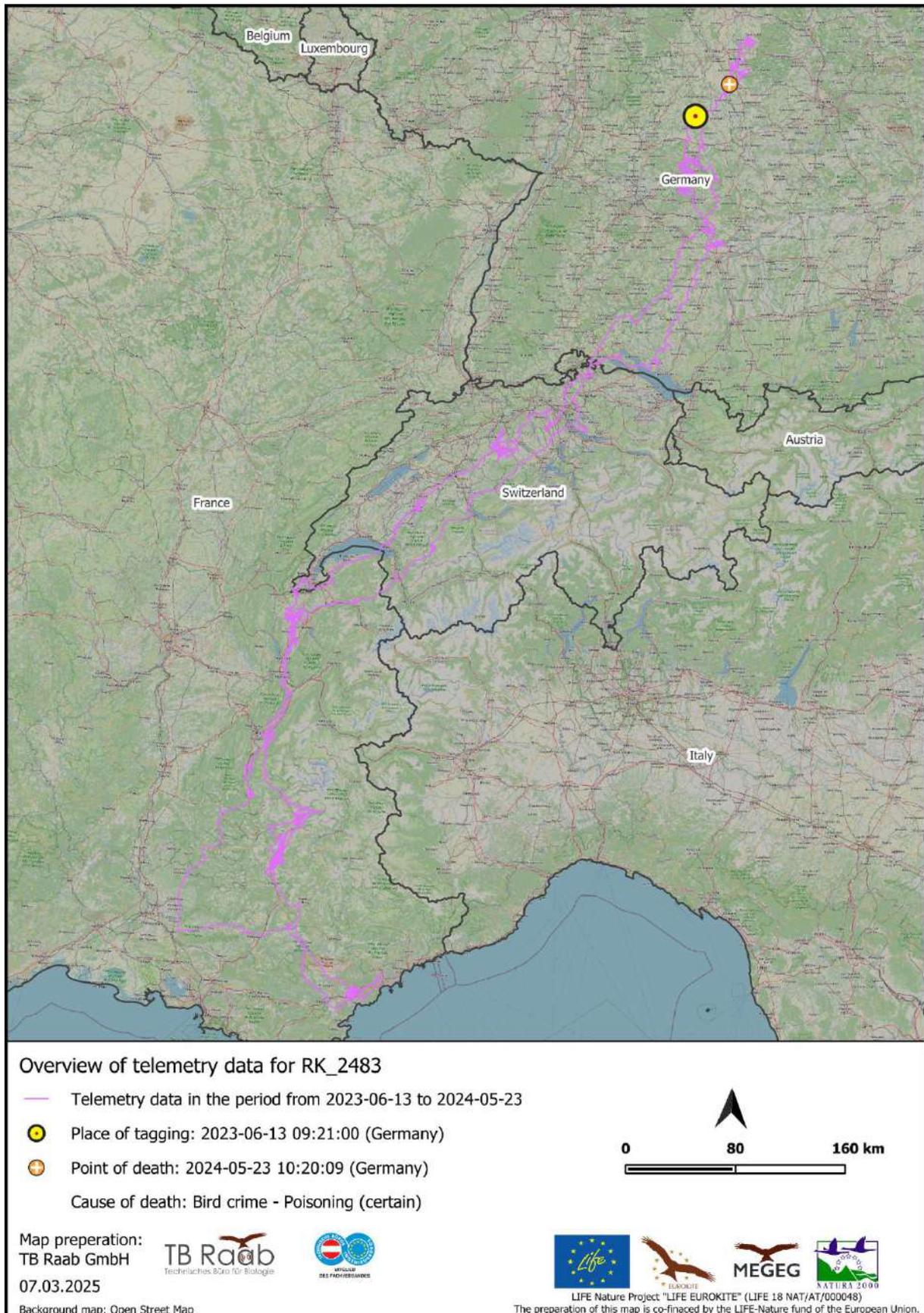


Figure 39: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_2483.

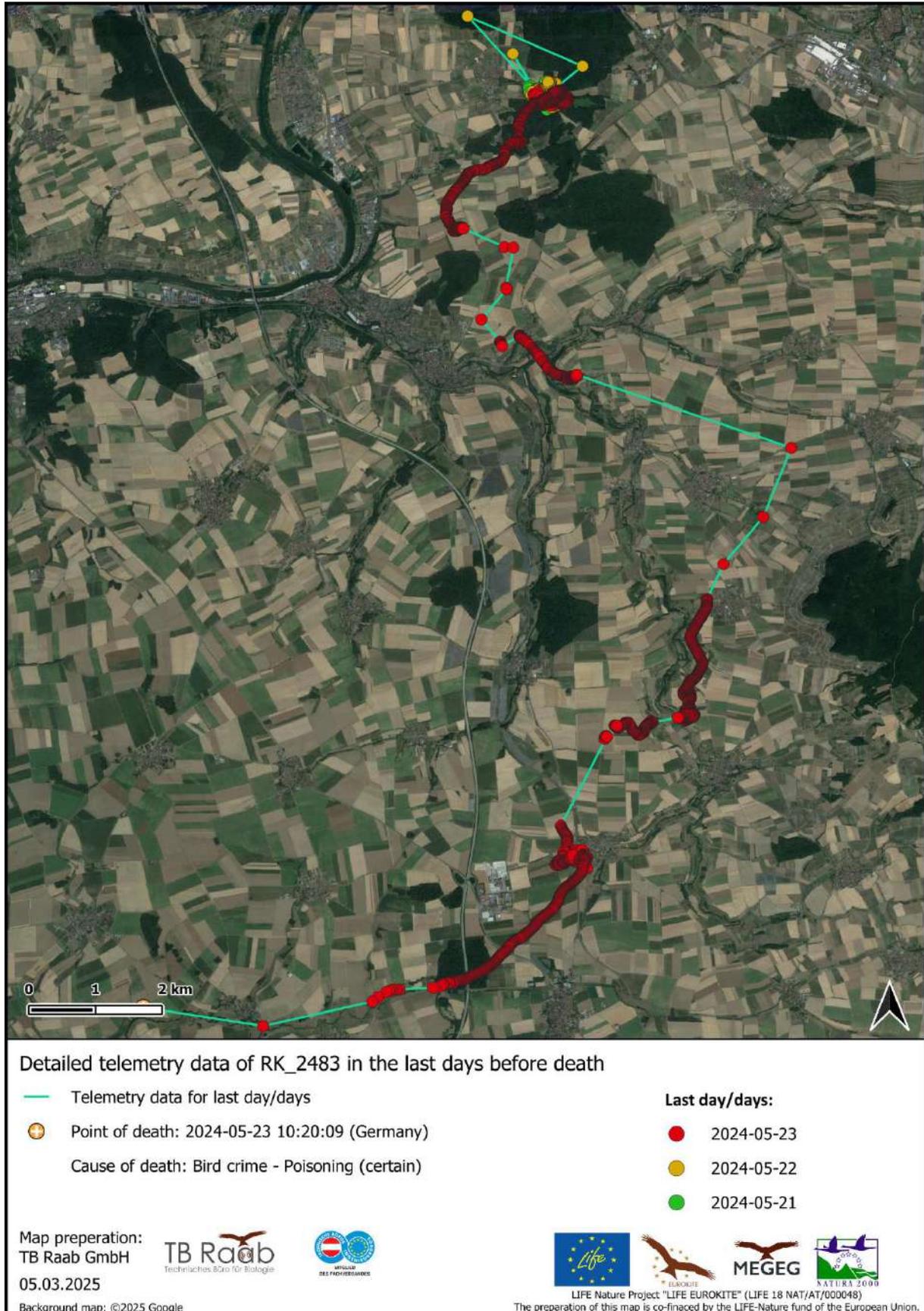


Figure 40: Detailed telemetry data of RK_2483 in the last days before death.

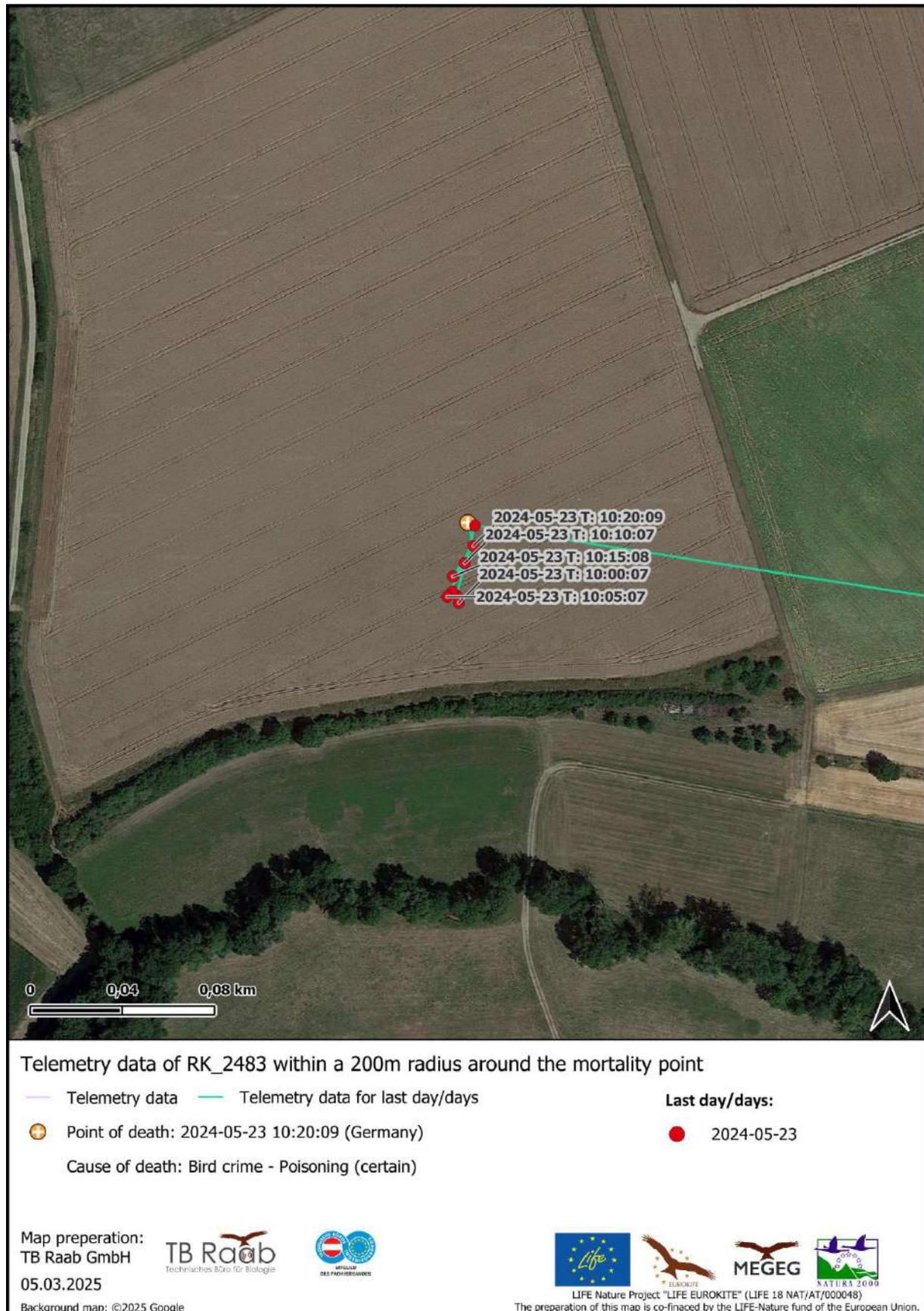


Figure 41: Telemetry data of RK_2483 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_2035

General information about the bird

Name: Glienecke_01

Species: Red Kite

Birth date: 13.05.2022

Place of tagging: Glienecke, Jerichower Land, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany

Date of tagging: 11.08.2022

Age at tagging: 90 days, 1 CY.

Origin of bird: Juvenile in nest

Ownership category: EUROKITE

Logger number: 22079

Ring number: EA237603

Sex: Unkown

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Lüttgenziatz, Sachsen, Germany

Coordinates: 52,184072, 12,015862

Date of bird crime: 25.06.2024 12:55:36 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 774

Age at bird crime: 3. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Good

Bird crime: Poisoning

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: The bird was found dead in the middle of a field; a necropsy is pending to determine the cause of death. Due to the circumstances of the finding, poisoning is very possible.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.08.2024

Investigation: No investigation

Police and/or authority investigation: Neither police nor authorities informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why? Neither police nor authorities were informed



Figure 42: Discovery situation of the red kite RK_2035, which died on 23.05.2024, Lüttgenziatz, Sachsen, Germany.

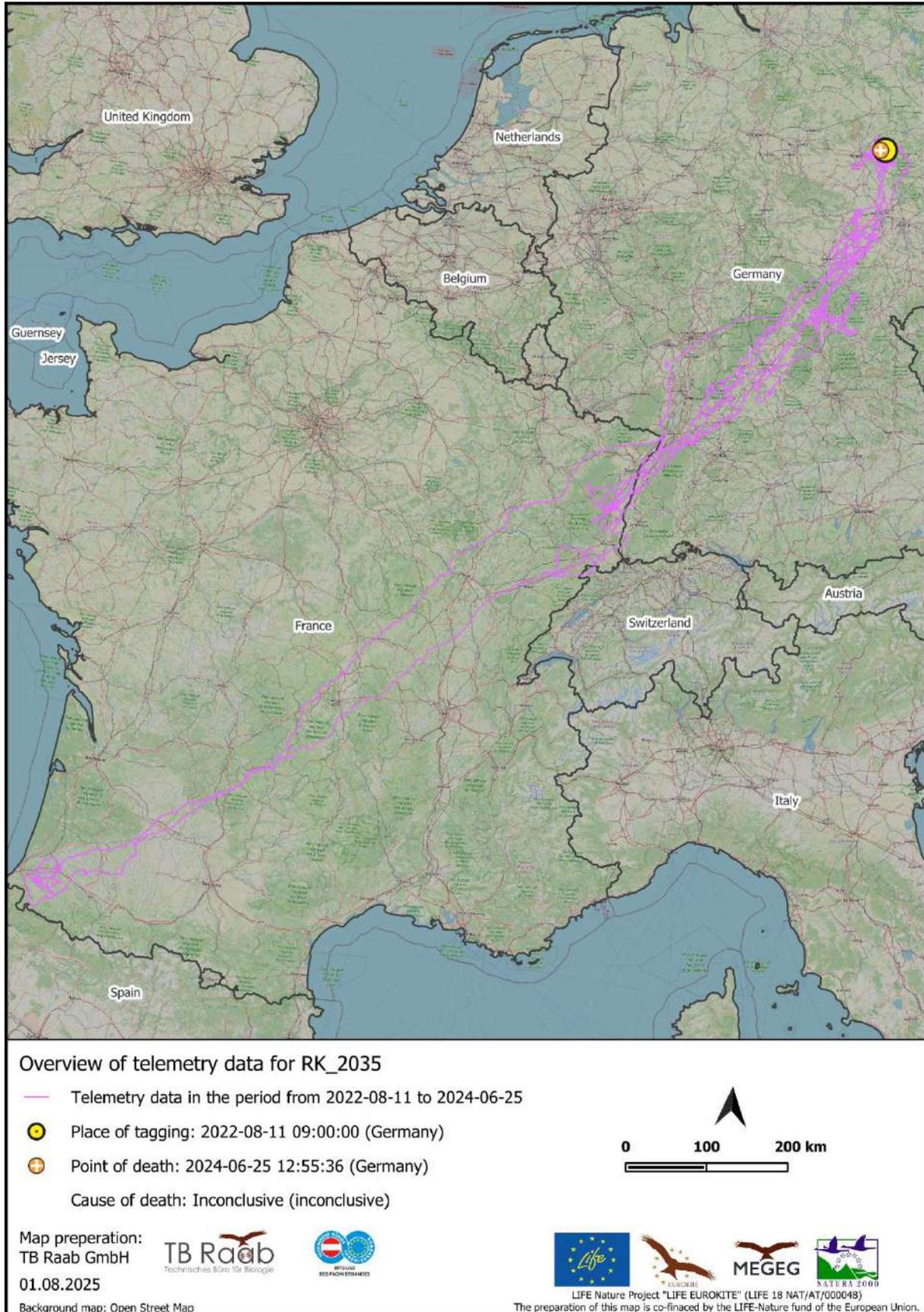


Figure 43: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_2035.

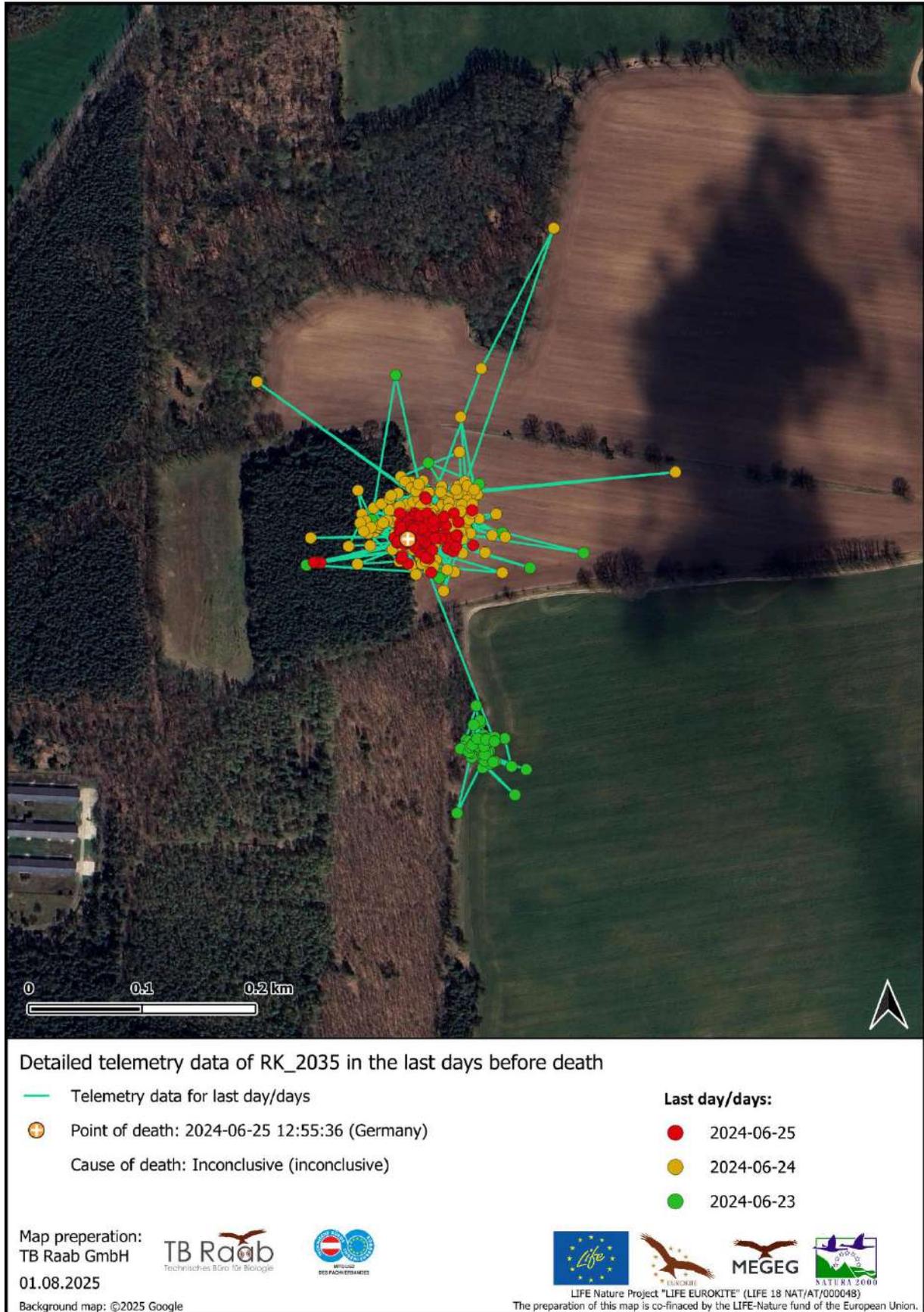


Figure 44: Detailed telemetry data of RK_2035 in the last days before death.

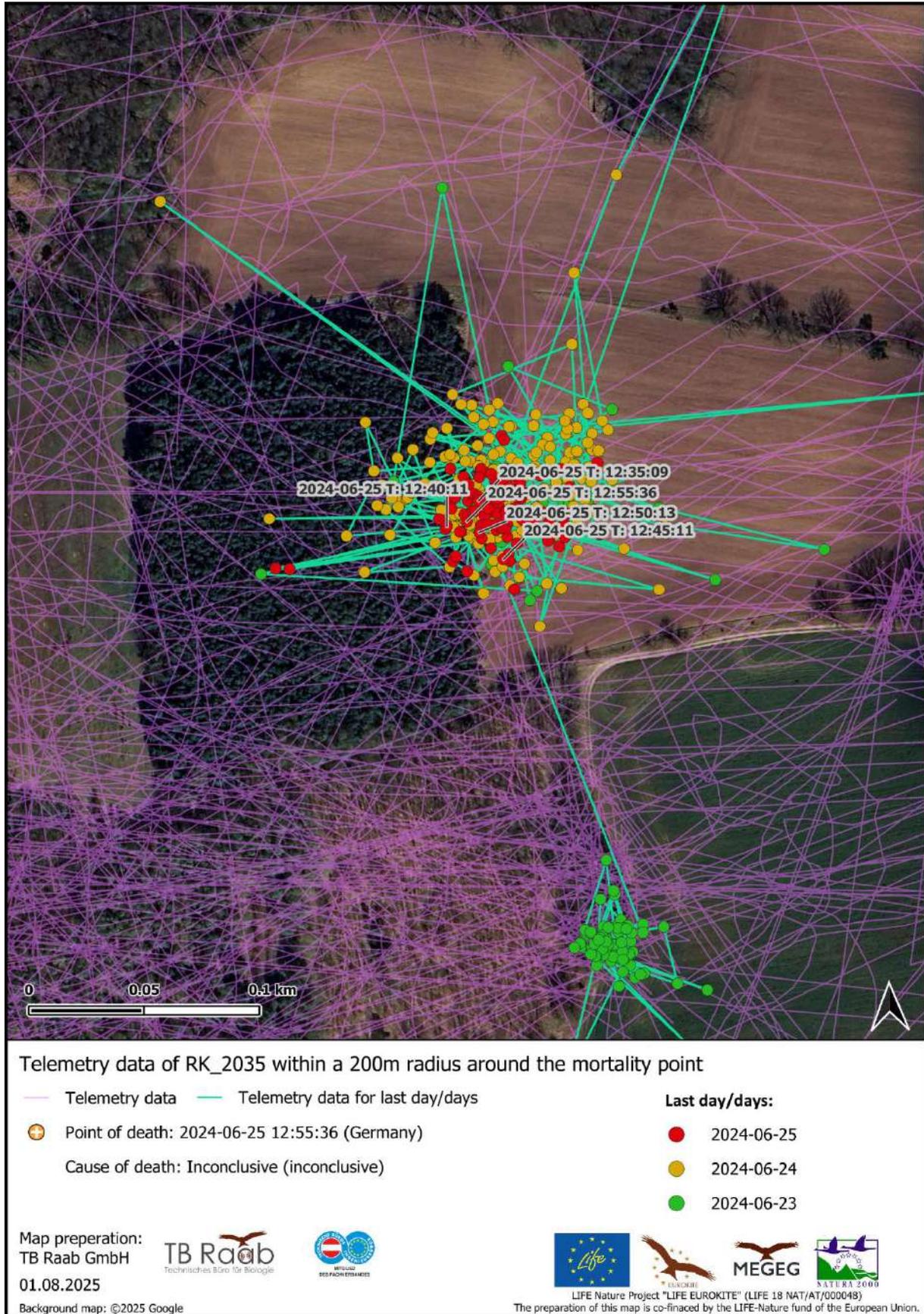


Figure 45: Telemetry data of RK_2035 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

3.2 Tagged individuals that have been poisoned by lead

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

WE_0161

General information about the bird

Name: Maria-Anna

Species: White-tailed eagle

Birth date: 27.04.2019

Place of tagging: Vintersborg Skov, Sjælland, Denmark

Date of tagging: 17.06.2019

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: C_DOF

Logger number: 41545375

Ring number: H095

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Weitendorf, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany

Coordinates: 53,68497, 11,7417200

Date of bird crime: 16.12.2019, 00:00:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 233

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: DOF

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

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Poisoning - Lead

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (DOF)

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

3.3 Tagged individuals that have been poisoned by landfill poisoning

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

RK_0379

General information about the bird

Name: Kapellendorf_03

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 02.05.2020

Place of tagging: Kapellendorf, Thuringia, Germany

Date of tagging: 09.06.2020

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: A1

Logger number: ANITRA 052 - 20261

Ring number: EA216888

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Römhild, Thuringia, Germany

Coordinates: 50.36622, 10.659391

Date of bird crime: 16.10.2020, 01:26:23 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 167

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Not searched

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Poisoning - Landfill

Certainty category: Probable

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab)

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

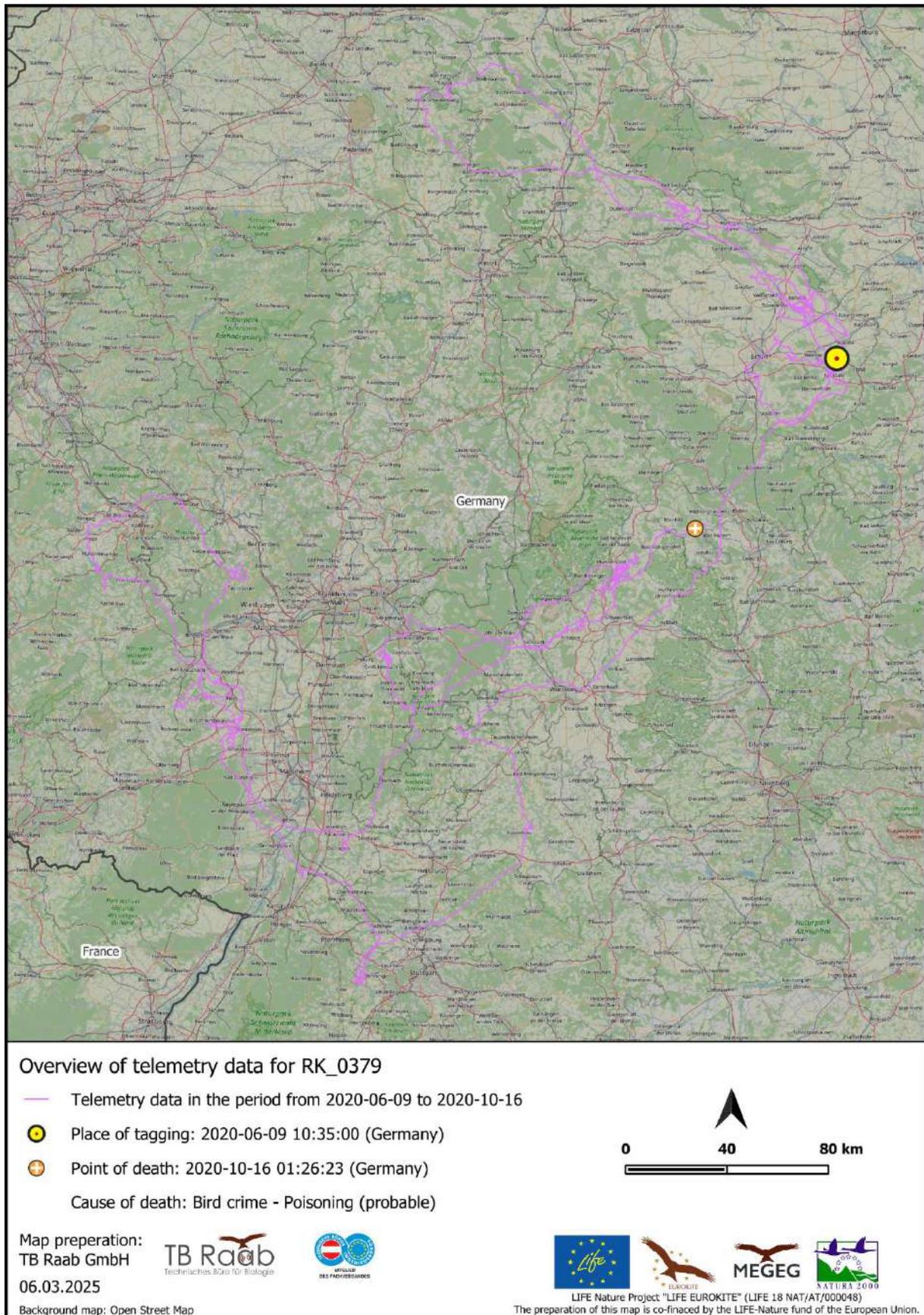


Figure 46: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0379.

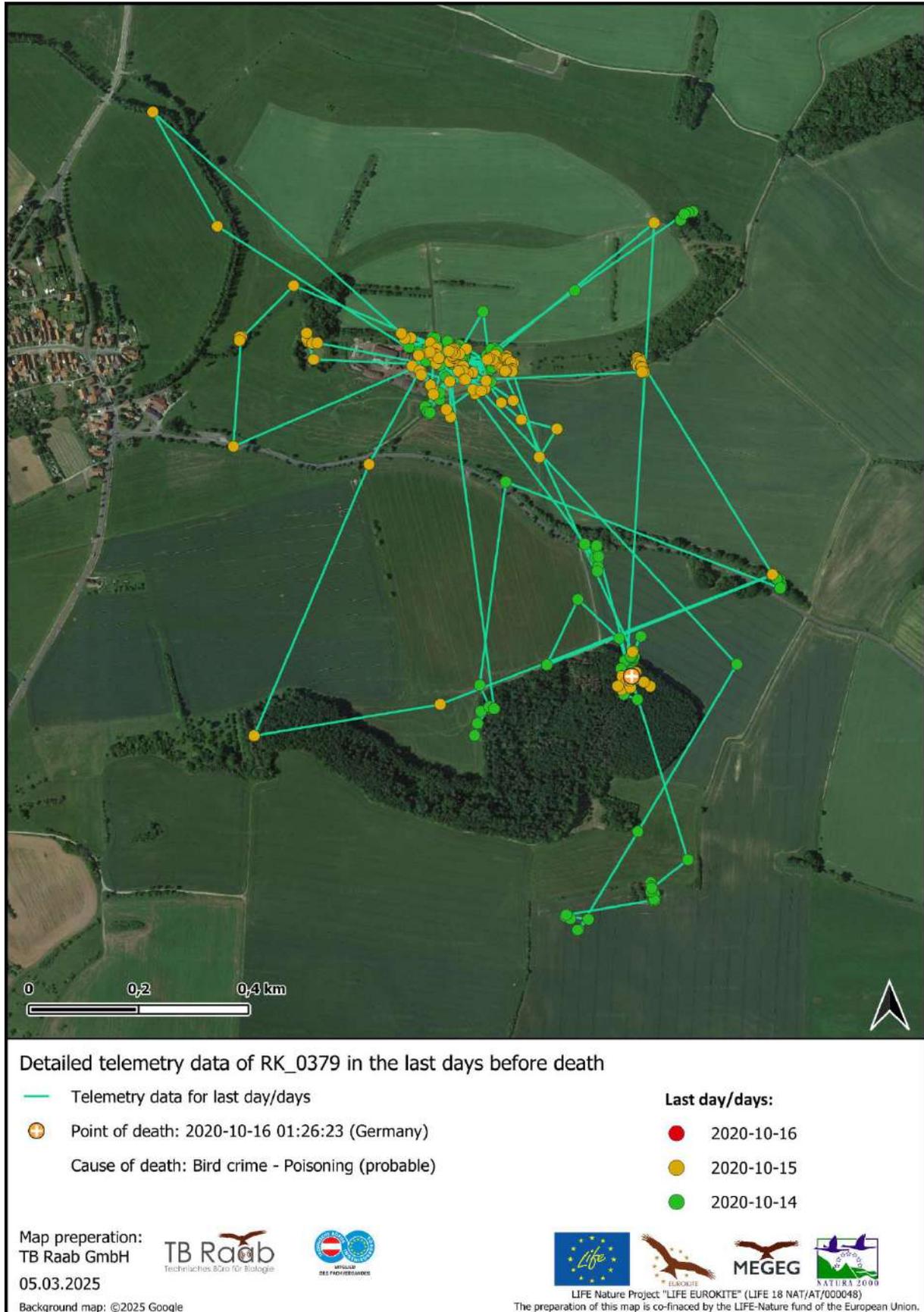


Figure 47: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0379 in the last days before death.

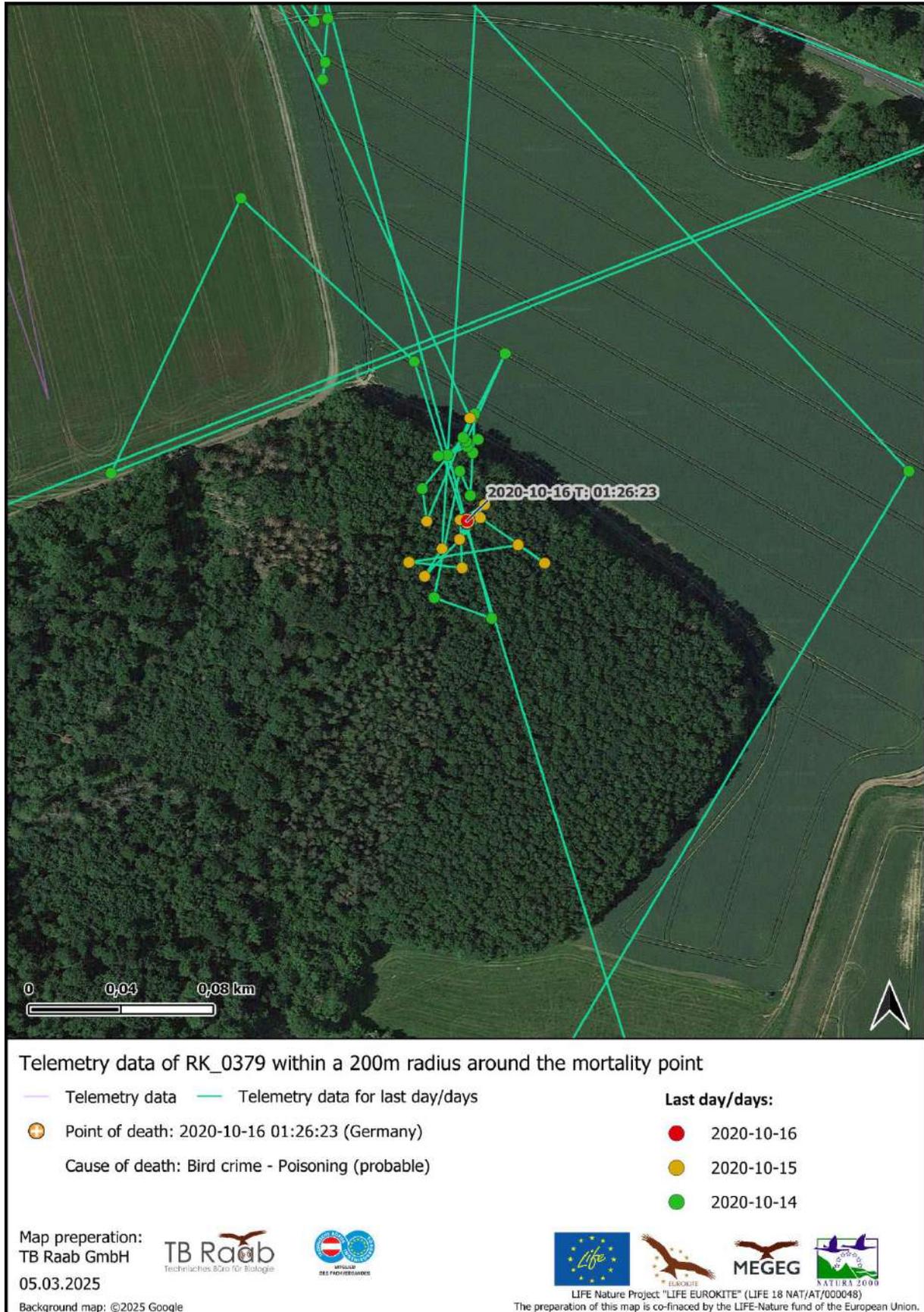


Figure 48: Telemetry data of RK_0379 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_1242

General information about the bird

Name: Söhrewald_01

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 13.05.2019

Place of tagging: Söhrewald, Hesse, Germany

Date of tagging: 11.06.2021

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: B_MEGEG (Hessen)

Logger number: ANITRA 211 - 21392

Ring number: 3419851

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Lohfelden, Hesse, Germany

Coordinates: 51.264596, 9.592924

Date of bird crime: 17.06.2021, 11:00:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 766

Age at bird crime: 3. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and Bird not found

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Poisoning - Landfill

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab)

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority not informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Police and authority not informed. Bird not found.



Figure 49: Area where the red kite RK_1242 died on June 17, 2021, near Lohfelden, Hesse, Germany. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Manuela Löwold)

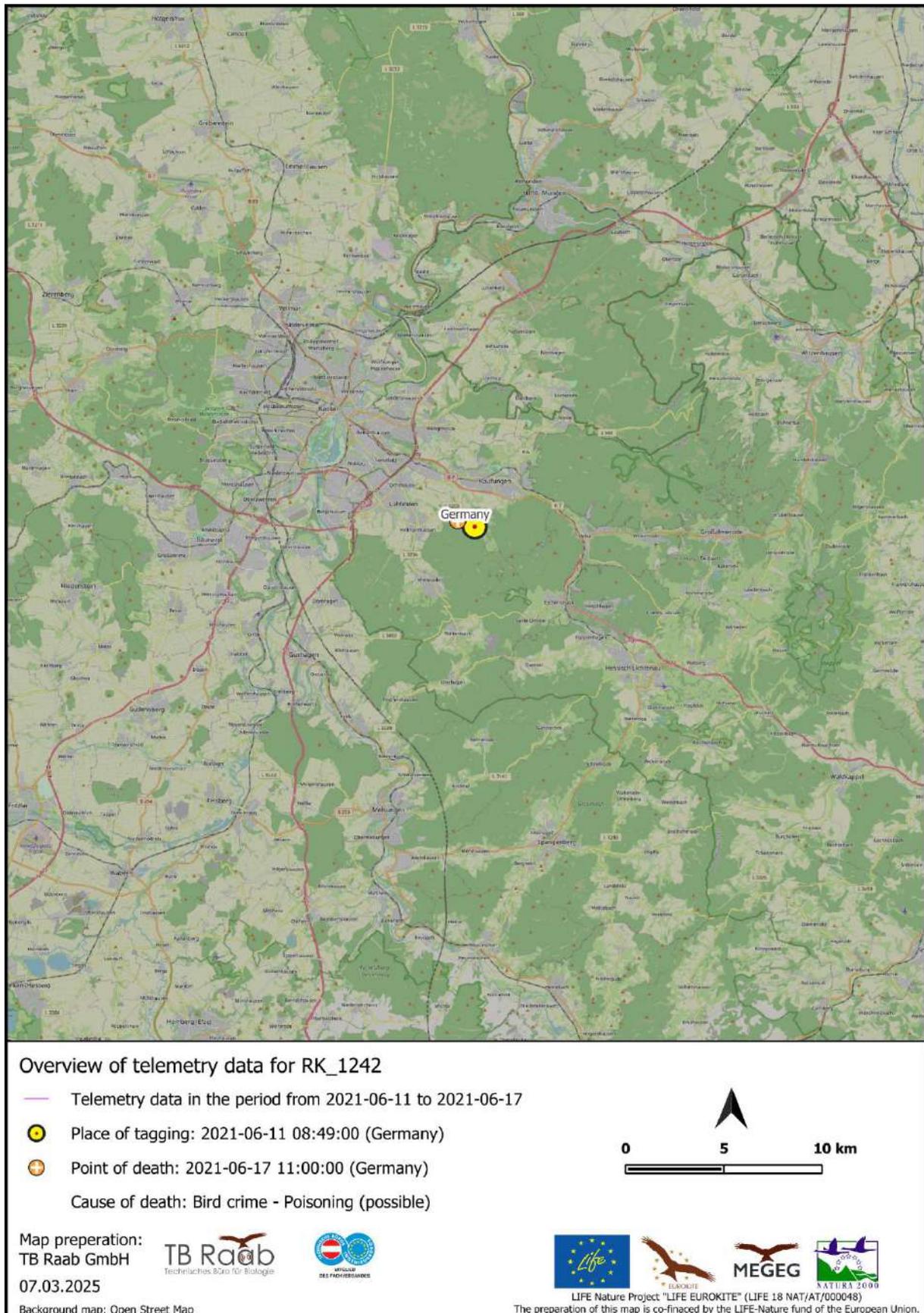


Figure 50: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1242.

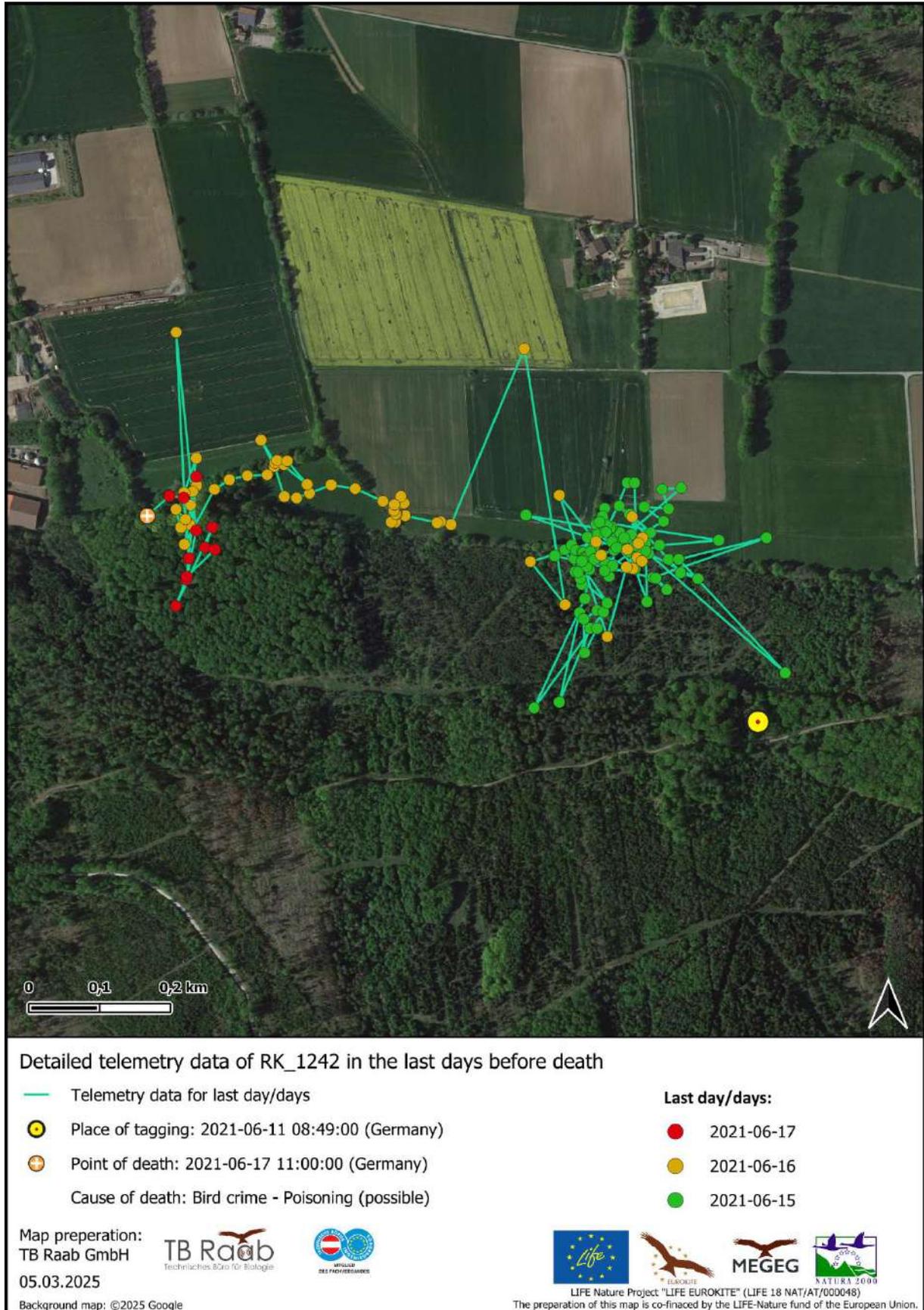


Figure 51: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1242 in the last days before death.

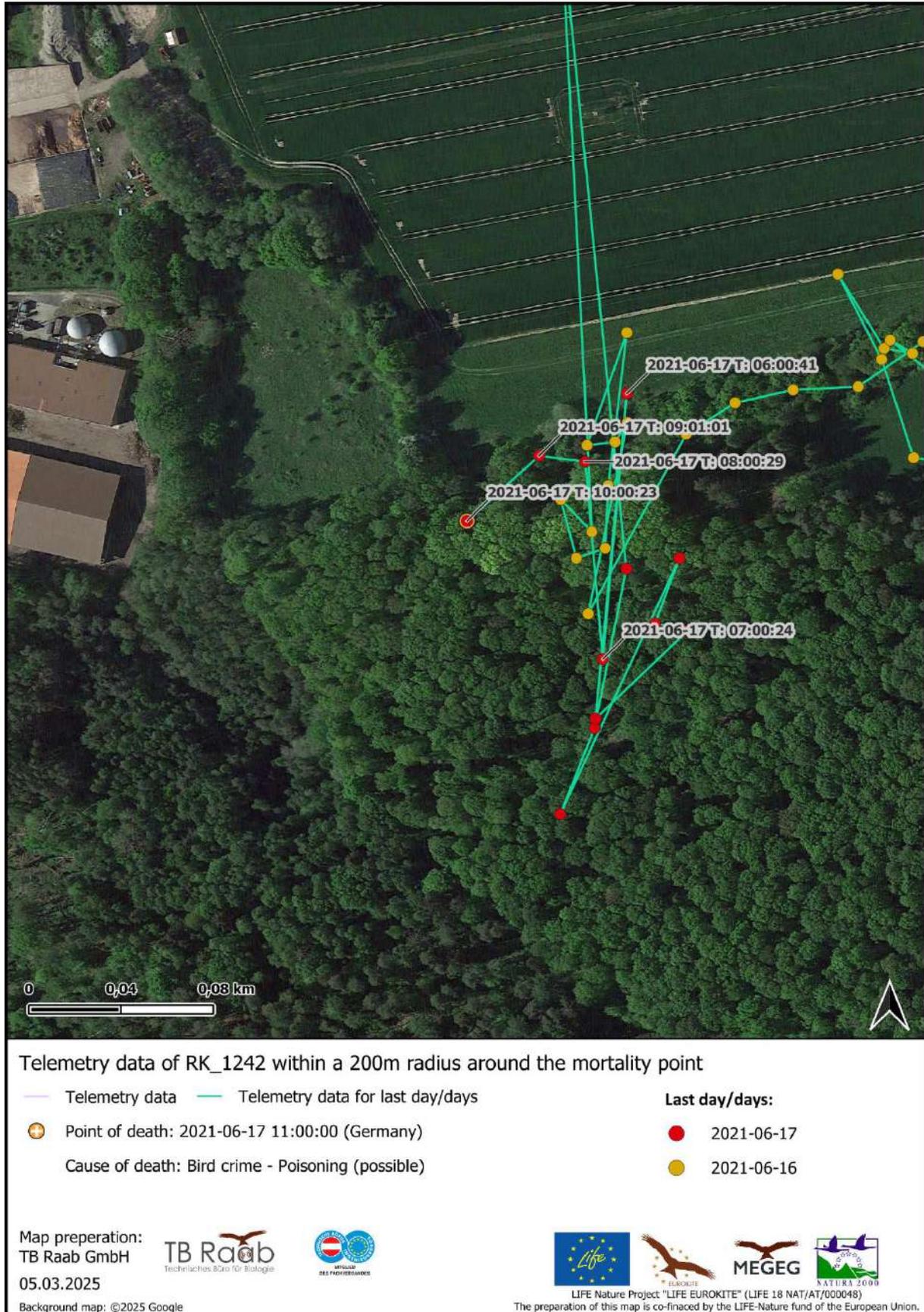


Figure 52: Telemetry data of RK_1242 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

3.4 Tagged individuals that have been shot

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

RK_0349

General information about the bird

Name: Araba_21

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 22.04.2018

Place of tagging: Álava, Zaldondo, Araba/Álava, Spain

Date of tagging: 15.02.2020

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: E_TBRAAB_1

Logger number: Ornitela 163 - 192167 kite

Ring number: H34610

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Delbrück, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Coordinates: 51,7665980, 8,5334590

Date of bird crime: 03.06.2020, 06:25:44 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 773

Age at bird crime: 3. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS)

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird not found

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab)

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

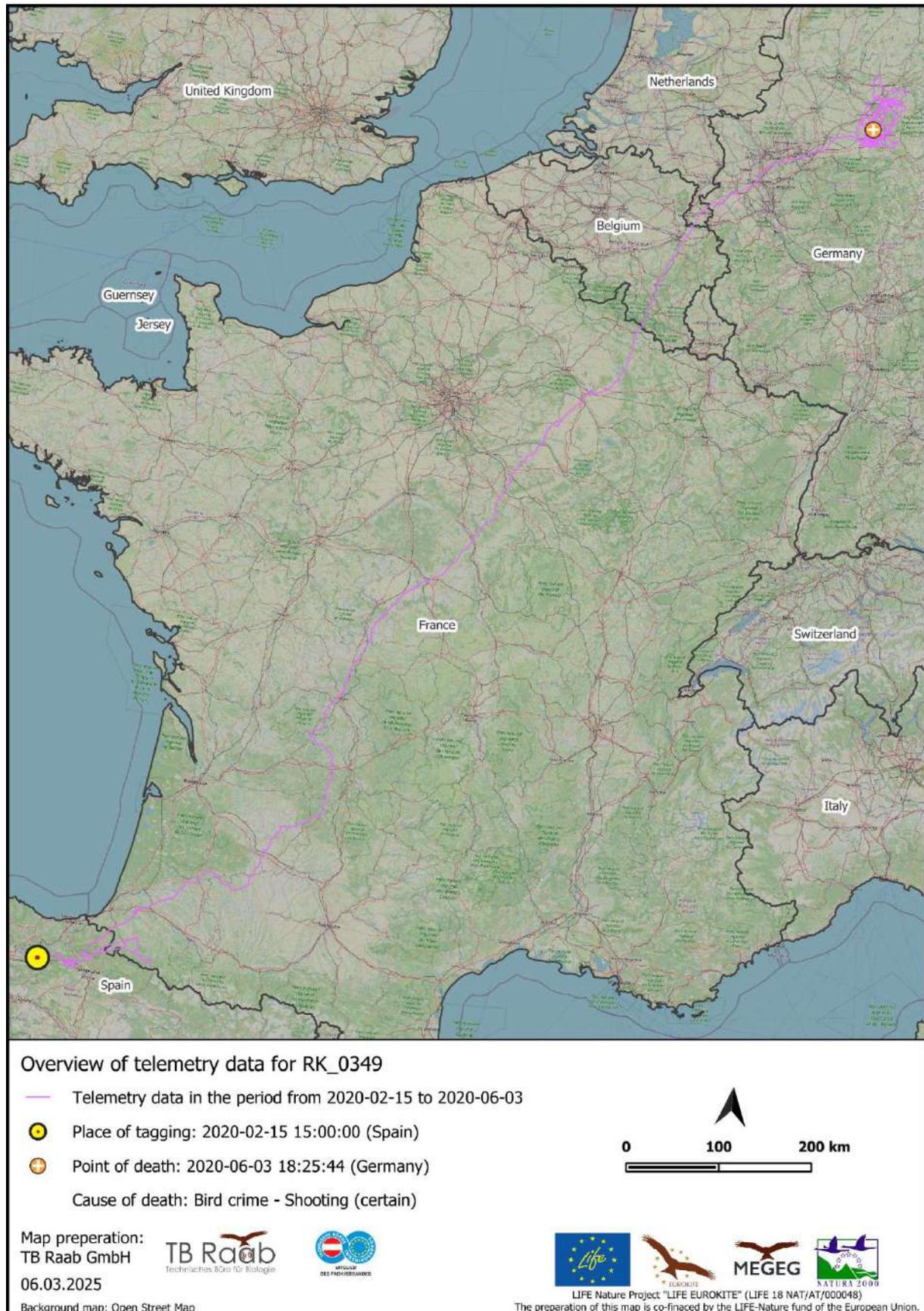


Figure 53: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0349.

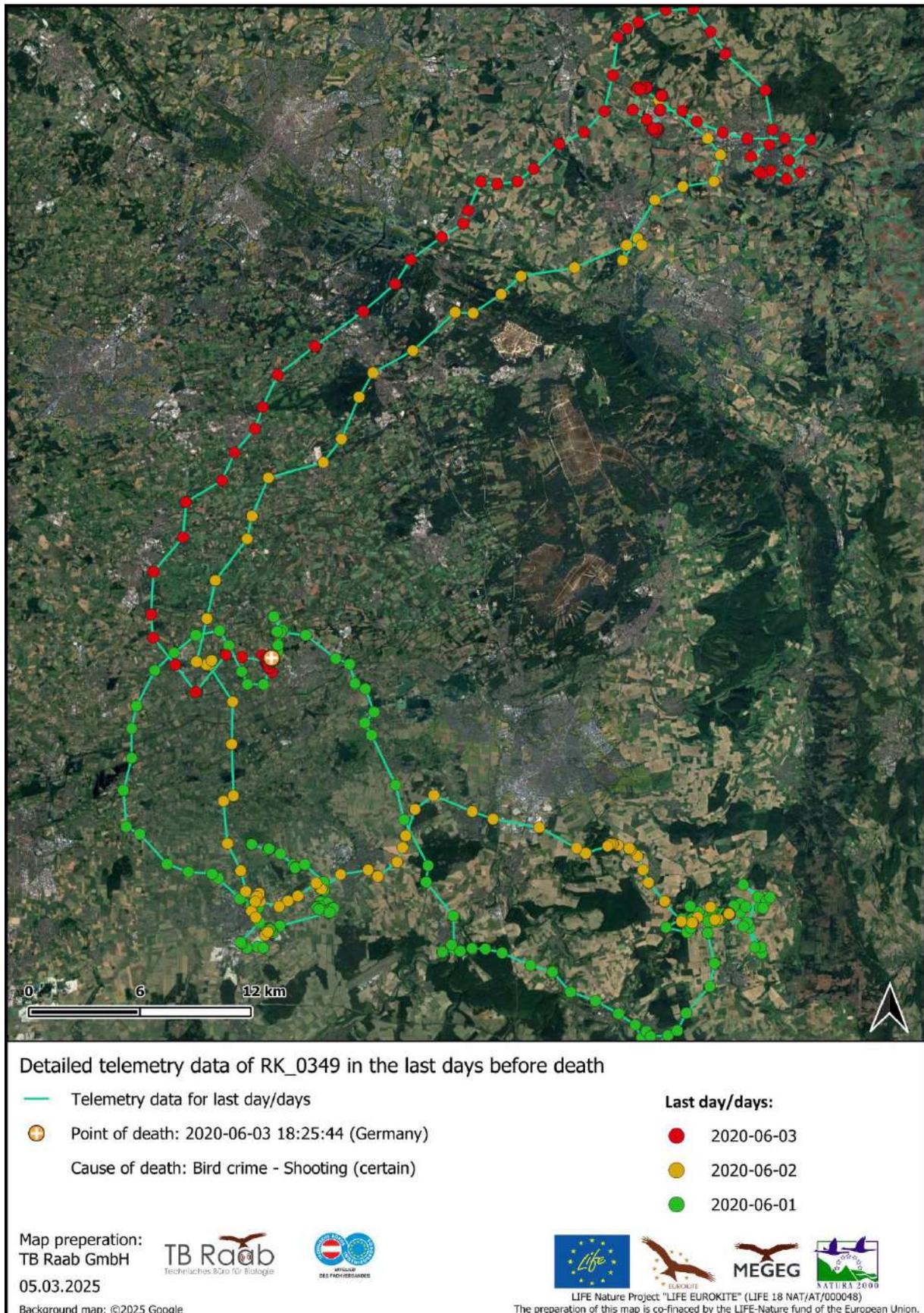


Figure 54: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0349 in the last days before death.

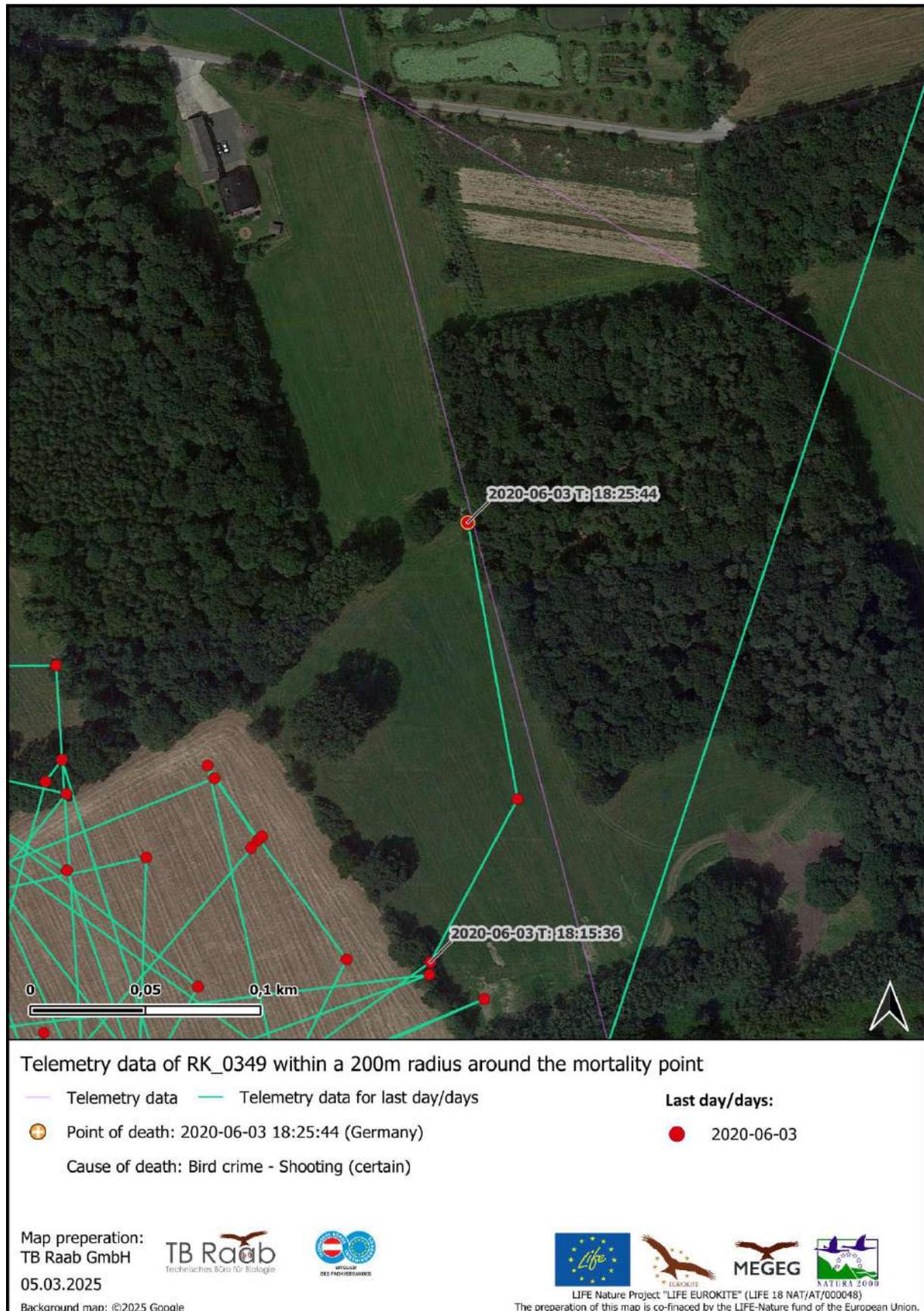


Figure 55: Telemetry data of RK_0349 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_0196

General information about the bird

Name: Lengenfeld_03

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 24.05.2018

Place of tagging: Weimarer Land, Thuringia, Germany

Date of tagging: 21.06.2018

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: A2

Logger number: Ornitela 113 - 181113 kite

Ring number: EA200091

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Stadtilm, Thuringia, Germany

Coordinates: 50,790257, 11,175948

Date of bird crime: 30.07.2021, 05:03:16 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.163

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Very bad

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab). Hunting facility in the immediate vicinity. The bird (remaining parts such as feathers and bones) was buried/disposed of in the forest.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: No Police and authority informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

No Police and authority informed



Figure 56: Discovery situation of the red kite RK_0196, which died on 30.07.2021, in Stadtilm, Thuringia, Germany. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Melanie Stieber)

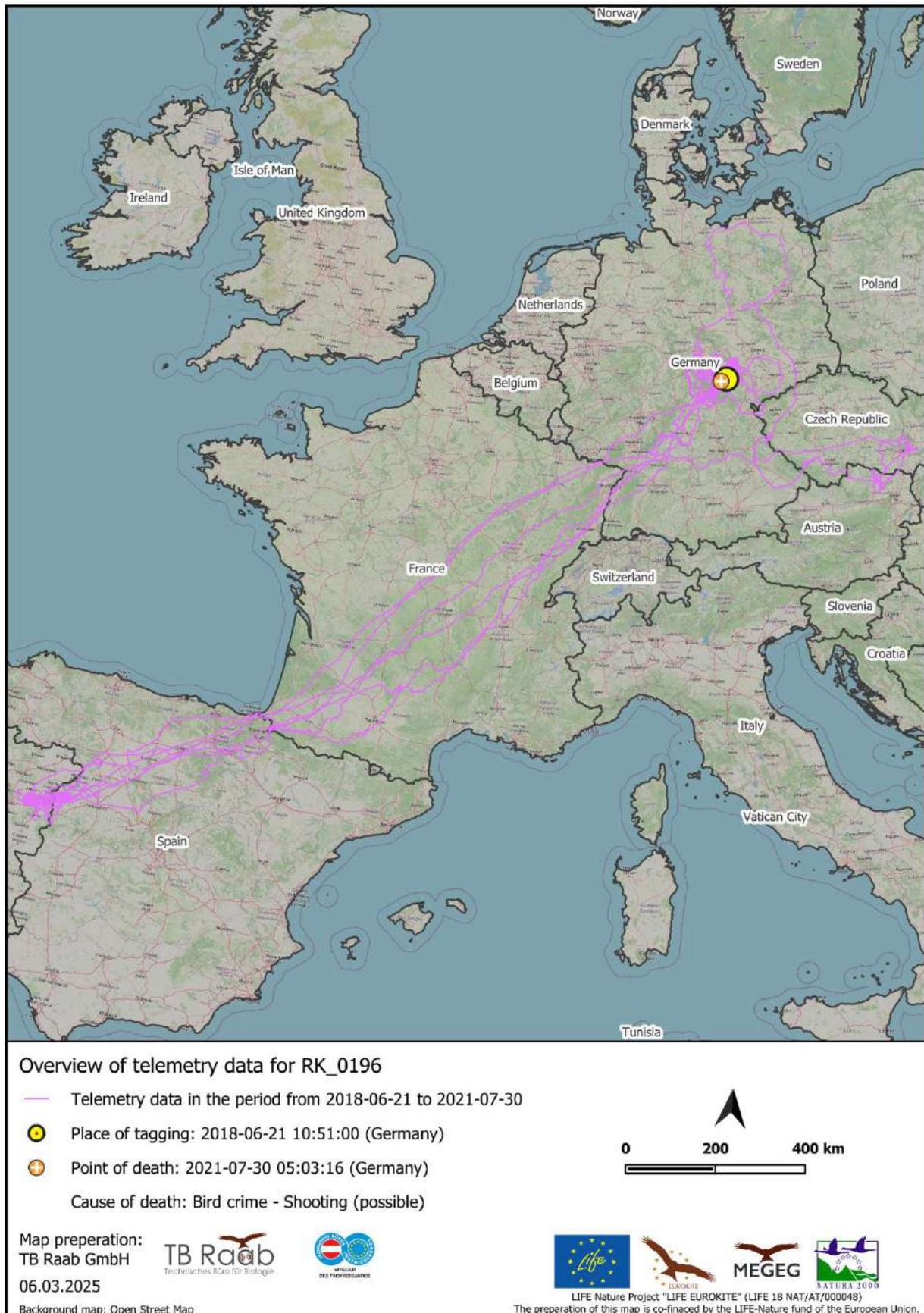


Figure 57: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0196.

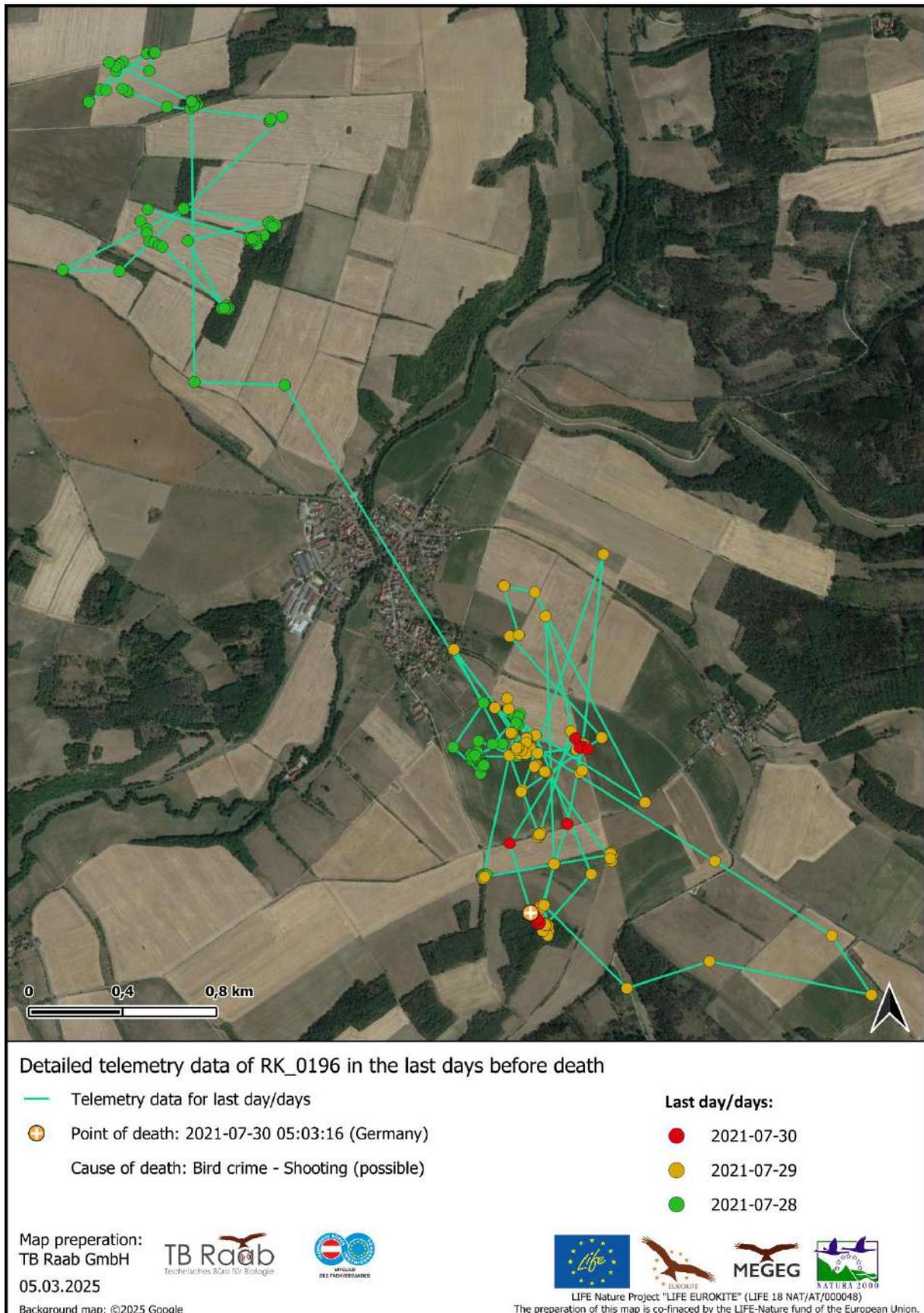


Figure 58: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0196 in the last days before death.

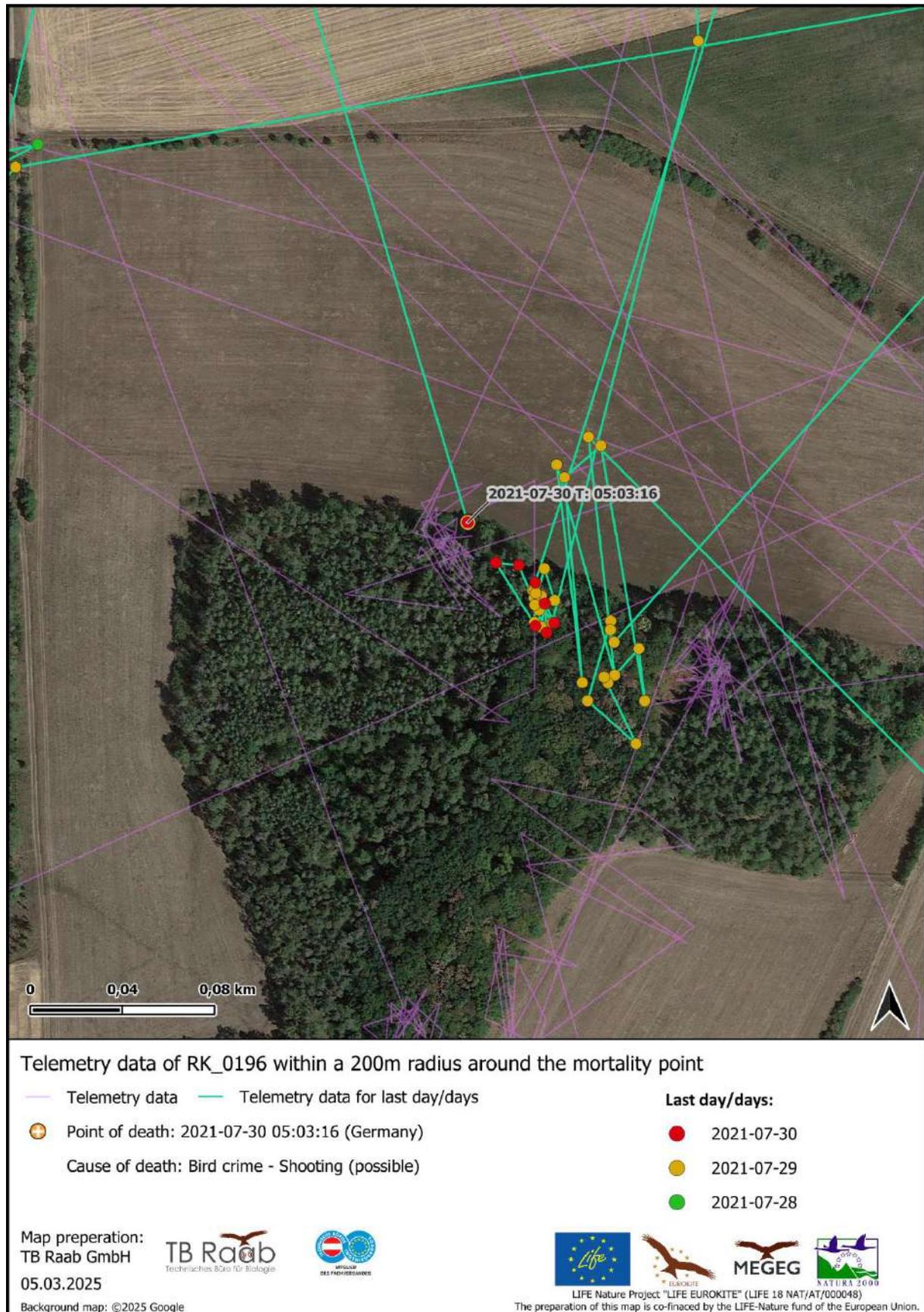


Figure 59: Telemetry data of RK_0196 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

WE_0049

General information about the bird

Name: Aken_01

Species: White-tailed eagle

Birth date: 27.04.2019

Place of tagging: Aken, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Date of tagging: 13.06.2019

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: A2

Logger number: Ornitela 119 - 192123 eagle

Ring number: AA012997

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Gardelegen, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Coordinates: 52.608128, 11.534857

Date of bird crime: 24.02.2022, 03:58:53 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.034

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and Bird found

Carcass state: Good

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: The GPS data showed that the bird was carried to a house and lay there overnight. The perpetrator confessed.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: Completed

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority informed → Completed

Legal proceeding: Yes → Completed

Conviction: Yes → Fine of 1,800 euros (90 daily rates of 20 euros each), loss of hunting licence

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



Figure 60: Left: Finding situation of the white-tailed eagle WE_0049, which died on 24.02.2022, in Gardelegen, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Right: X-ray image of the White-tailed eagle WE_0049. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive

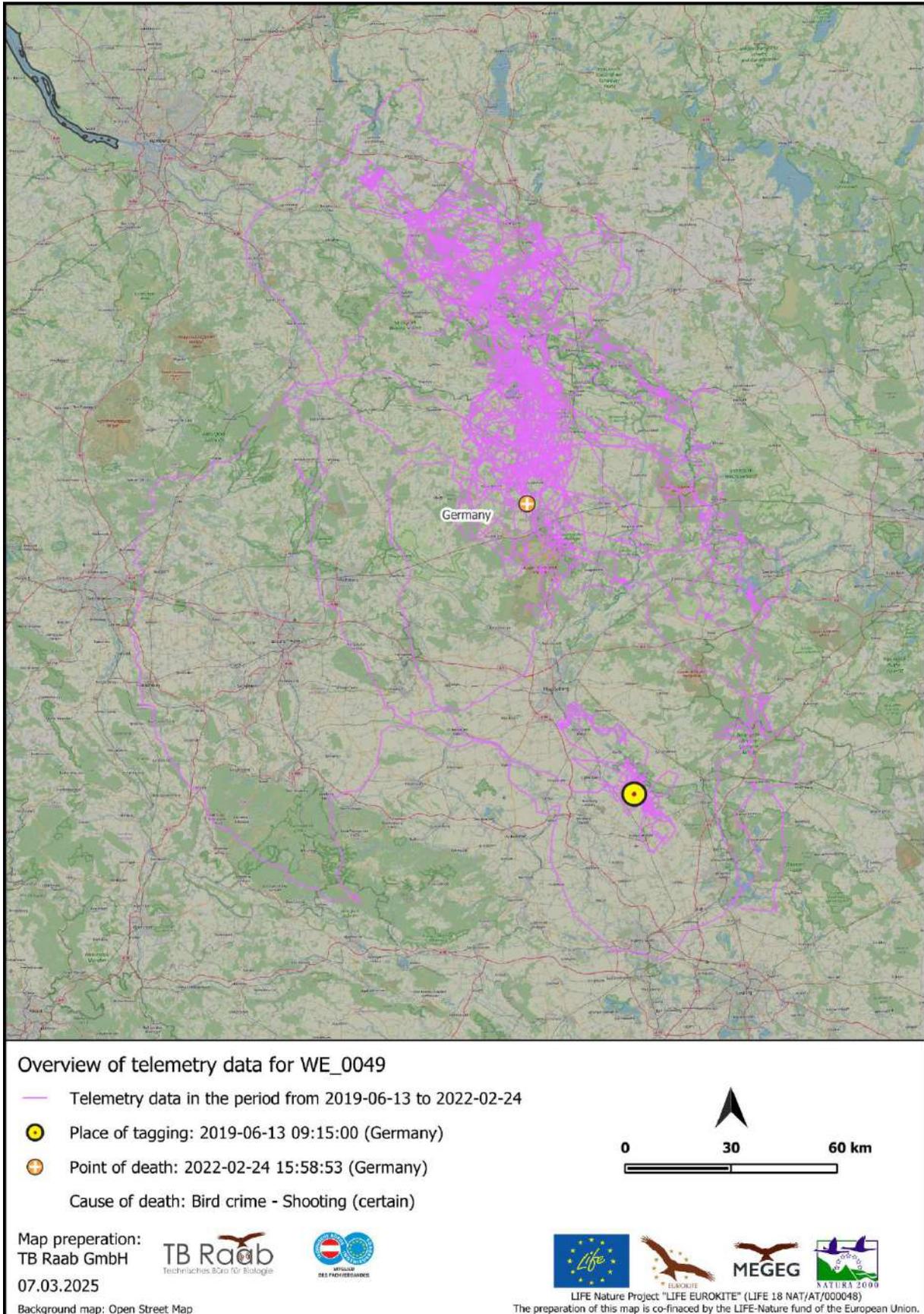


Figure 61: Overview of the telemetry data for WE_0049.

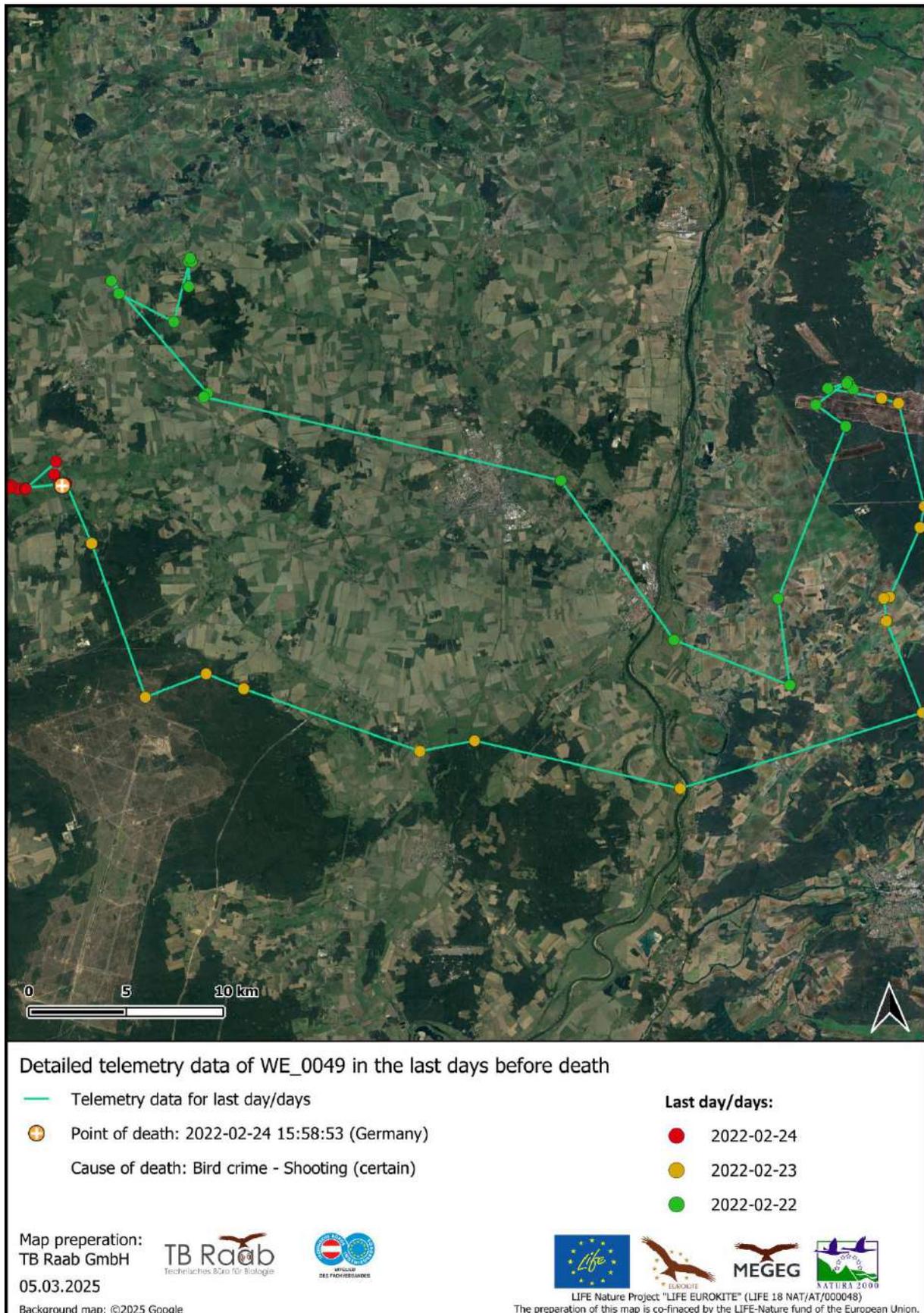


Figure 62: Detailed telemetry data of WE_0049 in the last days before death.

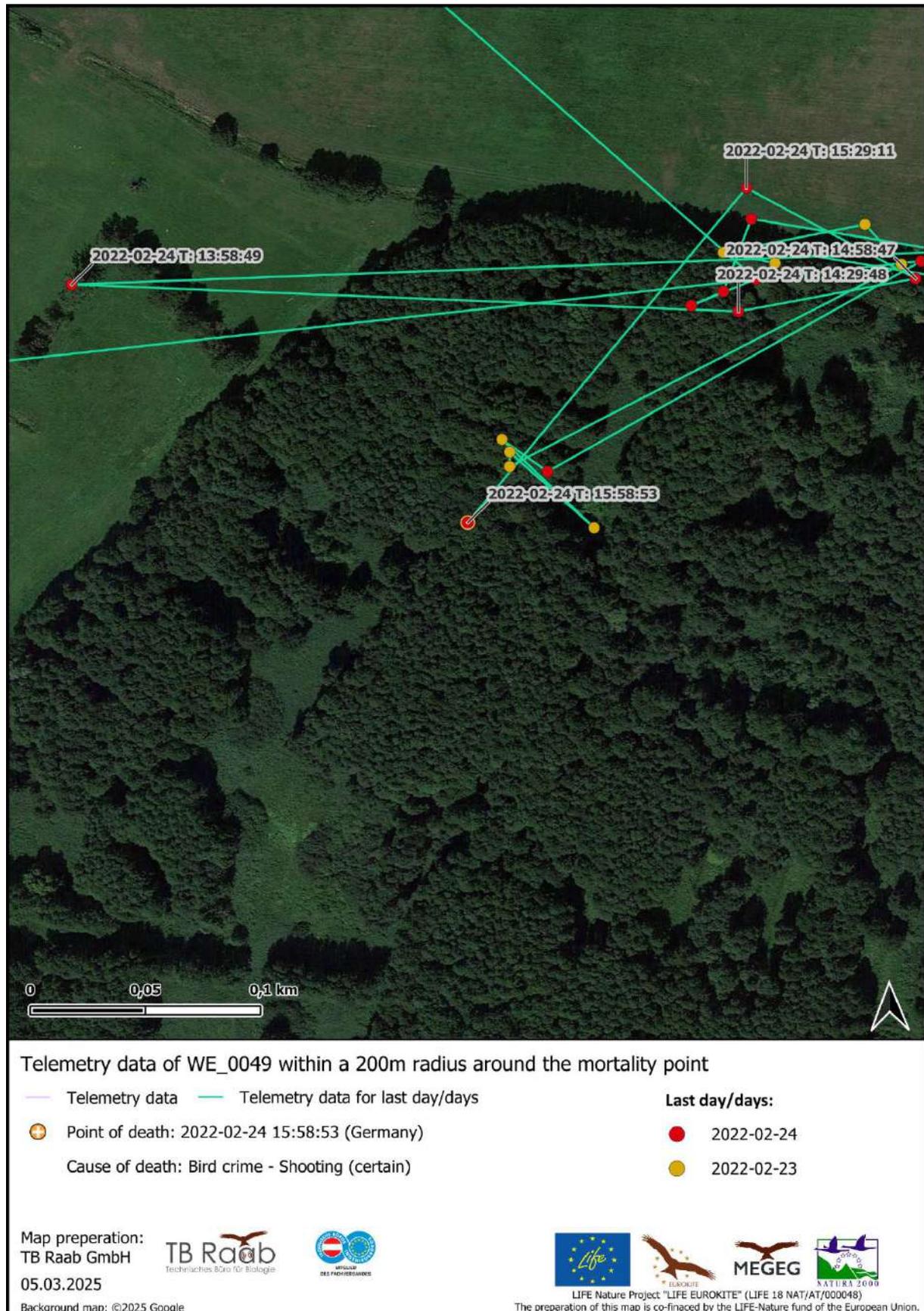


Figure 63: Telemetry data of WE_0049 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_1865

General information about the bird

Name: Hausneindorf_41

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 13.05.2022

Place of tagging: Hausneindorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Date of tagging: 01.07.2022

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: From rescue station

Ownership category: A1

Logger number: 9918

Ring number: EA237576

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Falkenstein, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Coordinates: 51,716875, 11,320684

Date of bird crime: 07.08.2022, 07:25:19 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 86

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger found and bird not found (only feathers)

Carcass state: Very bad

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab).

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority not informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Police and authority not informed. The death of the bird was unfortunately discovered too late and therefore reported to the searcher nearly two weeks later. The telemetry data clearly indicates that the bird must have been shot. On-site, however, the field had already been plowed, and the transmitter was recovered in the bushes. The bird's carcass had already been eaten by predators. Thus, it was not possible to identify a perpetrator.



Figure 64: Discovered remains of the red kite RK_1865, which died on 07.08.2022, in Falkenstein, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Rotmilanzentrum, Martin Kolbe)

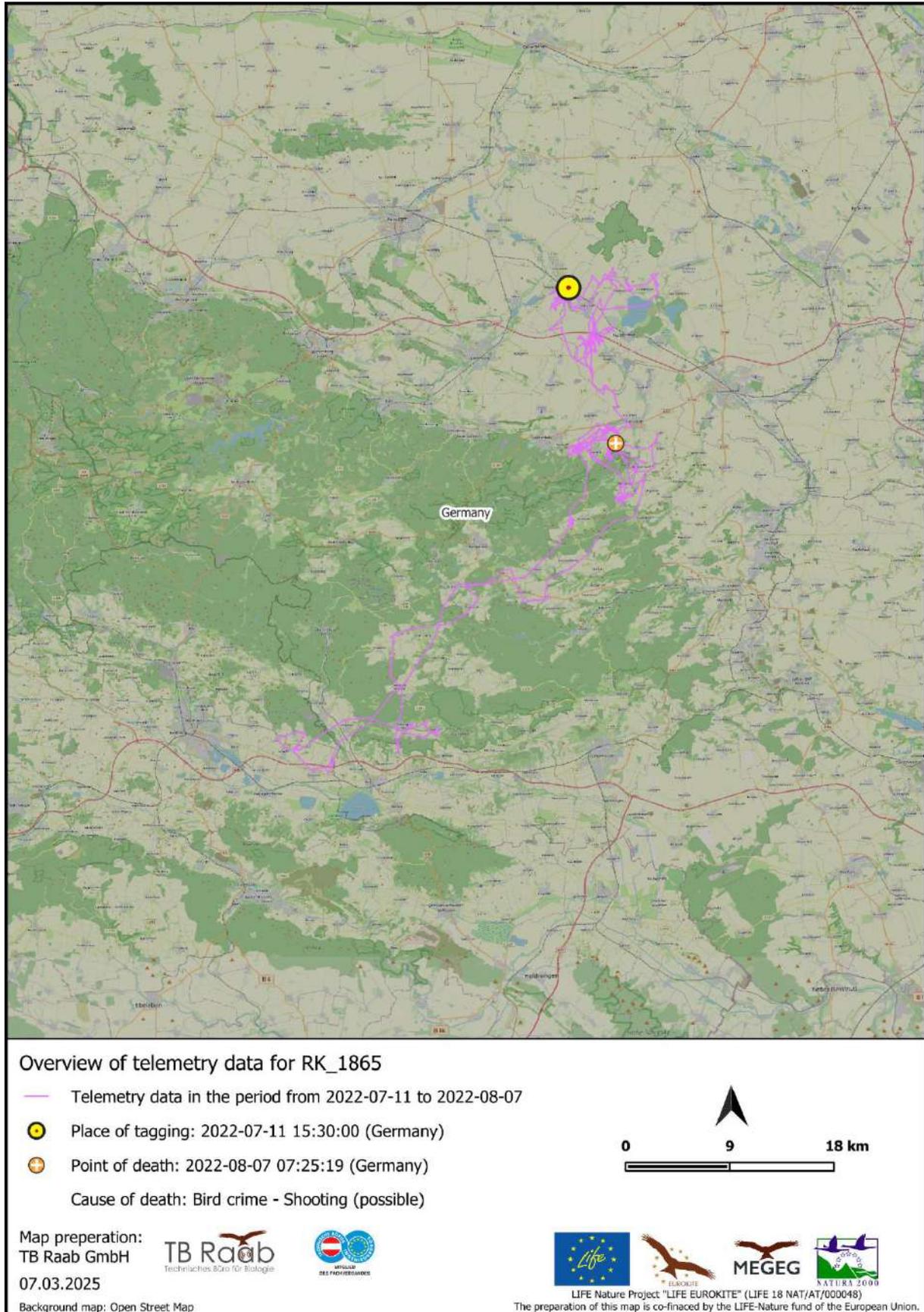


Figure 65: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1865.

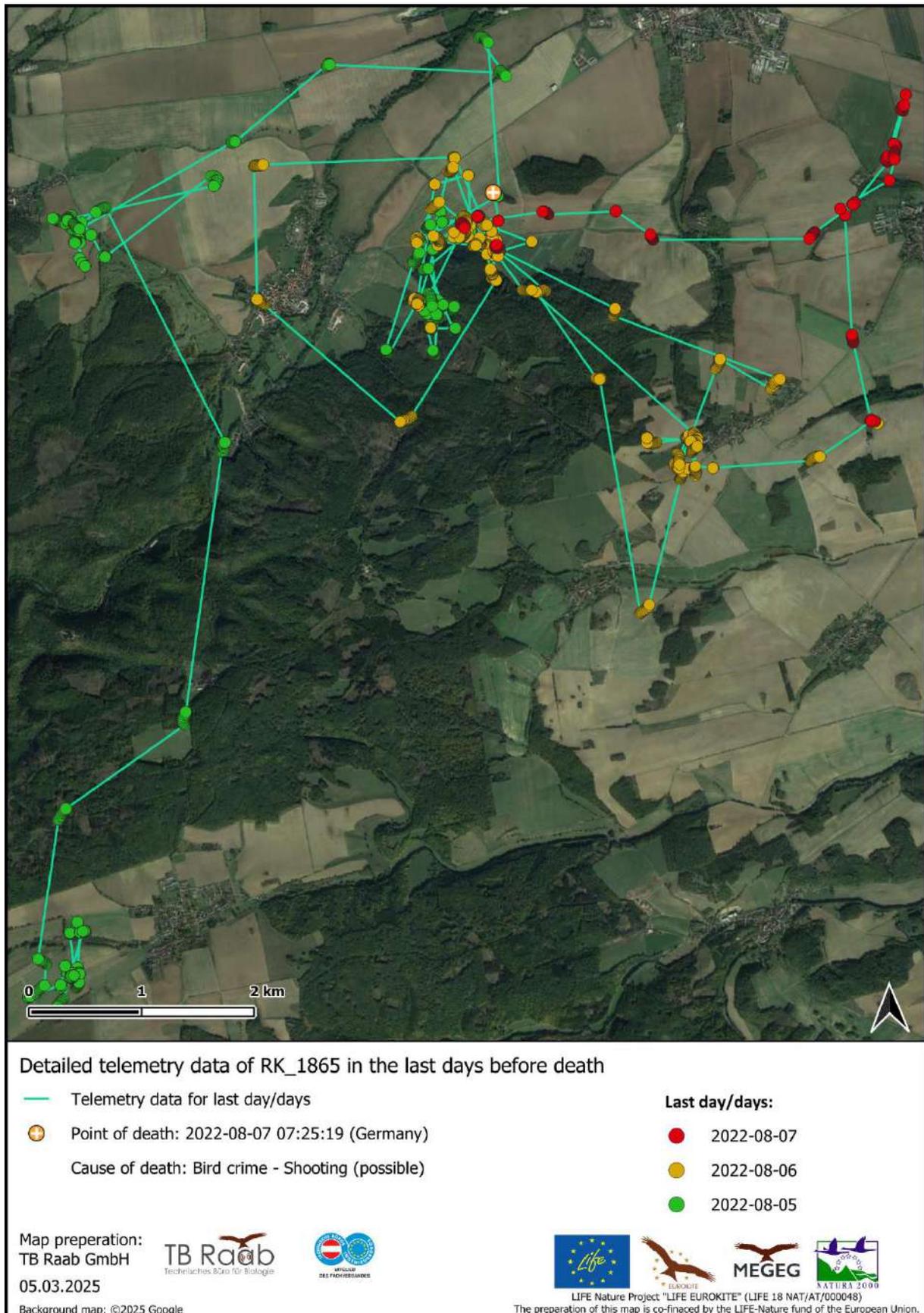


Figure 66: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1865 in the last days before death.

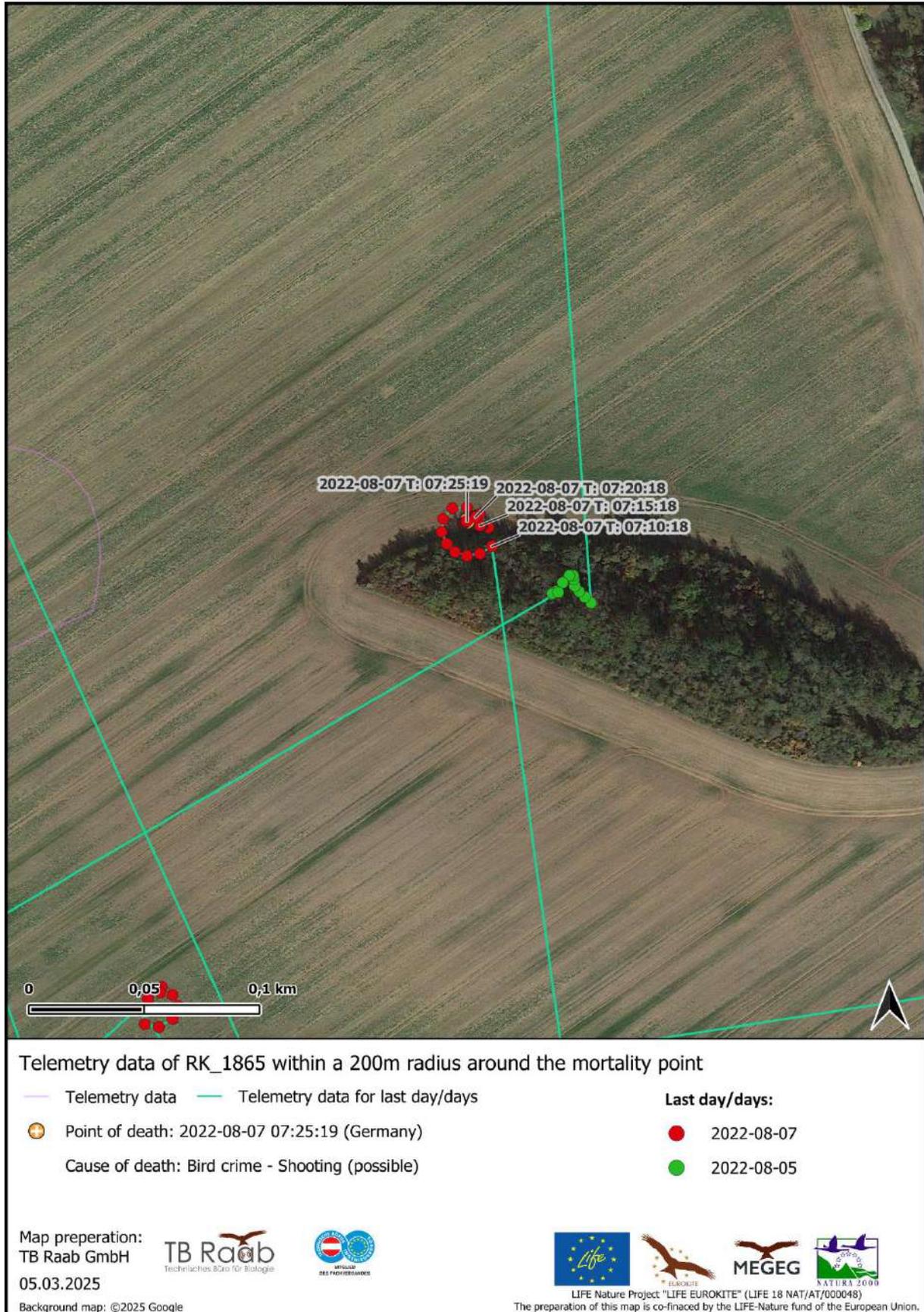


Figure 67: Telemetry data of RK_1865 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_1753

General information about the bird

Name: Zepkow_11

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 16.05.2022

Place of tagging: Zepkow, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany

Date of tagging: 22.06.2022

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: B_MEGEG (ENERTRAG)

Logger number: 22352

Ring number: EA238391

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Kröpelin, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany

Coordinates: 54,097528, 11,809545

Date of bird crime: 28.08.2022, 05:15:10 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 104

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Good

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab). The bird has not yet been necropsied (08.01.2025).

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority not informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Police and authority not informed. The bird has not yet been necropsied (08.01.2025).



Figure 68: Discovery situation of the red kite RK_1753, which died on 28.08.2022, in Kröpelin, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Torsten Marczak)

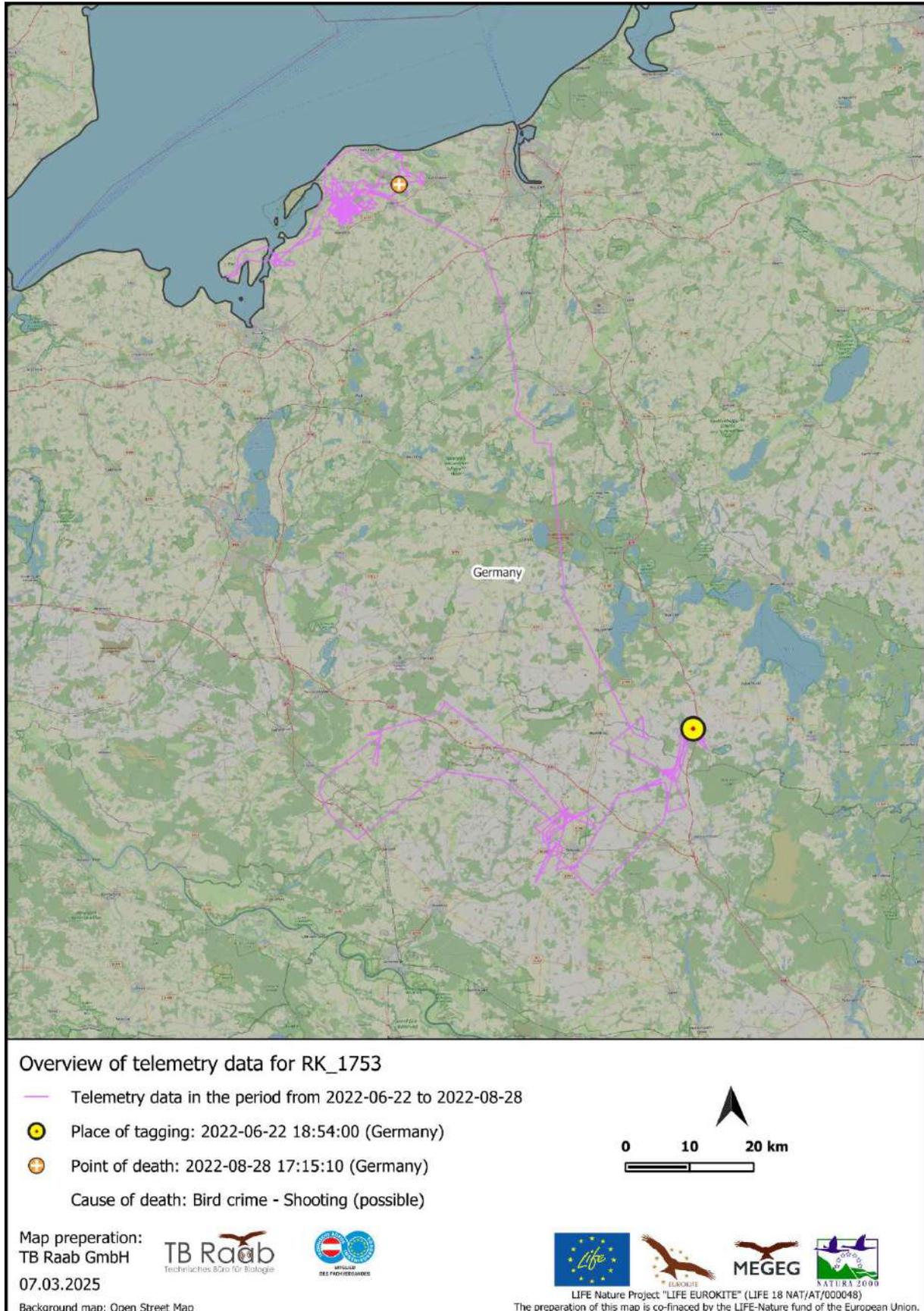


Figure 69: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1753.

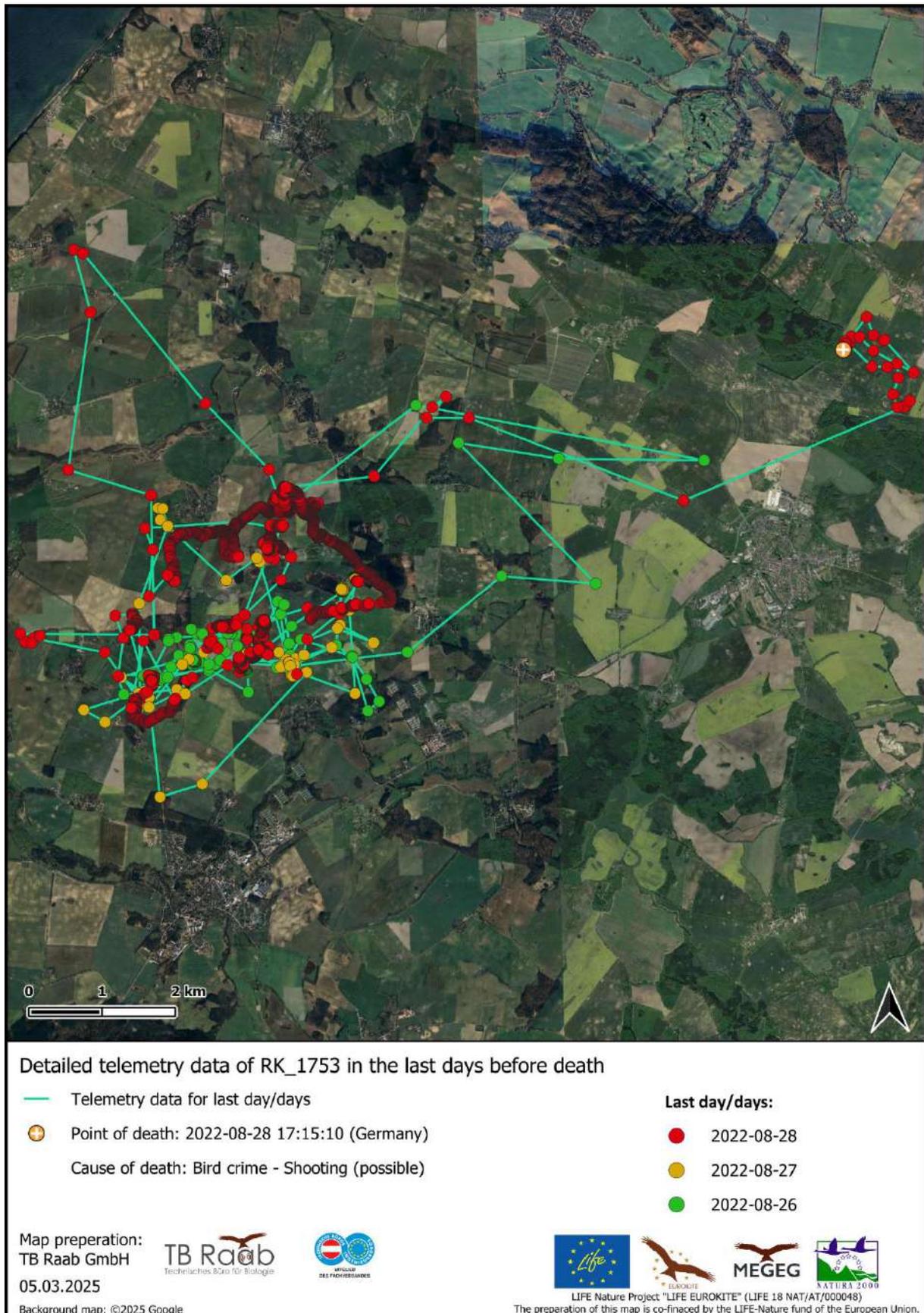


Figure 70: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1753 in the last days before death.

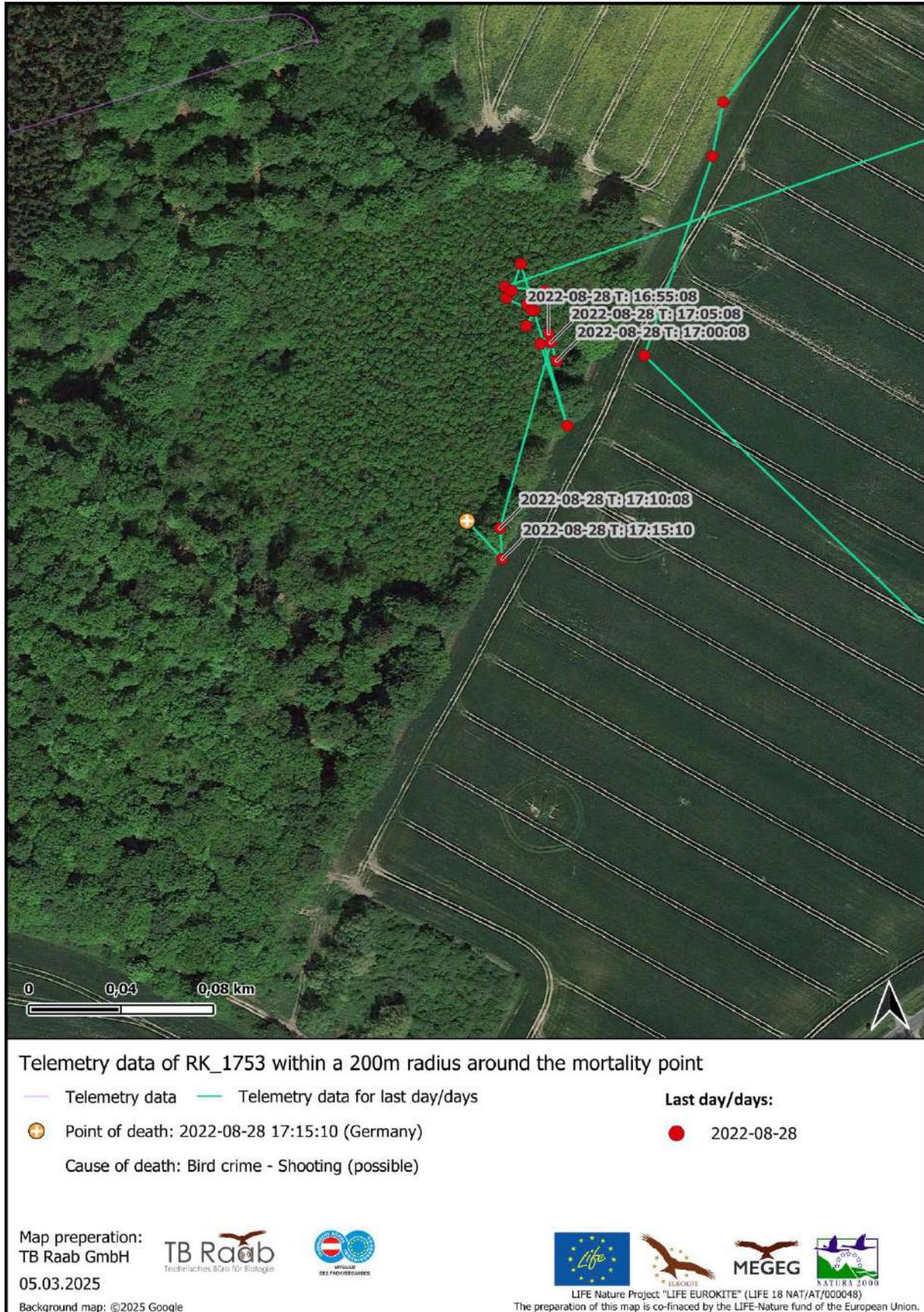


Figure 71: Telemetry data of RK_1753 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_1455

General information about the bird

Name: Binaced_52

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 22.04.2019

Place of tagging: Binaced, Huesca, Spain

Date of tagging: 12.12.2021

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: A1

Logger number: ANITRA 245 - 21406

Ring number: 7008183

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Tann, Hesse, Germany

Coordinates: 50.624164, 10.029718

Date of bird crime: 16.09.2022, 06:30:08 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.243

Age at bird crime: 4. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird not found

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Probable

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab).

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority not informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Police and authority not informed. The bird was not found.



Figure 72: Surrounding of the Place of bird crime of red kite RK_1455 which died on 16.09.2022 near Tann, Hesse, Germany. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Manuela Löwold)

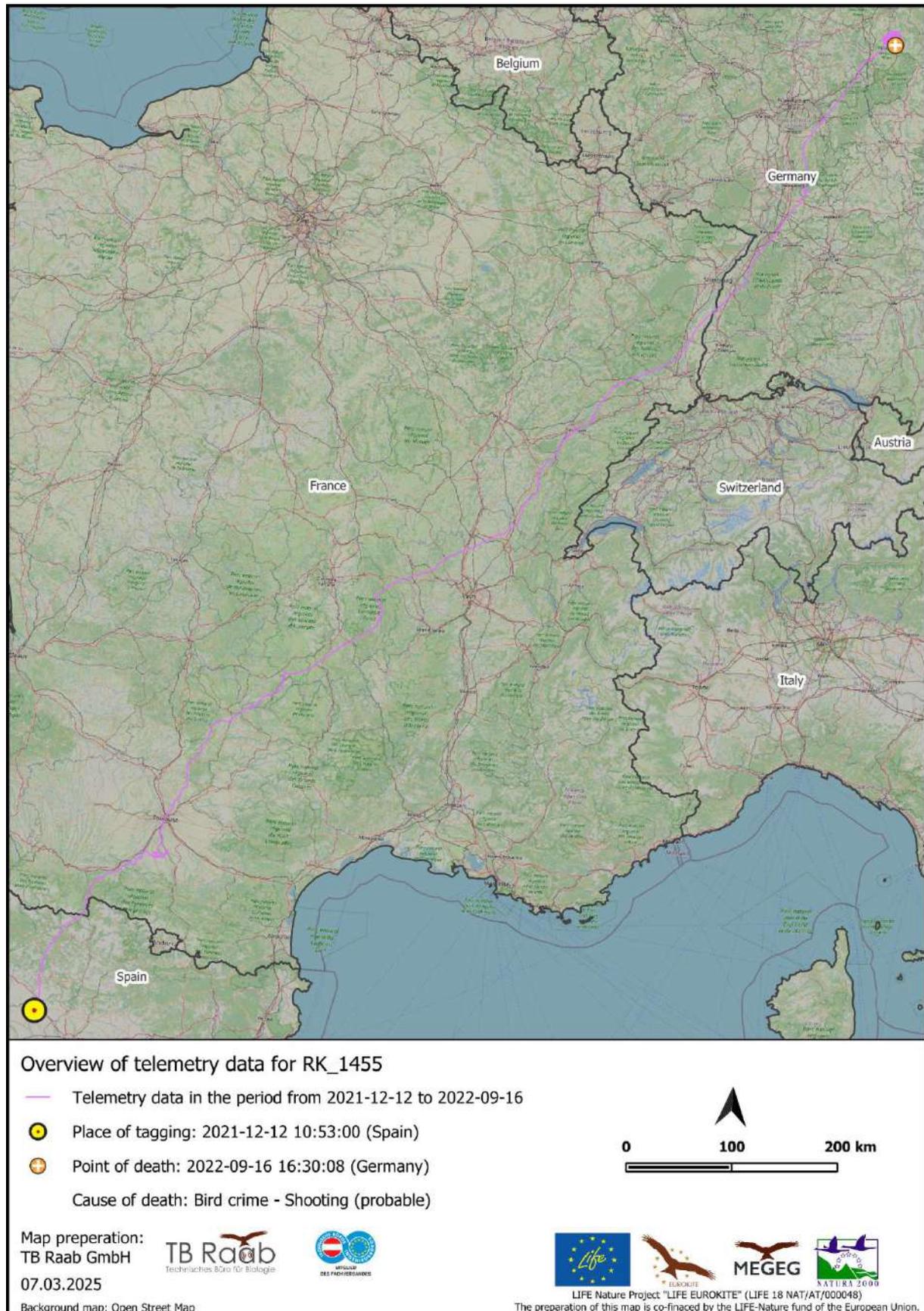


Figure 73: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1455.

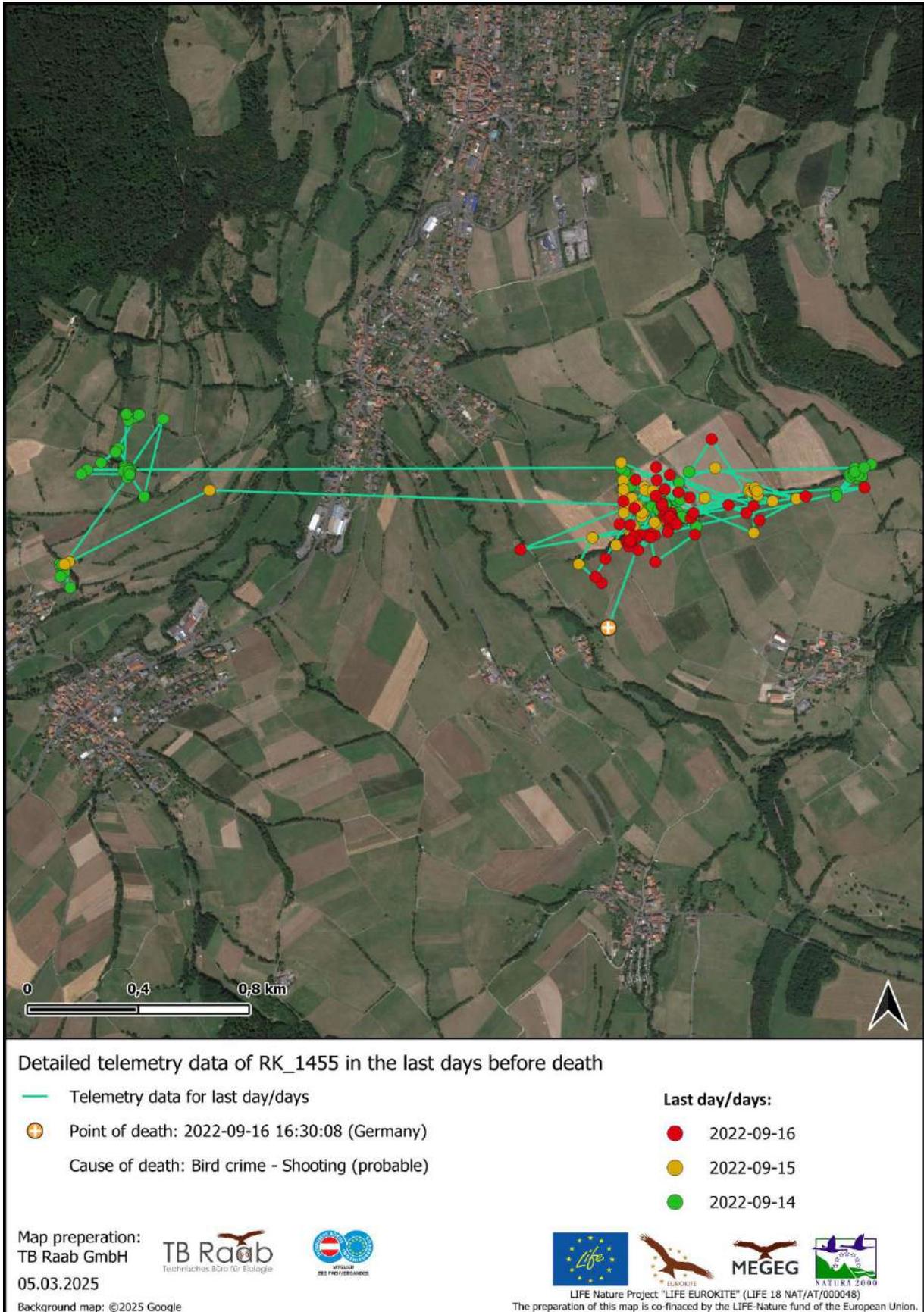


Figure 74: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1455 in the last days before death.

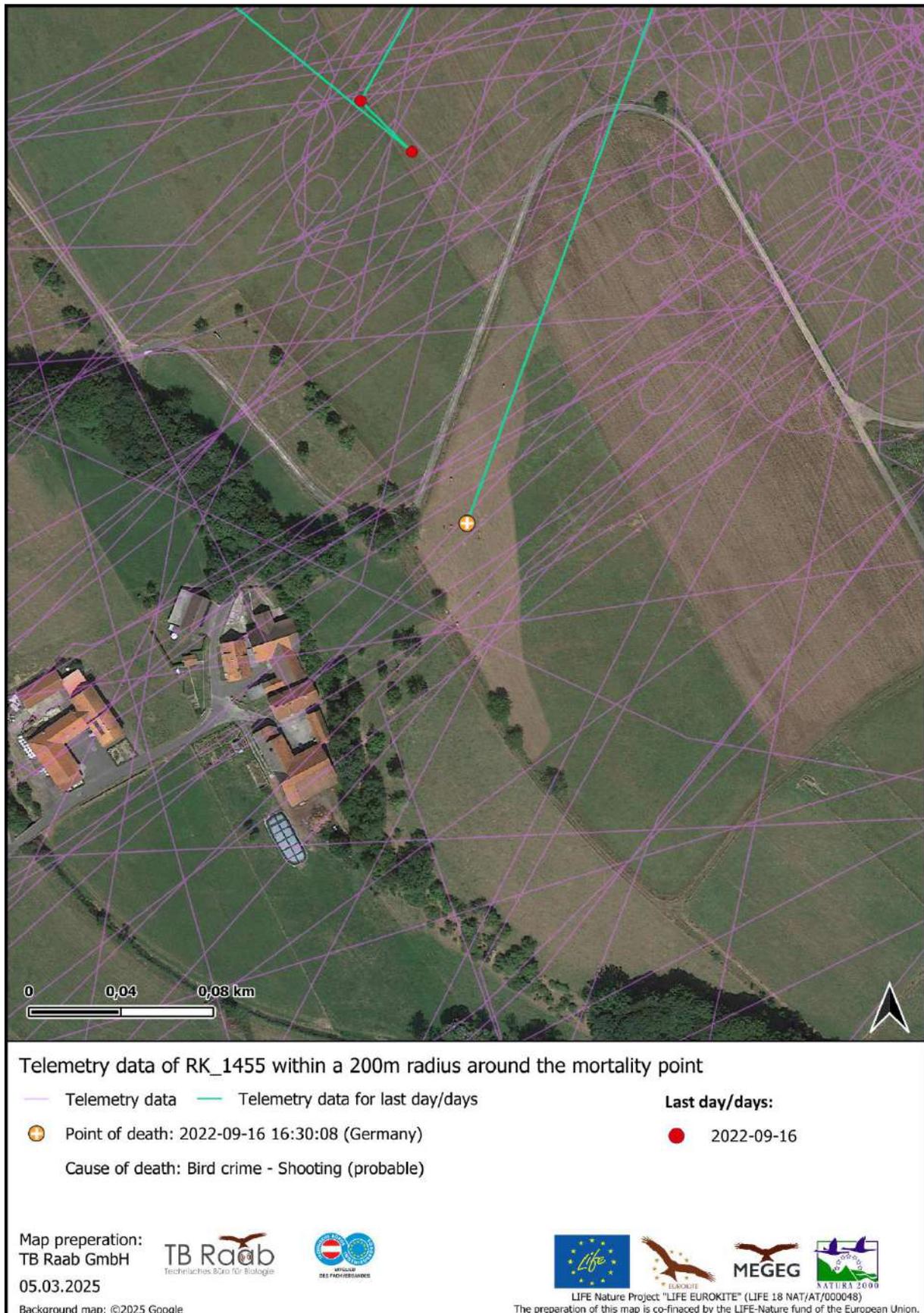


Figure 75: Telemetry data of RK_1455 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_1779

General information about the bird

Name: Holzthum_02

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 04.05.2022

Place of tagging: Holzthum, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Date of tagging: 14.06.2022

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: B_MEGEG (natur&ömwelt)

Logger number: 200974

Ring number: No Ring

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Kelberg, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany

Coordinates: 50,293499, 6,950818

Date of bird crime: 12.08.2023, 03:42:46 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 465

Age at bird crime: 2. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab & Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS)

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird not found

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab). Neither the bird nor the transmitter were found. The area where the bird died is an intensive used hunting ground. A lot of baits (badgers) and other hunting facilities could be found. It is assumed that the transmitter was separated from the bird and thrown into the bushes.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority not informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Since neither the bird nor the transmitter was found, an investigation could not be initiated.



Figure 76: Overview of the hunting area where the bird RK_1779 died on 12.08.2023. A lot of baits (badgers) and other hunting facilities could be found. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Hannah Böing)

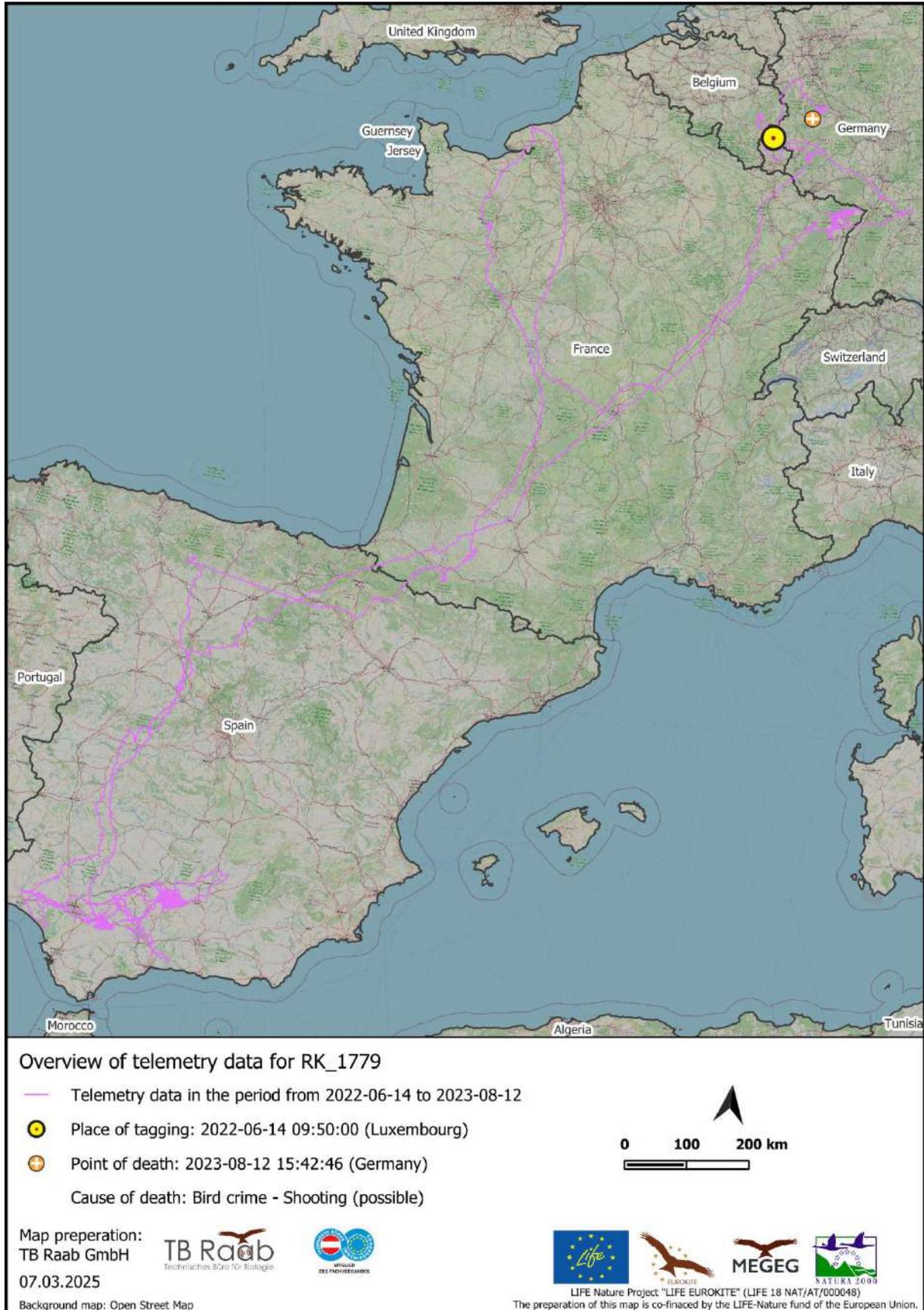


Figure 77: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1779.

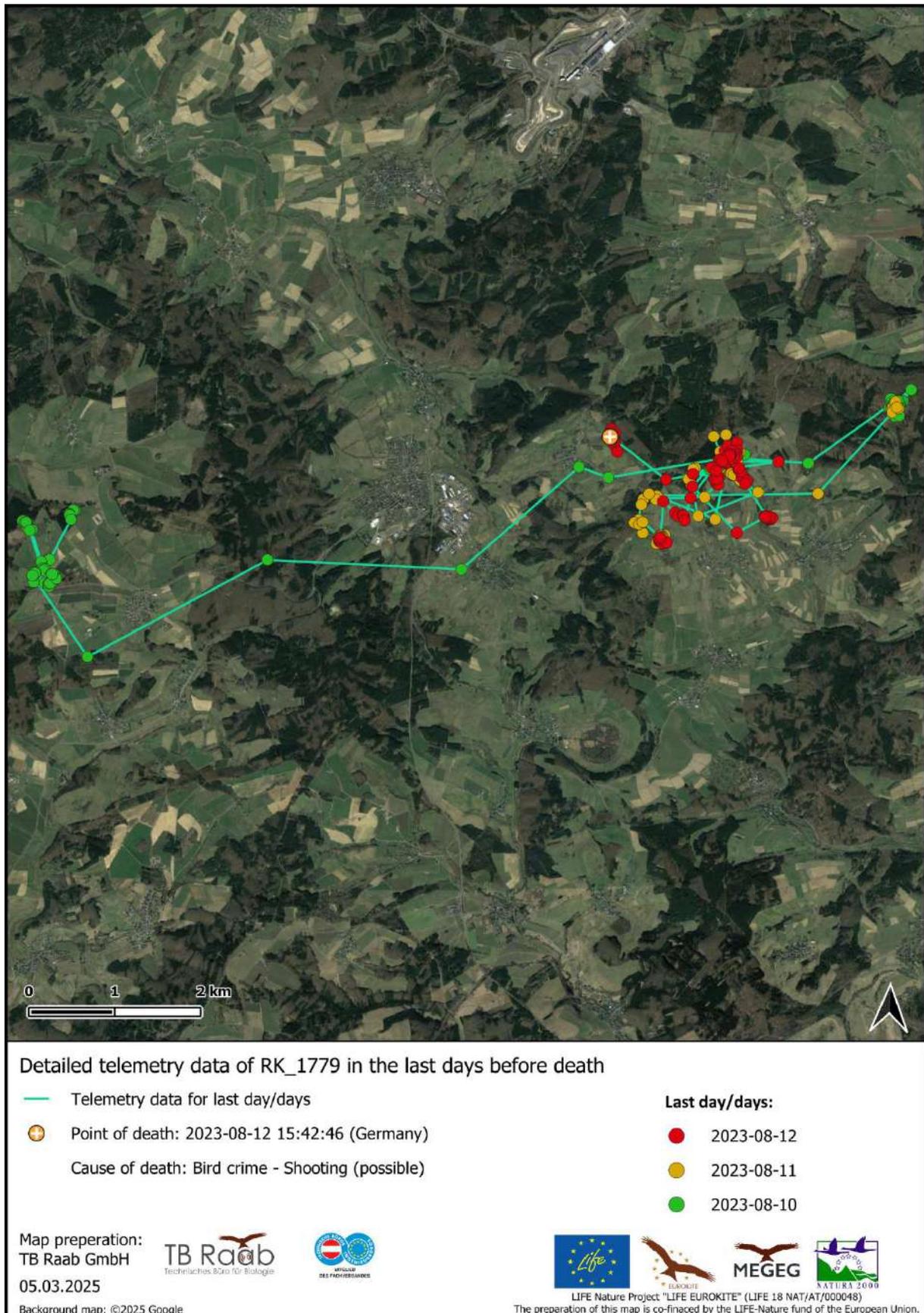


Figure 78: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1779 in the last days before death.

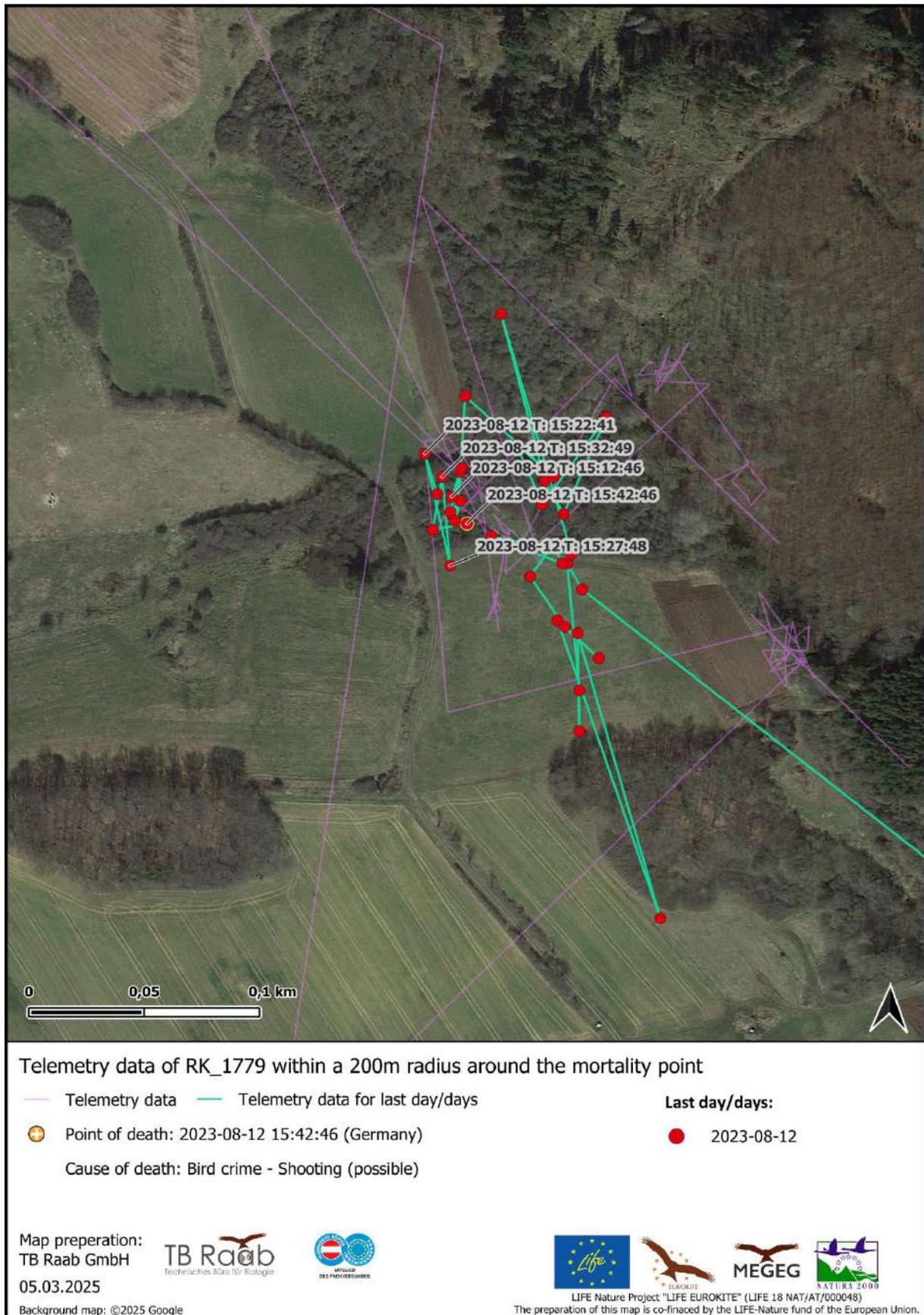


Figure 79: Telemetry data of RK_1779 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_1470

General information about the bird

Name: Binaced_67

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 22.04.2012

Place of tagging: Binaced, Huesca, Spain

Date of tagging: 12.12.2021

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: A1

Logger number: ANITRA 294 - 21639

Ring number: 7077475

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Arnsdorf, Saxony, Germany

Coordinates: 51,106924, 13,985888

Date of bird crime: 25.07.2024, 09:00:34 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 4.477

Age at bird crime: 13. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird not found

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Shooting

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab). Illegal shooting expected because fresh tracks could be seen on the high seat.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority not informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

Police and authority not informed. The bird was not found.

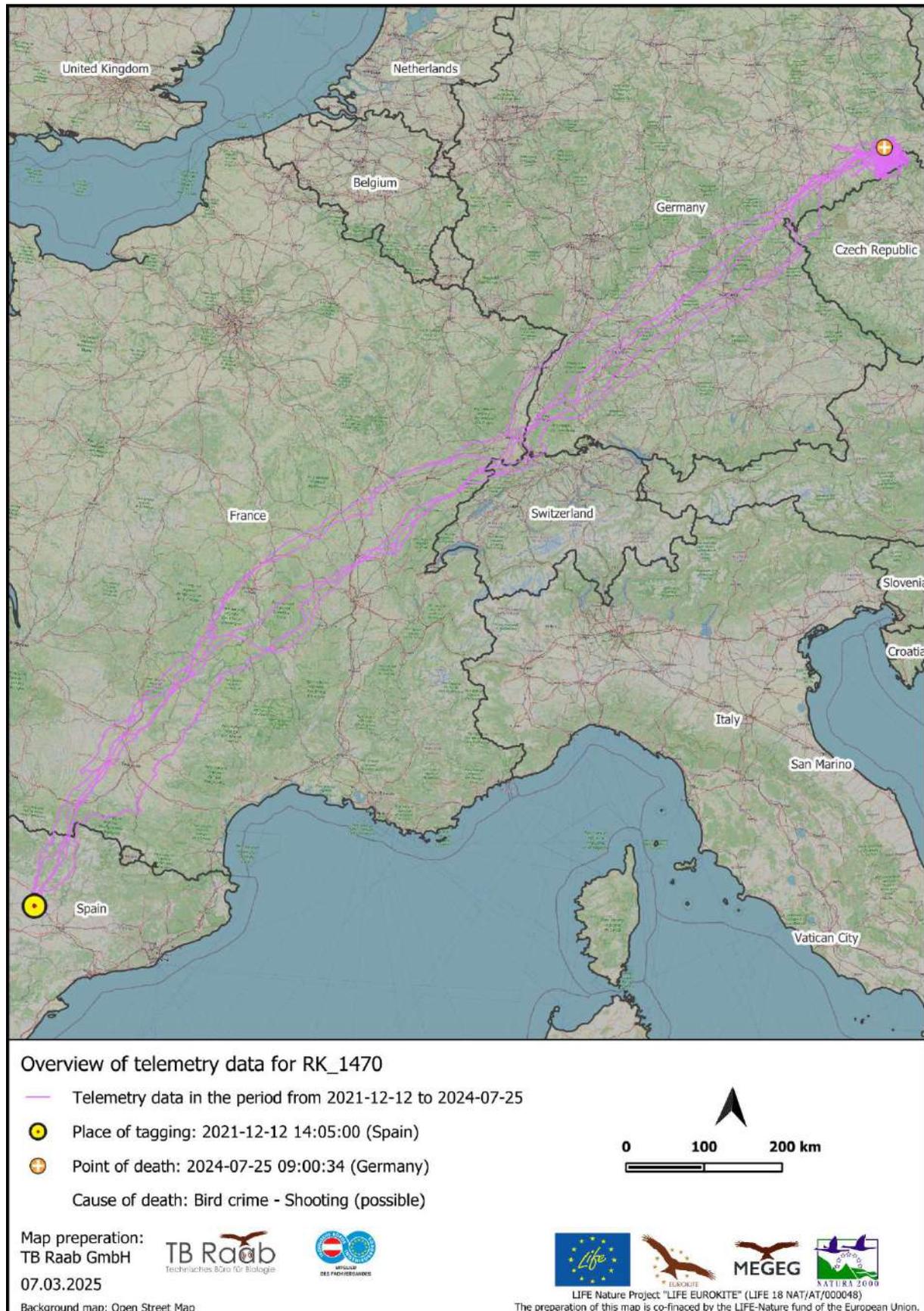


Figure 80: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1470.

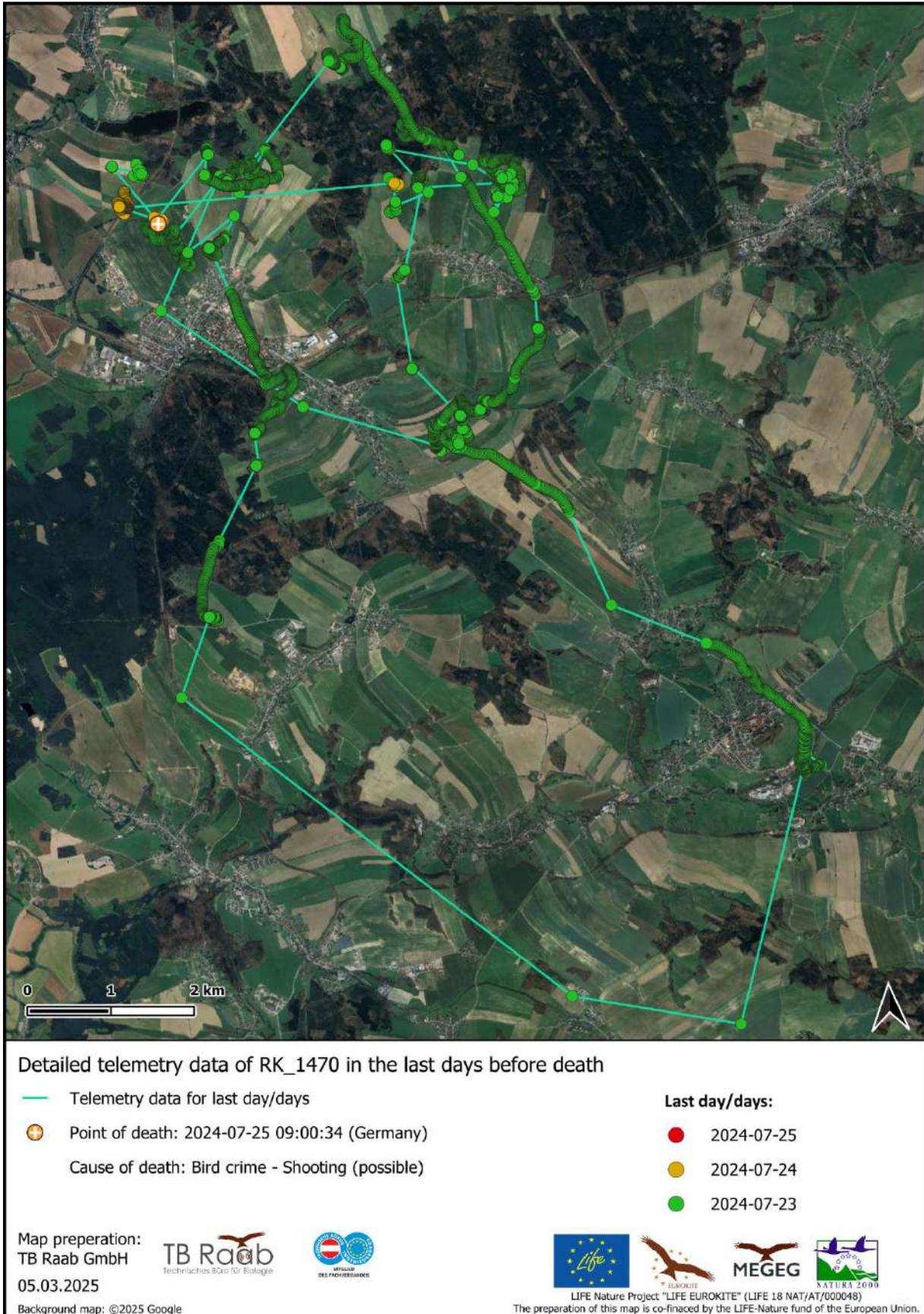


Figure 81: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1470 in the last days before death.

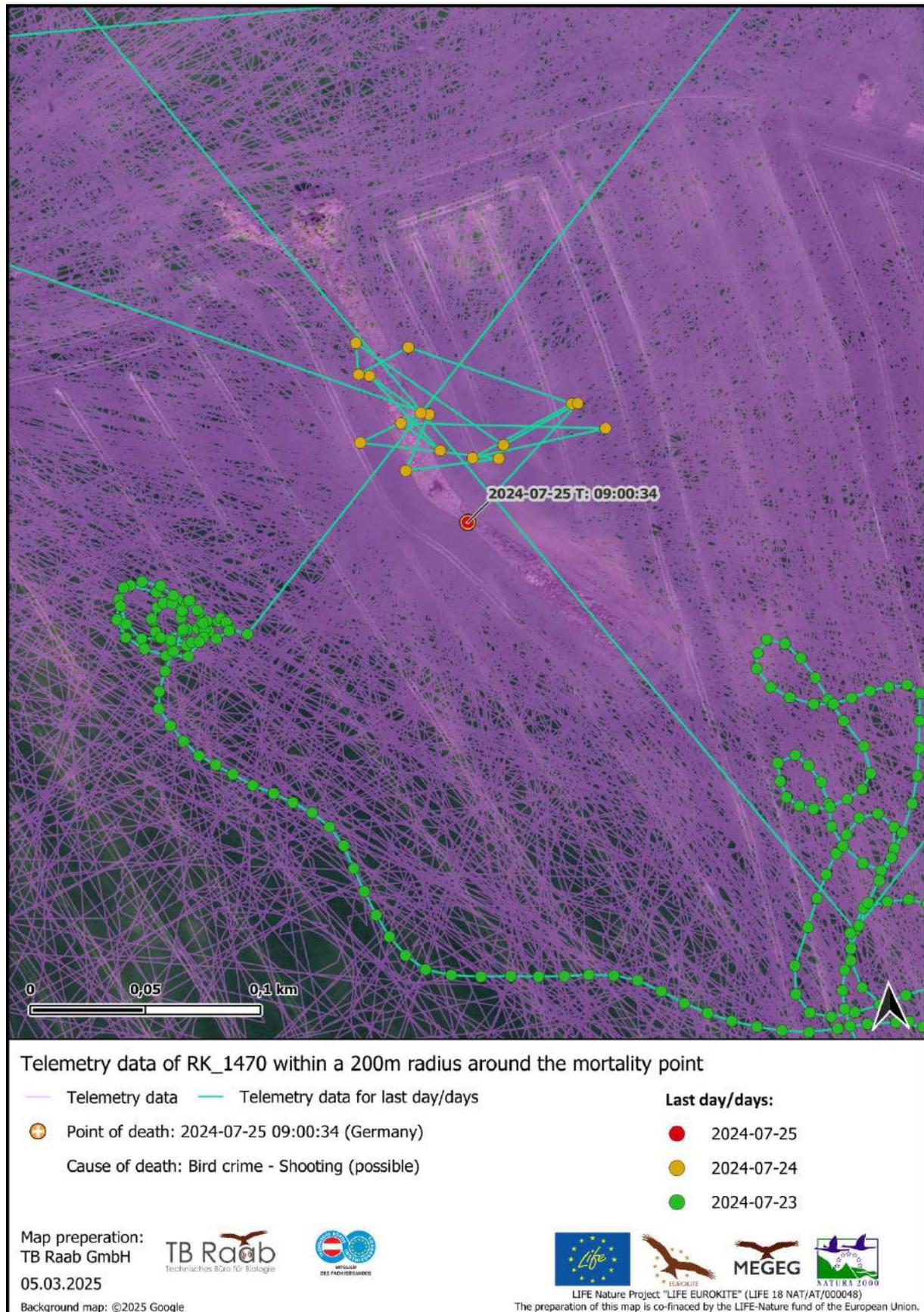


Figure 82: Telemetry data of RK_1470 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

3.5 Tagged individuals that died due to bird crime

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

RK_0148

General information about the bird

Name: Magdala_01

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 24.05.2018

Place of tagging: Magdala, Thuringia, Germany

Date of tagging: 15.06.2018

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: Juvenile from the nest

Ownership category: A2

Logger number: Ornitela 058 - 181060 kite

Ring number: EA200071

Sex: Female

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Birstein, Hesse, Germany

Coordinates: 50,402523, 9,307214

Date of bird crime: 04.03.2022, 05:46:52 PM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 1.380

Age at bird crime: 5. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger found and bird not found (only feathers)

Carcass state: Very bad

Bird crime: Bird crime

Certainty category: Probable

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab). The transmitter was found lying on a tree stump without Teflon. Only individual feathers could be found from the bird.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: No investigation

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority not informed

Legal proceeding: No

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

The Bird was not found. Neither police nor authority informed.



Figure 83: Left: Finding situation of the logger of the red kite RK_0148 which died on 04.03.2022, in Birstein, Hesse, Germany. Right: Feather remains of the deceased red kite RK_0148. © LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Manuela Löwold)

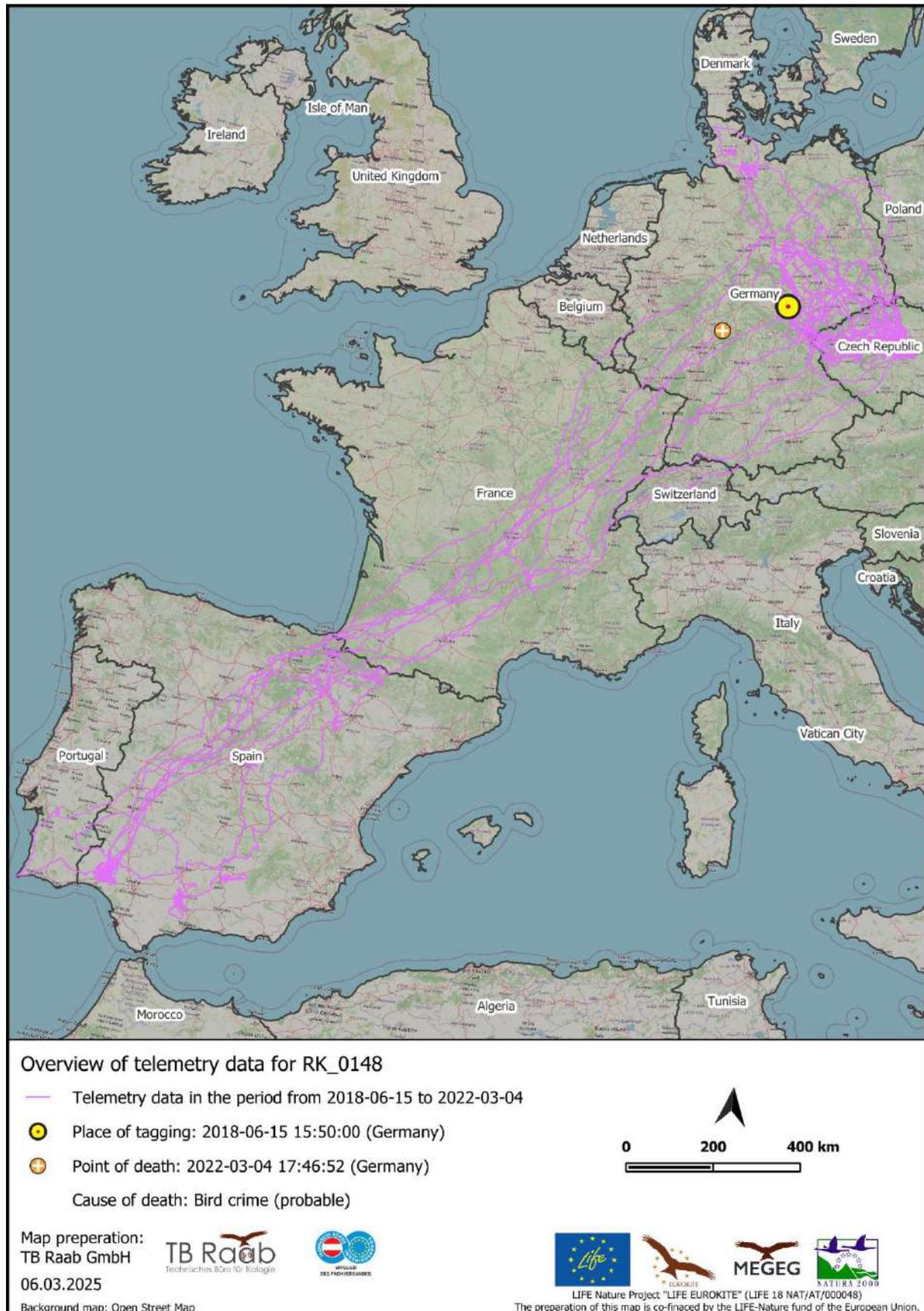


Figure 84: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_0148.

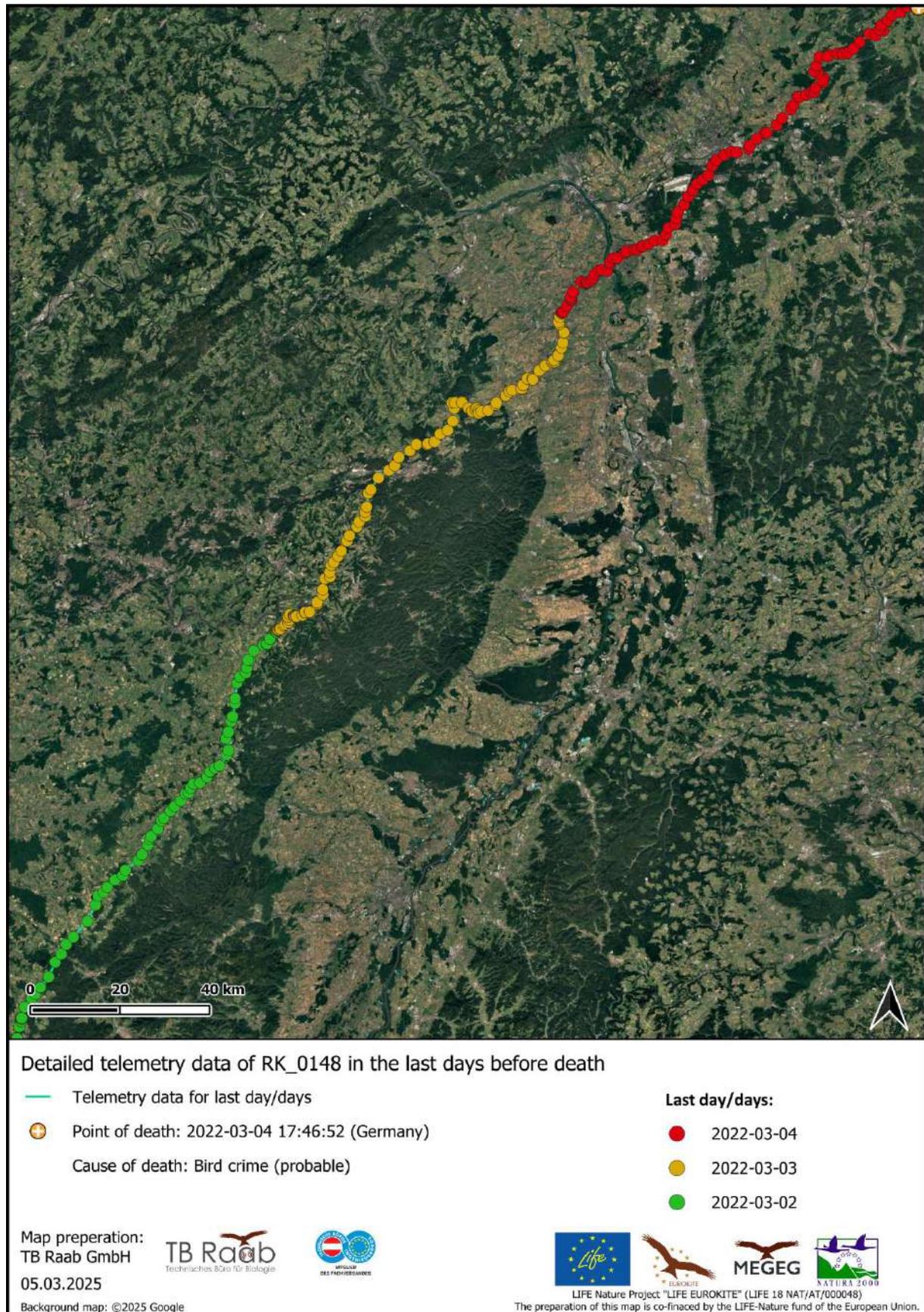


Figure 85: Detailed telemetry data of RK_0148 in the last days before death.

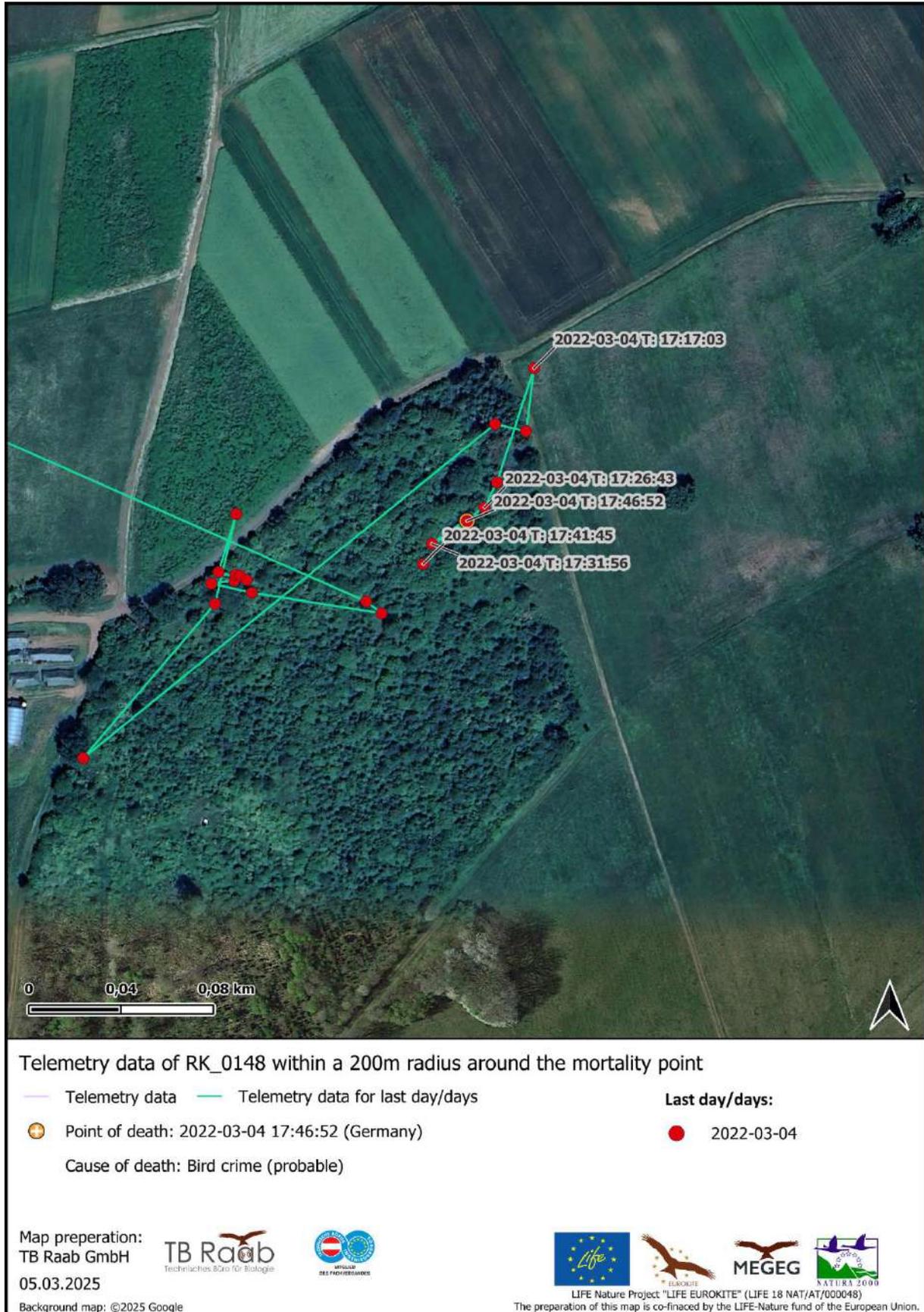


Figure 86: Telemetry data of RK_0148 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

RK_3173

General information about the bird

Name: Kapellendorf_14

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 13.05.2013

Place of tagging: Kapellendorf, Thuringa, Germany

Date of tagging: 27.05.2020

Age at tagging: 3.+ CY

Origin of bird: Captured with trap

Ownership category: C_Pfeiffer_Thomas

Logger number: 8165

Ring number: EA216840

Sex: Male

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Weimar, Thuringa, Germany

Coordinates: 51,0139, 11,42934

Date of bird crime: 30.06.2024 11:15:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 4066

Age at bird crime: 8 CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: Private Person

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird found

Carcass state: Bad

Bird crime: Bird crime

Certainty category: Certain

Additional information: The laboratory confirmed the death of the bird due to cranial trauma. The bird died at the edge of a property (between 11:15 and 11:20 AM UTC), was brought into the property between 11:45 and 11:50 AM UTC, taken into a vehicle between 11:50 and 11:55 AM UTC, transported 5 km as the crow flies to a river and thrown into the water there between 12:16 and 12:20 PM UTC (temperature change from 32°C to 20°C). The body drifted downstream a little, got stuck, drifted a little further the following day to the place where it was found on 09.07.2013.

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: Ongoing

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority informed → Ongoing

Legal proceeding: Yes → Ongoing

Conviction: Not yet

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

The case was reopened in December 2024.



*Figure 87: Finding situation of the red kite RK_3173, which died on 30.06.2024, in Weimar, Thuringia, Germany.
© LIFE EUROKITE Archive (Thomas Pfeiffer)*

3.6 Tagged individuals that died due to traceable human activity

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

RK_1883

General information about the bird

Name: Thale_01

Species: Red kite

Birth date: 13.05.2020

Place of tagging: Thale, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Date of tagging: 27.07.2022

Age at tagging: 1. CY

Origin of bird: From rescue station

Ownership category: B_MEGEG (RMZ)

Logger number: 22093

Ring number: EA214552

Sex: No information

Bird crime information

Place of bird crime: Güntersberge, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Coordinates: 51,642232, 10,989088

Date of bird crime: 05.08.2022, 10:01:00 AM (UTC)

Age at bird crime (Days): 814

Age at bird crime: 1. CY

Responsible organization for the investigation: TB Raab

Logger and/or bird found: Logger and bird not found

Carcass state: -

Bird crime: Traceable human activity

Certainty category: Possible

Additional information: Expert assessment (TB Raab). The falconer does flight training there every day with various birds of prey. The time of the disappearance coincides with the time of the

daily flight demonstration. It is possible that the red kite was injured and the transmitter was taken into custody by the falconer. The transmitter data suggest that the transmitter was left in a building (contact with the mobile phone network, but no GPS contact).

Investigation information

Last editing: 08.01.2025

Investigation: Stopped

Police and/or authority investigation: Police and authority informed → Stopped

Legal proceeding: Yes → Stopped

Conviction: No

If investigation stopped or no conviction was achieved, why?

The evidence was insufficient to concretely prove anything against the suspect. If new evidence emerges, the case will be reopened.

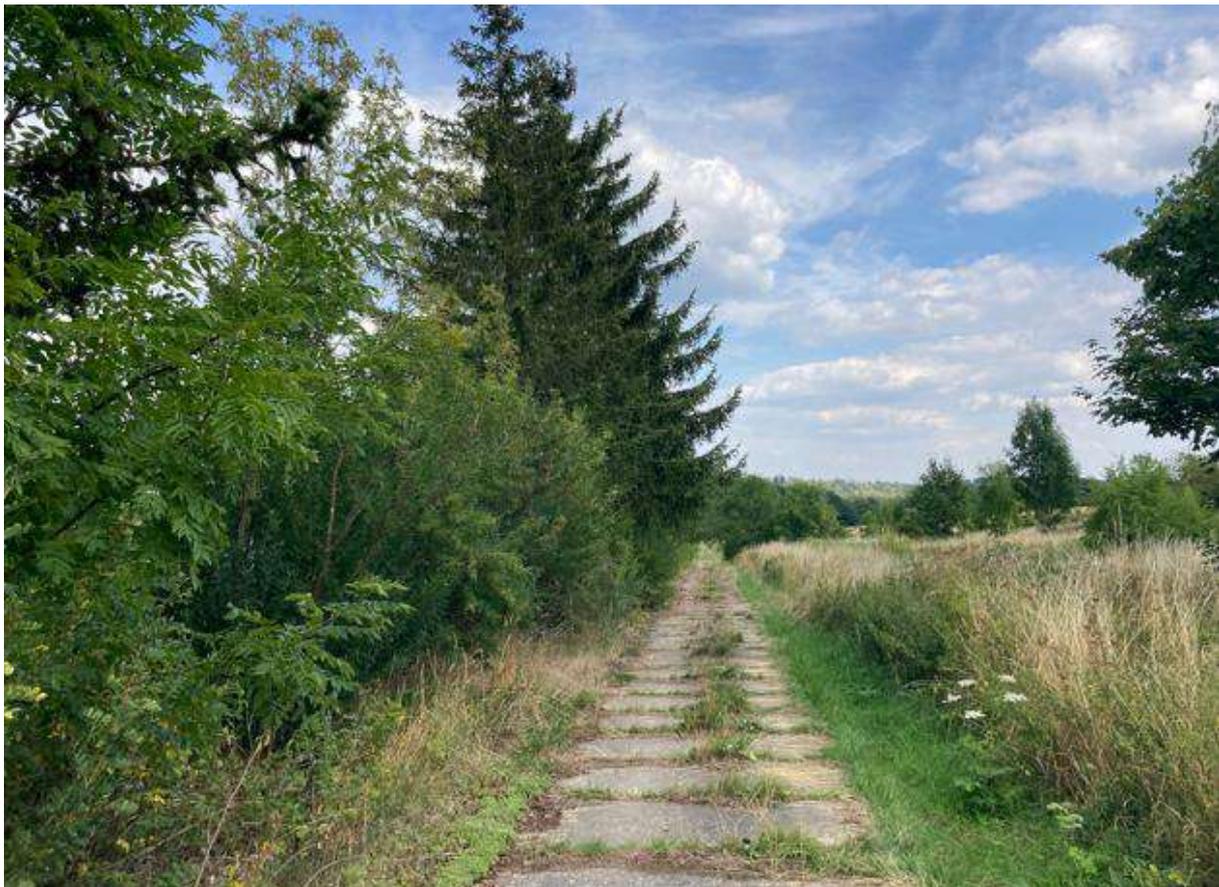


Figure 88: Surrounding of the Place of bird crime of red kite RK_1883 which died on 05.08.2022 near Güntersberge, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany © LIFE EUROKITE archive (Rotmilanzentrum, Martin Kolbe)

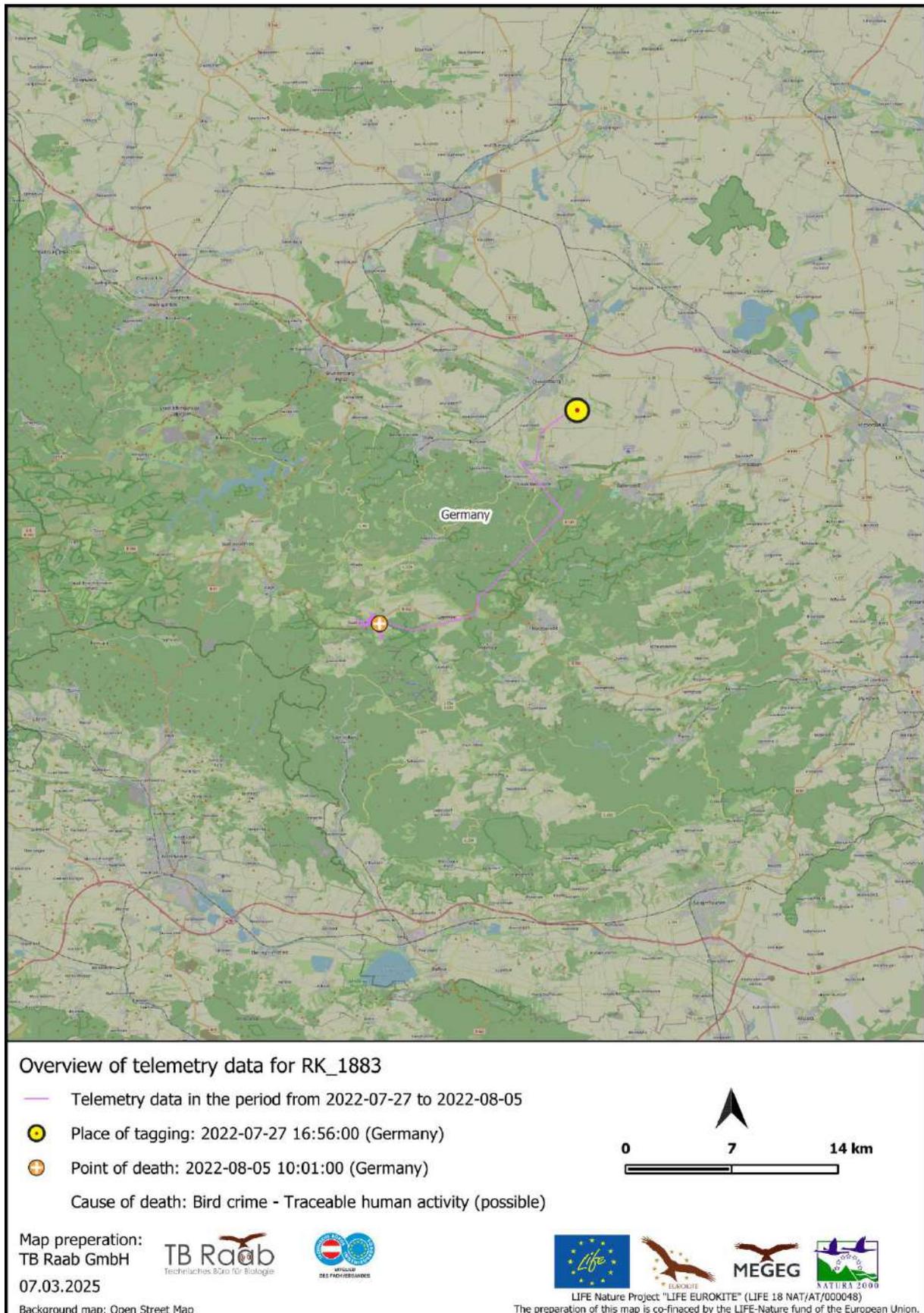


Figure 89: Overview of the telemetry data for RK_1883.



Figure 90: Detailed telemetry data of RK_1883 in the last days before death.



Figure 91: Telemetry data of RK_1883 within a 200m radius around the mortality point.

3.7 Summary of the German 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 24 tagged raptors (22 red kites and 2 white-tailed eagles) died due to bird crime in Germany. Most of the tagged individuals (13) died due to poisoning, followed by 8 tagged individuals which died due to shooting. 3 individuals died as a result of bird crimes that could not be further specified (Table 1 to Table 2 & Figure 95).

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

Mortality reason	White tailed eagle	Red kite	Total
Bird crime	-	3	3
Bird crime - Shooting	1	7	8
Bird crime - Poisoning	1	12	13
Total	2	22	24

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

Federal State	Bird crime	Bird crime - Shooting	Bird crime - Poisoning	Total
Bavaria (Bayern)	-	-	1	1
Hesse (Hessen)	1	1	3	5
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)	-	1	1	2
Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen)	-	-	2	2
North Rhine-Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen)	-	1	2	3
Rhineland-Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz)	-	1	-	1
Saxony (Sachsen)	-	1	1	2
Saxony-Anhalt (Sachsen-Anhalt)	1	2	-	3
Thuringia (Thüringen)	1	1	3	5
Total	3	8	13	24

Detected substances

6 different substances were detected in 8 toxicologically analysed birds. Rodenticide (Difenacoum and Brodifacoum) were detected in 3 birds. Two birds had visited landfills, where they may have been exposed to potentially harmful substances. Bendiocarb, Brodifacoum Carbofuran, Difenacoum, Lead and Metaldehyd were each detected in one bird (Figure 92). Out of the 13 poisoned birds, 5 birds were either not toxicologically analysed, or the detected substance was categorised as unknown.

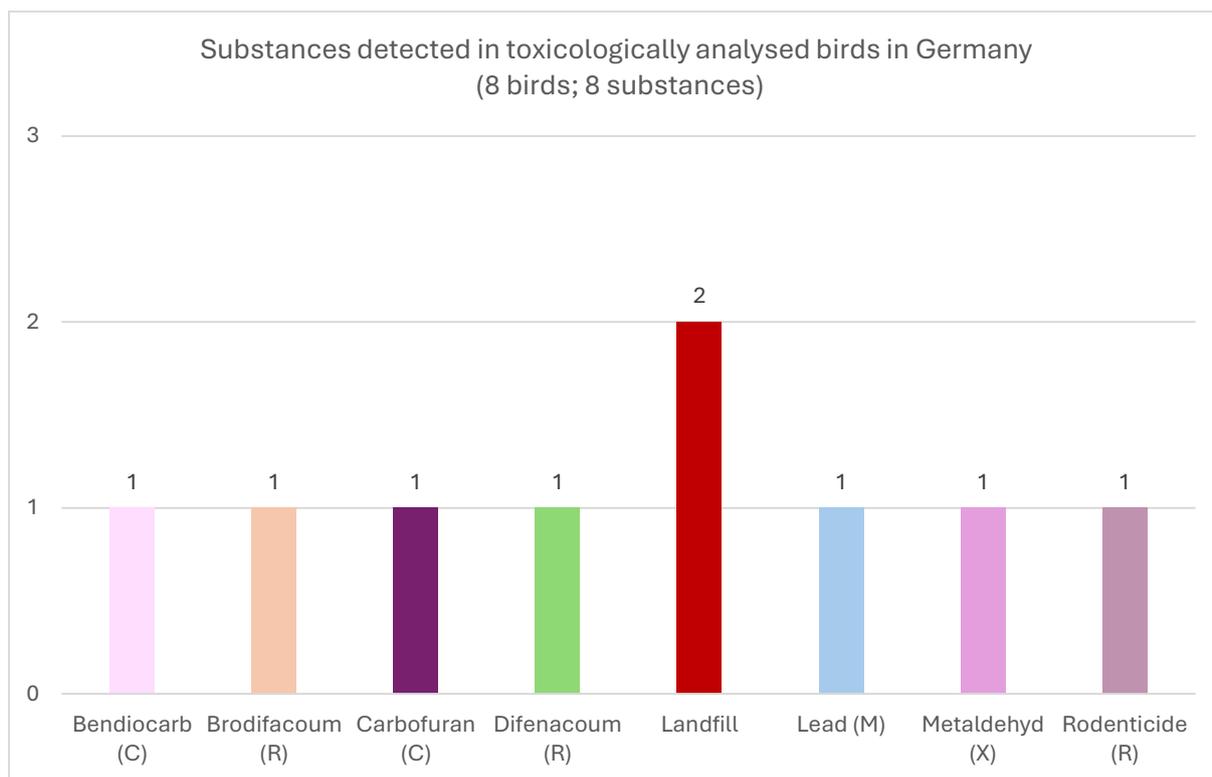


Figure 92: Substances detected (8 substances) in poisoned birds in Germany (8 toxicologically analysed birds with detected substances). In total, 13 birds were classified as poisoned based on field evidence and GPS data. Toxicological analyses were available for 8 individuals. Detected substances are classified into the following chemical groups: (C) Carbamates, (R) Rodenticides, (M) Metals, and (X) Other substances.

Toxicological analyses of poisoned birds revealed the presence of 8 active substances, including a range of pesticides, rodenticides and heavy metals. Among the compounds identified were Carbamate insecticides such as Bendiocarb and Carbofuran as well as rodenticides such as Brodifacoum, Difenacoum. Most of these 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 toxic substance Metaldehyde (European Community Number 203-600-2) is approved within the European Union. Under Regulation (EU) 528/2012 (BPR), the detected rodenticides (Brodifacoum and Difencaoum) are approved as active substances, even though they are strictly regulated (European Parliament and Council of the European Union, 2012).

Table 3: Regulatory status and legal framework of not approved toxic substances detected in poisoned raptors in Germany 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
Bendiocarb	Not approved	Reg. (EC) No 1107/2009 (repealing Directive 91/414/EEC)	Reg. (EU) 2002/2076
Carbofuran	Not approved	Reg. (EC) No 1107/2009 (repealing Directive 91/414/EEC)	Reg. (EU) 2007/416

Substances confirmed as lethal

5 birds each were confirmed to have died from Bendiocarb, Carbofuran, Lead, Metaaldehyd or rodenticide exposure. In 3 cases, the lethal substance could not be clearly identified. This occurred, for example, when multiple toxic substances were detected in a single individual and several toxicological threshold values were exceeded. Birds classified as landfill cases were also included in this category, as the exact lethal substance could not be determined (Figure 93).

It should be noted that 3 birds were exposed to rodenticides, which were twice detected at sublethal concentrations. While these doses were not immediately lethal, rodenticides can accumulate over time and may either directly cause mortality or progressively impair physiological functions, leading to long-term health effects.

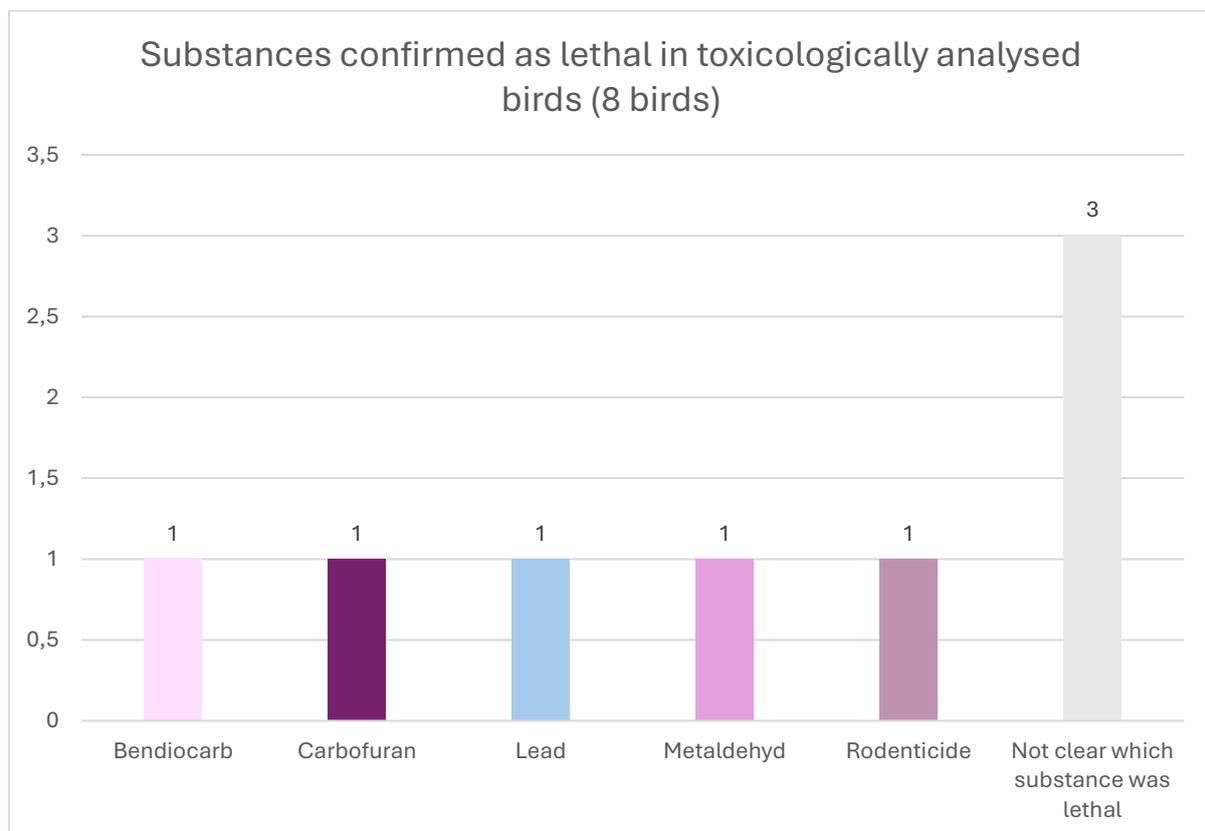


Figure 93: Toxic substances confirmed as lethal (5 substances) in poisoned birds in Germany. In total, 13 birds were classified as poisoned based on field evidence and GPS data. Toxicological analyses detected substances in 8 birds. In 5 of these birds, toxicological threshold values allowed the lethal substance to be clearly identified, while in the remaining 3 cases the lethal compound could not be determined because multiple substances exceeded toxicological thresholds. Most birds carried more than one toxic substance.

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 13 poisoned birds were classified as intentional poisoning cases, while 10 cases remained undefined.

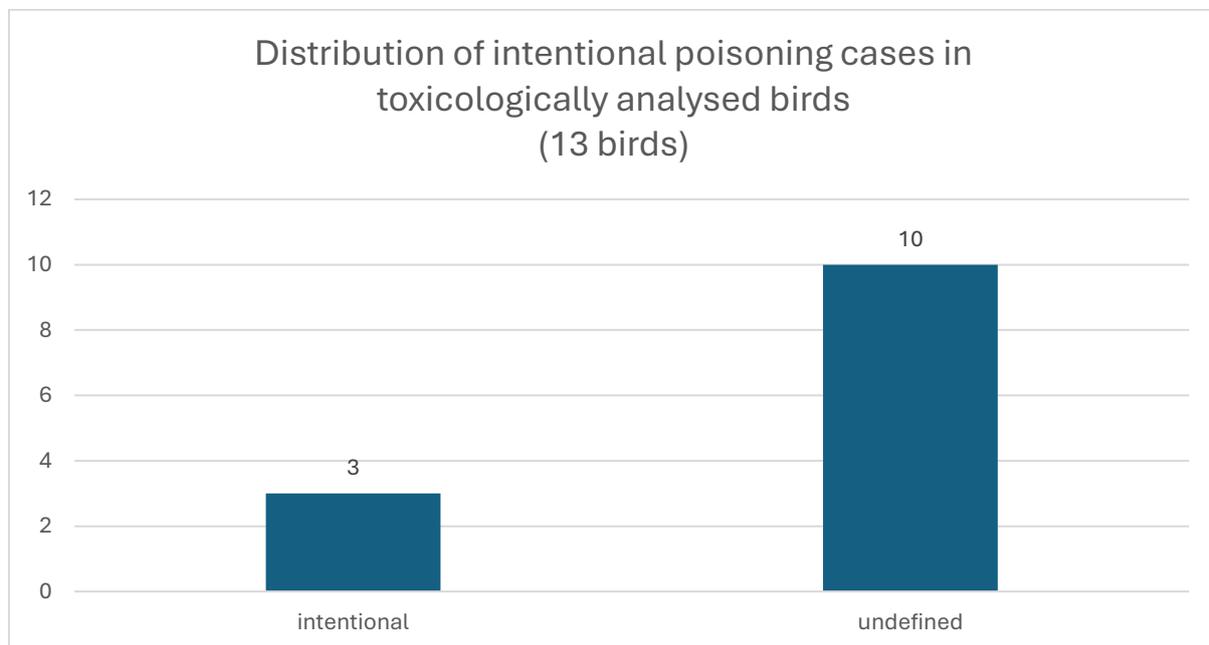


Figure 94: Number of poisoned birds classified as confirmed intentional poisoning or as cases with undetermined intent. Confirmed intentional poisoning includes cases involving toxic substances prohibited in the European Union, the presence of poisoned bait, multiple birds found dead at the same site 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 13 poisoned birds in Germany, 3 were classified as confirmed intentional poisoning and 10 as cases with undetermined intent.

Results of the investigation

Regarding reporting to the police or authorities, in 11 cases, neither the police nor an authority were informed. In 2 cases, the police were informed, while in 1 case, an authority was notified. In 4 cases, both the police and an authority were informed. For 6 cases, no information was available on whether a report was made (Table 4).

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

Reporting to the police/authority	
Neither police nor authority informed	11
Police informed	2
Authority informed	1
Police and authority informed	4
No information received	6
Total	24

Regarding the investigation status, in 12 cases, no investigation took place, while in 2 cases, the investigations were ongoing. Additionally, in 2 cases, the investigations were stopped, and in 1 case, the investigation was completed. For 7 cases, no information was available regarding the investigation status. In terms of legal proceedings, 13 cases did not result in legal action, while in 2 cases, the proceedings were ongoing. In 1 case, the legal proceedings were stopped, and in another case, they were completed. For 7 cases, no information was available regarding the status of legal proceedings (Table 5).

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

	Investigation status	Prosecution status
No investigation/prosecution	12	13
Ongoing	2	2
Pending	-	-
Stopped	2	1
Completed	1	1
No information received	7	7
Total	24	24

Regarding convictions, in 14 cases, no conviction occurred, while in 2 cases, a conviction had not yet been reached. In 1 case, a conviction was made. For 7 cases, no information was available regarding the conviction status (Table 6).

In the case where there was a conviction, the following sentence was issued:

- Fine of 1,800€ and the loss of the hunting licence

Table 6: Overview of the conviction status

Conviction	
No conviction	14
Not yet	2
Convicted	1
No information received	7
Total	24

For cases without a conviction, in 2 cases, legal proceedings were still ongoing. In 11 cases, neither the police nor an authority were informed, which may have influenced the legal process. In 3 cases, there was too little evidence for a conviction. Additionally, for 7 cases, no information was available regarding the reason for the lack of conviction. In 1 case, a conviction was made (Table 7).

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

Reason for no conviction	
Neither police nor authority informed	11
Too little evidence	3
Legal proceeding ongoing	2
No information received	7
Total	23

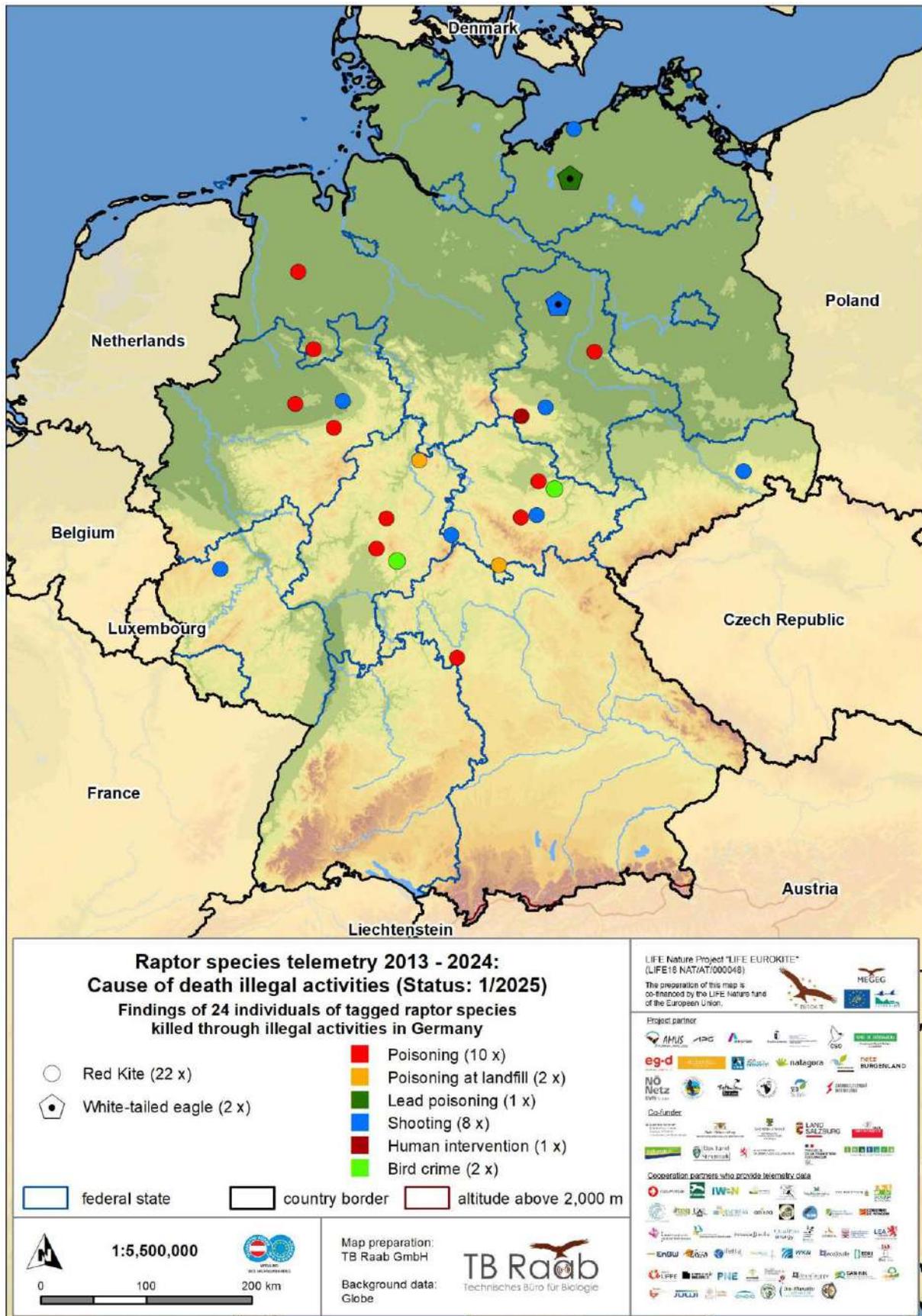


Figure 95: Map of tagged raptor species killed by illegal activities in Germany, broken down by species, region and cause of death.

4 References

- BirdLife International, EuroNatur. Progress assessment on the eradiction of illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds in the Mediterranean and Europe (2025).
- Donázar, J.A. et al. Roles of raptors in a changing world: from flagships to providers of key ecosystem services. *Ardeola* **63**, 181-234 (2016).
- European Commission. Commission notice Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive. C(2021) 7301 final. Brussels (2021).
- European Parliament and Council of the European Union. *Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC*. Assessed from <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj/eng> (2009).
- European Parliament and Council of the European Union. Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (BPR). Assessed from <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:167:0001:0123:en:PDF> (2012).
- García-Macía, J., De La Puente, J., Bermejo-Bermejo, A., Raab, R. & Urios, V. High variability and dual strategy in the wintering red kites (*Milvus milvus*). *Diversity* **14**, 117 (2022).
- Mattson, B.J. et al. Enhancing monitoring and transboundary collaboration for conserving migratory species under global change: The priority case of the red kite. *J. Environ. Manage.*, **317**: 115345 (2022).
- 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 Germany

Red kite

RK_0121.....11

RK_0148.....114

RK_0196.....79

RK_0339.....22

RK_0344.....27

RK_0349.....74

RK_0379.....64

RK_0487.....32

RK_1242.....69

RK_1367.....17

RK_1388.....47

RK_1455.....99

RK_1470.....109

RK_1753.....94

RK_1779.....104

RK_1865.....89

RK_1883.....121

RK_2035.....57

RK_2100.....37

RK_2483.....52

RK_2683.....42

RK_3173.....119

White-tailed eagle

WE_0049.....84

WE_0161.....62



CPEW
Campaign against chemical poisoning of European Wildlife

**POISONING
IS THE DIFFERENCE.**

**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

