## Project Update: March 2022

I am going to report on the project updates, which took place from the date of publishing the previous report in November 2021.



## 1. Bird protection against death on distribution lines

As we mentioned earlier, at the end of July 2021, based on the findings of the inspection by the procurator's office of the Republic of Kalmykia an appeal was presented to the owner of distribution lines. Since following the results of procuratorial directive consideration, the owner did not remedy the breach, the procurator's office filed a suit in the court on compelling the owner to install bird-protective devices on distribution lines in the nature reserves. On 15.12.2021, the Elista city court considered our materials on bird deaths in a civil suit. Under established circumstances, the court ordered the defendant to install bird-protective devices on distribution lines in the Sarpinsky and Kharbinsky wildlife sanctuaries within 1 year.

However, as we expected, the owner of distribution lines Rosseti-Yug PJSC decided to delay bird-protective measures. He appealed the court decision to a higher authority. As a result, on 31.03.2022, the second sitting of court was held in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kalmykia on our case. Although the first instance judgment remained unchanged, Rosseti-Yug PJSC intends to appeal the decision again. Due to this, we are committed to striving for taking bird-protective measures both in the nature reserves and across the territory of Kalmykia, to prevent the further massive bird kill from electrocution, in particular – steppe eagles.

## 2. Publishing research results

Based on the results of processing of data obtained during fieldwork, the international journal Raptors conservation published an article on the state of the steppe eagle

population in Kalmykia as for 2021 (attached), the second article on the bird death on distribution lines is being prepared for publishing.

Articles in the popular scientific format were also published in a republic's popular glossy magazine and 4 regional newspapers. Moreover, the analysis of the current situation with the steppe eagle and formulated recommendations on studying and preserving this species were submitted to the Department of Environmental Resources of the Republic of Kalmykia for their use in the further work when making management decisions.



## 3. Raising public awareness

In cooperation with professional designer Anna Mostovaya, we adapted steppe eagle data to the popular scientific format of a booklet, stand, poster, as well as information slides for social media (attached). In total, 500 booklets, 50 posters, 9 stands and 20 information slides were made. Booklets were distributed among Kalmykia schoolchildren, representatives of natural resources use and preservation organizations, farmers. Stands were distributed among 9 schools of Kalmykia located in the key habitats of the steppe eagle.



Information slides were distributed on the official pages of the Chyornye Zemli Reserve (VK, Facebook, Instagram), as well as in major local public groups (over 25 thousand subscribers) on the above-mentioned social media. Interactive classes about the steppe eagle were taught to children in 6 schools of 4 regions of Kalmykia together with biology teachers. Using bright and simple examples, the children acquainted themselves with the work of ornithologists who apply various techniques to study and conserve eagles. In doing so, the focus was made on the fact that every person can contribute to the conservation of rare species. In total, the interactive classes covered 343 people.



