WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND BREEDING CENTRE

Green Balkans

Annual Report

2017
Dear colleagues and partners,

Dear volunteers and supporters of the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre - Green Balkans, As a rector of Trakia University – Stara Zagora I am extremely proud to be your partner since a great part of the Centre’s team were once our students. Our university is the most authoritative and prestigious higher institution in the area of veterinary medicine and agrarian sciences. With our whole educational and scientific capacity we supported you in the beginning, when from one noble idea the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre – Green Balkans was created and developed. And we have continued to work together through the years. With your persistent enthusiasm and love for our nature, you have proved that the ‘Green idea’ is not a myth, but a reality for the lives and souls of so many, that the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre is needed for its’ specific work and actions taken in protecting the wild fauna of Bulgaria. It is an educational and research centre for the public, teaching kids and young adults to love and care about our nature. Dear colleagues, I congratulate you for the achieved results during the past year, and I assure you that Trakia University will continue to be your partner and friend in the years to come. We will support you and continue to work together in projects for saving our wild animals and reintroducing extinct species in Bulgaria’s nature.

Respectfully,

Professor Ivan Vashin
Rector of Trakia University
Since Green Balkans’ Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre continues to be leading in the field, we are admitting patients from all over the country.

Logically, due to animals’ period of breeding, the Centre’s peak season for admitting patients is during the summer months. In 2017, however, we have high admittance in November and December as well – two large colonies of bats were taking in during this time. The number of admittances is fairly unchanged from previous years. In 2017, as in every other year, the most help we’ve gotten in taking in patients in the Centre is from various individuals, private entities.
The statistic of the reasons for admission, and that of the patients' condition are not surprising this year as well, and are both connected to the advent of newly-born animals in the spring-summer season.

Patients' state and condition

TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

The veterinary care is still the leading activity of the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre. For this reason, half the team of the Centre is comprised of veterinary physicians, veterinary technicians and veterinary medicine students. In 2017 the veterinary specialists conducted 43 operations, as a result of which 8 animals were released back into the wild, and of 78 treated fractures – for 45 patients the stay ended well, and were released back after. However, the duties of our vets don’t end here. They are in charge of the treatment, rehabilitation and looking after the young animals as well. With their help, the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre became a home for 612 wild baby orphans. 346 from which were successfully raised and released back in the wild.

BREEDING PROGRAMME

Another part of the Centre’s activities is the breeding programme, part of which are 4 species of vultures, Barn Owls, Little Owls, Common and Lesser Kestrels, Saker Falcons, and Eastern Imperial Eagles, which, besides looking after their own hatchlings, are also being foster parents to many of the young ones admitted in the Centre. In 2017, we had 174 hatchlings, from which 158 were released in the wild.
RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WRBC IN 2017

Of the 1714 admitted or hatched here animals in 2017, 58% were released back into the wild, as of course the locations were specifically chosen for each species. The Bearded Vulture chick, hatched in the Centre, even crossed the boundaries of the country and was released in Andalusia, Spain.

LETHAL 30%
TRANSFERRED 2%
RELEASED 58,5%
EUTHAN 5,5%
AVIARY KEEPING 5%

Release sites in 2017

Patients by treatment outcome 2017

REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMMES

Lesser Kestrel

The 25 Lesser Kestrel pairs in the Centre had 92 chicks. Most of them were released in the adaptation module for the ‘Lesser Kestrel Recovery’ project, LIFE11 NAT/BG/360. In 2017 we tried out the area around the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre as a new territory for the releasing of young Lesser Kestrels, where 40 birds were released.

Saker Falcon

In 2017, the 9 Saker Falcon pairs had 15 chicks, 13 of which, as usual, were released via the adaptation aviaries near the village of Malko Kadevo, Stara Zagora region. The end of the season for the projects’ field-work was marked by the Saker Falcon Festival, initiated by locals and the team of the ‘Saker Falcon Reintroduction’ project.

Vultures

As part of the ‘Bright Future for the Black Vulture’ project, LIFE14 NAT/BG/649, The Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre was designated as a place for quarantine, which 77 Griffon Vultures passed through. A success was the laid egg of the Black Vultures’ pair, even though proving infertile.

Egyptian Vultures

From the summer of 2017 Green Balkans is part of the ‘Egyptian Vulture NEW LIFE’ project /LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874, partnering 14 other countries on the route of the Egyptian Vulture’s migration, united for the better future of the species. The role of the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre in the project is to create pairs, which would be foster parents in the process of raising young ones, before they are released in the wild.
CAMPAIGNS
Over 3000 kids and students visited the Centre in 2017. Our team, on the other hand, visited 40 events, kindergartens, schools and universities, where we presented our activities. In addition we had a number of official visits from representatives of the local and national authorities, of ministries, and of national and international partners of Green Balkans.

In 2017 the donation campaign of the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre continued. We thank everyone, who believed in us and helped us!


VOLUNTEERING
Volunteering is a calling. It is a higher form of humanism, and for us is a show of trust, but also a responsibility that comes with the job. We thank everyone, who donated their time and energy for the injured wild animals of Bulgaria!


TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
In 2017 the Centre was partnering the Ministry of Education and Science on project ‘Students and graduates’ practical training’. During the time of our participation in it, over 70 students, most of them from Toska University in Stara Zagora, went through their practical training. In addition, in the summer we had students from PGVM ‘Ivan Pavlov’ for training in the Centre, as well Veterinary Medicine students doing their internships. Exchange students from Romania and Turkey were here as well, to gain knowledge on veterinary medicine for wild animals.
FACILITIES, CONSTRUCTION AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The different facilities in the Centre all need maintenance – the adaptation aviaries, specialised rooms, cages... 65 in total are only the aviaries, 9 are the adaptation aviaries for releasing small birds, 17 different rooms for servicing the centre, 2 pools, 23 nest boxes for Lesser Kestrels, and we have 14 acres of yard for the two bases. 166 are the CCTV cameras, mounted and maintained by our team.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE BEYOND ITS PREMISES

Often our team and volunteers are conducting field work, connected closely to the work in the Centre – constructing adaptation aviaries, preparing terrain for releasing birds there, monitoring cetaceans, bats, caves... This way, not only we're being of help, but educating ourselves as well.

MEDIA ABOUT US

In 2017 we were in of 150 articles, reportages in news in different local and national, online and printed editions.

FUNDING

Incomes received at the Rescue Center in 2017: BGN/€:
322 268 BGN/164 842 €

Costs incurred by the Rescue Center in 2017:

- Maintenance costs
- Specialized food, rations and supplements
- Transport costs
- Administrative costs
- Veterinary service
- Staff and external experts

- 19%
- 6%
- 41%
- 6%
- 6%
- 12%
- 4%
DONORS AND PARTNERS
We thank everyone who trusted us and helped us in 2017.

Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) EMEPA

Zoo Praha

Trakia University – Stara Zagora

Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation

Vocational High School of Veterinary Medicine – Stara Zagora

‘Students and graduates’ practical training’ project

Bulgarian Charities Aid Foundation

Ministry of Education and Science

LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community (EU)

Toner Stream

ContourGlobal

ERNATURA 2000 network

Insurance JSC ARMEEC

EuroNatur – Germany

CLIMA – D Ltd.

euroNATUR

Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF)

Stichting Wildlife

Praha Municipality

Zlin Zoo – Czech Republic

Alwetterzoo-Munster – Germany

Tierpark Goerlitz – Germany

Budapest Zoo – Hungary

Dierenrijk – Netherlands

Amus – Spain

Ustaritz – France

Zoo Barcelona – Spain