



LIFE EUROKITE

Cross-border protection of the Red Kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality

The red kite (*Milvus milvus*) is a Near Threatened species in the European Unión, meanwhile in Spain is a Critically Endangered species.

Due to the strong decline of the red kite in several countries, with threats occurring along all Europe, a new LIFE project **Cross-border protection of the red kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality**, started in 2020.

The main goal of this project is to identify and quantify the main mortality causes of the red kite in Europe and to achieve this goal, 615 red kites and another 80 individuals of several raptors from different countries in the European Union will be equipped with GPS transmitters during 2020-2024 period.

The getting results, will allow to implement different measures focused to mitigate the human-caused mortality of this specie, promoting the collaboration with different entities and organizations in 26 countries of the EU.

This project is coordinated by the “Mitteleuropäische Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung der Greifvögel” (Central European Society for Raptor Protection), with the participation of 20 additional partners from several countries, being AMUS one of these partners.

AMUS's actions in LIFE EUROKITE project

AMUS will participate in several actions in the LIFE EUROKITE project, but its main action is the reinforcement of red kite populations in southwest of Spain. This action has the goal to improve the conservations status of the red kite in southern Spain, due to the necessity to guarantee the long-term feasibility of the small and fragmented actual population to prevent local extinctions, as was recommended by scientific and specialist in red kit conservation during the last international red kite congress. To avoid this critical situation, with a continue and historical decline of red kite populations during the last decades, it is necessary to reinforce the remaining populations as a measure to guarantee the species 'conservation.

This population reinforcement will be done using the reintroduction of birds collected from healthy populations with a positive conservation status and following the method successfully used in several red kites 'reintroduction projects in UK and Italy and following the recommendations and guidelines of the Conservation Translocation

Specialist Group of IUCN. Additionally, AMUS will have the advising of several red kites specialist at national and international level with the goal to guarantee at any moment the correct implementation of this action.

EUROKITE LIFE project is an ambitious conservation project due to the large territorial range where it will be implemented, and in addition due to the high and diversity number of partners (NGO, public bodies, private companies) and being one of the few projects which implement conservation actions for an endangered species in most of its global range.

This project is funded by the EU LIFE programme and AMUS's actions have the support also of Fundación Biodiversidad of the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, the electric company ENDESA and Fundación Santander.

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