



## Illegal Use of Poisoned Baits and their Effects on Biodiversity in Crete, Greece

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### ABSTRACT

In the framework of LIFE+ Biodiversity project on "Innovative actions against illegal poisoning in EU Mediterranean pilot areas" [LIFE09 NAT/ES/000533], the Spanish organization "Fundación Gypaetus", acting as coordinating beneficiary, along with the Portuguese partners "Quercus" and "Centro de Estudos da Avifauna Ibérica" (CEAI) and the Greek partners "Arcturos" and "University of Crete - Natural History Museum of Crete" (NHMC), are implementing specific actions on this issue since October 2010 for a 5-years' project.

The illegal use of poisoned baits is a harmful practice for the environment and for the preservation of biodiversity. In addition, it can be a potential source of negative effects for public health. The main goal of the project is to evaluate and spread the effectiveness of several innovative actions based on voluntary agreements with the main rural groups related with the fight against the illegal use of poisoned baits (municipalities, hunters, stockbreeders, etc.). Thanks to the demonstrative character of the foreseen actions, it is expected to relevantly improve the current anti-illegal poisoning strategies and so diminish the biodiversity loss related with this malpractice at EU level.

In Crete, Greece, the project is being implemented in Eastern Mountains of Crete (pilot area GR-2), more specifically the following NATURA 2000 protected areas: Idi Oros (GR4330005), Asterousia (GR4310005) and Dikti (GR4320002). Among other innovative actions, the establishment of three (3) European networks against illegal use of poisoned baits, i.e. stockbreeders (ENSPAIP), municipalities (ENMAIP) and hunters / hunting associations (ENHAIP), will be under short presentation, as far as their design and operation is of concern. Results and constrains of the operation of these networks will be also under consideration. Finally, a brief description of other innovative actions and actions of public awareness will be briefly presented.