

## Project Update: March 2019

The activities within this project has been started with delay due to the late confirmation and for this reason we lost the main period foreseen for white stork census (March-June). Even in those conditions we started to collect the data as long as it was possible and during this period we get the data for about 50 new nests and their breeding success.

One of the main project activity within this project was erection of nest platforms for white stork which are at risk. This information together with technical specifications has been given to the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning who made a good cooperation and together with experts from Kosovo Energy Distribution Services (KEDS) were constructed and installed those platforms (five of them in August 2018 and two of them in February 2019) in some of the localities within the Kaçaniku Municipality.

Platform erection started in August 2018, inappropriate time for this activity since they still didn't start their migration, but the reason was the violent removal of the nests from the electrical pylons by the KEDS employees with the justification that they pose a risk for the normal operation of the high voltage lines. The reaction of the Institute for Nature Protection, after alarming this situation from the Civil Society were very quick. The destroyed nests have been repaired and they have been established in the same poles but now with constructed platforms.

The success of those new established nests has to be confirmed within the 2019 period.



Since it was the first such activity in our country the communities were very interested about this action, mostly by sharing this information through social networks and informing others about this activity.

During June 2018 three young birds were tagged with GPS loggers (for storks from the same nest were ringed also), in western part of the country, in Pobergje within Deçani Municipality. This activity has been realised in cooperation with Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Konstanz University in Germany and Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection.



Specialists of KEDS are mounting platforms for stork nests on electric poles on the territory of Kaçanik Municipality