



# INNOVATION AGAINST POISON

Quarterly Newsletter on the LIFE+ Project  
“Innovative Actions Against the Illegal use of  
Poisoned Baits in Mediterranean Pilot Areas”



December 2011 Issue

## Editorial

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Since last issue of this newsletter, the Spanish section of the LIFE IAP Team has received with expectation the recent approval of the Royal Decree laying down the basis of disposal of carcasses in the field. Finally, the European Regulation settling health rules concerning animal by-products has been transferred to the Spanish law, good news for those who work with livestock and scavengers.

Work last term was based in social participation actions. The European Networks against Poison starts to consolidate after the signature of different agreements with hunters, stockbreeders and municipalities. Furthermore, the project has also participated in the I Workshop on Natural Environment in Córdoba.

Lastly, concerning technical work, different canine inspections were carried out (a complete article will be available in the next issue) together with the trapping and tagging of bioindicator species.

Enjoy the reading!

## Good news for scavengers

After ten years banned, it has been finally approved in Spain the Royal Decree which allows the deposit of carcasses in the field.



Griffon vultures feeding on carcasses in a feeding station

From the 1990's, as a consequence of diseases as the "mad cows disease", management of hunting and farming systems changed, banning the traditional disposal of dead animals in the field or in specific places intended for that. Since then, carcasses have been collected from farms by means of an authorized service, which involved extra expenses for stockbreeders.

This situation led to a decrease in the amount of food available in the natural environment for scavengers, particularly for scavenger birds of prey as vultures, kites, bearded vultures or Egyptian vultures. Due to this fall in the amount of available food, animals resorted to worse quality food and resulted more often affected by poisoned baits.

Facing this problem, different environmental and farmers organizations requested the modification of the European Regulation. After being considered by the EC, the Royal Decree recently approved included such modifications in the Spanish laws, according to which the disposal of carcasses in the field will be allowed in specific areas known as "protection feeding areas for scavengers", designated by regional governments. Within these areas, animals from extensive farming will be allowed to be left in the field provided they are to feed scavengers and they fulfill all sanitary requirements.

Thanks to the new Royal Decree, not only the availability of good quality food will be improved but also extensive farms and the public

administration will decrease their expenses, reducing the costs corresponding to assurances of collection and management of dead animals.

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Want to know more?

Take a look at the Regulation ([EC No 1774/2002](#)) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 October 2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption.

# European Networks against illegal poisoning

The setting-up of the three European Networks against illegal poisoning is one of the most innovative actions of the LIFE IAP project.

These Networks – the Networks of Stockbreeders, Hunters and Municipalities against poison, ENSAIP, ENHAIP and ENMAIP respectively – are based in a mutual and voluntary agreement between different stakeholders and the partners of the project, aiming to join forces in the fight against poison.

## What does the project offer to the network?

Hunting and stockbreeding are important activities for the conservation of natural resources. Well managed, not only they do not mean a threat for biodiversity but they may help to its conservation. However, the occasional use of the bad practices gives a negative image of these activities. Municipalities, in turn, have the capacity of transmitting to the general population the worry about a problem which

affects the whole society.

The LIFE IAP project offers different free services to the members of the networks:

- Technical advice for the control of predation and feral cats and dogs.
- Mediation between authorities and stakeholders towards finding solutions for the conflicts with fauna.
- Technical advice for hunting and farming management, as well as information about subsidiaries and incentives.
- Telephonic free advice by means of the “Freephone against poison”.
- Free legal advice.
- Free training.
- ...

Furthermore, members will be welcome to propose other initiatives that may be considered

necessary or helpful.

On their side, members of the Networks will inform about the use of poison in their hunting areas or municipalities and they commit to condemn any episode of illegal poisoning, aiming to achieve a social rejection of such actions and whoever carry them out.

## The last steps forward.

During the last months, the LIFE IAP team has been focusing its work in the commitment agreements with stockbreeders, hunters and municipalities. And not only has it won their support, but also organizations as the Groups of Rural Development have shown their interest in joining the project. Take a look at the News section for more information.



# Trapping and tagging foxes as bioindicators of the presence of poisoned baits

From last November, the traps known as Collarum foxtraps have been used in the Andalusian pilot areas of the LIFE IAP project, as a selective method to capture foxes.

Use of poisoned baits is not an option to control predation: it is a harmful practice to other species (some of them critically endangered), it involves a serious risk for public health and it is an illegal practice.

The LIFE IAP project is aware of the importance among stakeholders of controlling predation and it pledges its commitment to the measures which may help them and therefore avoid the illegal use of poisoned baits.

Among other measures, one of the most remarkable is the experimental use of Collarum, a trap still to be approved by the EC which allows trapping foxes selectively without affecting other species. This first capture campaign is being carried out in two of the Spanish project pilot areas: Sierra Nevada (Granada) and Sierra Mágina (Jaén), counting with the collaboration and support of the Consejería de Medio Ambiente of Junta de Andalucía, based on its previous experiences using this trapping method.



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Technicians from Fundacion Gypaetus and Consejería de Medio Ambiente checking the area to place the experimental traps

To date, a total of five foxes have been captured (four in Sierra Nevada and one in Sierra Mágina), and released after being tagged with GPS/GSM transmitters which will allow to know their movements.

**The *Collarum* fox-trap are still to be approved by the EC**

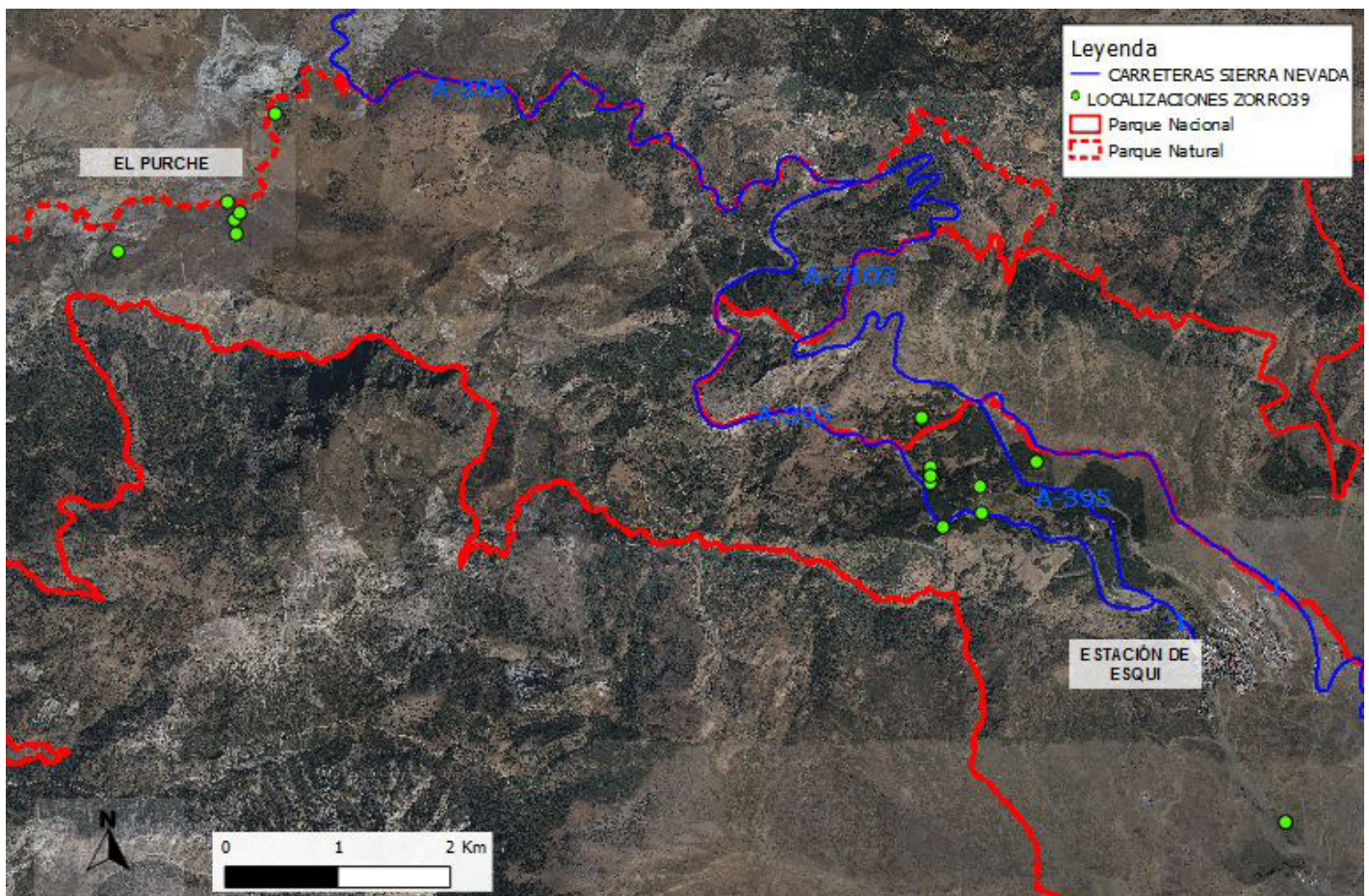
>> Next page

The locations emitted by one of the adult foxes captured in Sierra Nevada are represented in the map below, showing its movements from El Purche area and the sky station.

This action aims to tag a specific number of individuals which will act as bioindicators of the illegal use of poisoned baits in its home range.



Field technicians fitting the GPS/GSM transmitter



Map of locations of one of the foxes tagged in Sierra Nevada

# NEWS

## Groups of Rural Development “Sierra de Ronda” and “Los Alcornocales”, pioneers against illegal use of poisoned baits

José Juan Díaz Trillo, Regional Minister of Environment, presided over the signature of the collaboration agreements between Fundación Gypaetus and the Groups of Rural Development. The initiative means an important step towards the setting-up of the European Network of Municipalities Against Poison.

The Presidents of the Groups of Rural Development “Sierra de Ronda” and “Los Alcornocales”, Francisco Javier Benítez and Luis Romero respectively, and Jesús Charco, representing Fundación

Gypaetus, signed yesterday in Malaga the first collaboration agreements between Rural Development Agencies and the FG, committing to fight the illegal use of poisoned baits.

The basis of the agreements is the commitment to collaborate in all conservation, awareness raising, participation and development projects promoted by the organizations. Both Groups of Rural Development became pioneers at a European level in the fight against this threat for biodiversity and public health.



Luis Romero and Francisco Javier Benítez with Juan José Díaz Trillo, Jesús Charco and Francisco Fernández during the signature of the agreement in Málaga.

# First Workshop on Natural Environment in Córdoba

Javier Barona and Iván Parrillo, two of the LIFE IAP field technicians, participated in the 1st Workshop on Natural Environment, held in Córdoba the past 11th, 12th and 13th November, organized by the association Abanto and the association of Environmental Servants.

The workshop counted with the presence of different specialists. Among them, our technicians participated with lectures about Carnivore Mammals in Andalusia and explained the innovative actions against the use of poison that we are currently implementing. The workshop was completed by lectures about Mediterranean Flora and Diurnal Birds of Prey and an exhibition about Lesser Kestrel.



The field technicians Javier Barona -left- and Iván Parrillo -below- during the workshops and talks.



## Public presentation of the project LIFE IAP in Idanha-a-Nova



The public presentation of the project in Idanha-a-Nova took place the past 26 September at the Centro Cultural Raiano. The event counted with the participation of various stakeholders such as ICNB, Quercus, GNR-SEPNA and representatives of the municipalities of Castelo Branco and Idanha-a-Nova.

The presentation was followed by a public demonstration of the European Canine Team of poison detection, and the signature of two agreements to join the European Network of Municipalities Against Illegal Poisoning -ENMAIP- with the municipalities of Castelo Branco and Idanha-a-Nova.



# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit our website [www.lifeagainstpoison.org](http://www.lifeagainstpoison.org)



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## LIFE Programme



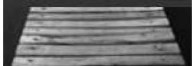
## Life Innovation Against Poison



## Partners



## Actions



## Timeline



## Downloads



## Newsletters



Last Update -/-

## Freephone Against Poison

**News**  
[14/11/2011]  
**First Workshop on Natural Environment in Córdoba**

Javier Barona and Iván Ramírez, two of the LIFE IAP field technicians participated in the 1st Workshop on Natural Environment, held in Córdoba the past 11th, 12th and 13th November and organized by the association Abanto and the association of Environmental Servants. [EN ESPAÑOL](#)

[11/11/2011]  
**The Groups of Rural Development "Sierra de Bonda" and "Los Alcornocales", pioneers against illegal use of poisoned baits**

José Juan Díaz Trillo, Regional Minister of Environment, presided over the signature of the collaboration agreements between Fundación Gypaetus and the Groups of Rural Development. The initiative means an important step towards the setting-up of the European Network of Municipalities Against Poison. [EN ESPAÑOL](#)

[06/10/2011]  
**Public presentation of the project LIFE IAP in Idanha-a-Nova**

The public presentation of the project in Idanha-a-Nova took place the past 6th September at the Centro Cultural Raiano. [EM PORTUGUÊS](#)

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## Pilot Areas



## Calendar

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**Legend:**  
Today  
Events day  
00 Holiday

## Local News



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## Freephone Against Poison

### CALL US FREE ON

- Want to know more about the illegal use of poison?
- Need support to control predation?
- Witness of a poisoning event?
- ...



900 811 482



800 500 108



CRETE:

800 11 020202

CONTINENTAL GREECE:

800 11 010101

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Socios:



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ARCTUROS



CEAI

CENTRO  
DE ESTUDOS  
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UNIVERSITY OF CRETE  
NATURAL HISTORY  
MUSEUM OF CRETE



Quercus



JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA  
Consejería de Medio Ambiente



UNIVERSITY OF  
ANHA-A-NOVA



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ  
ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ  
ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΣ &  
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ΑΛΛΑΓΗΣ