

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
Full Name	Salih Tora Benzeyen
Project Title	Raptors Conservation Action: Act II
Application ID	34282-2
Grant Amount	6000 GBP
Email Address	tora.benzeyen@gmail.com
Date of this Report	10.10.2022

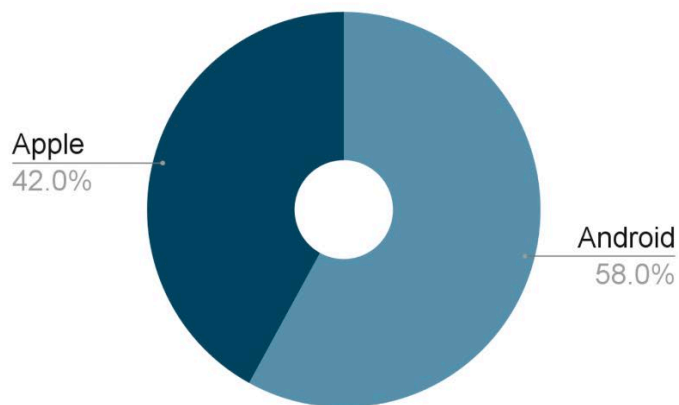
**1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
<p>Creation of "Life Road" digital tool as a citizen science method to collect extensive data, increase public awareness via contribution and reach more information about the roadkill and other threats towards the raptors.</p>				<p>The development of "Life Road" is the biggest achievement of the project. It is the first of its kind in nature conservation history of Turkey. During the development process, we once more realised the necessity of such mobile app and took positive feedback from different parts of community. As team, we were wishing and expecting a success from the app. The main audience were the fieldworkers, researchers, academics, birdwatchers, and nature photographers. However, we also found out that many ordinary citizens were showing great interest to the app and shared many observations with us.</p> <p>The app is unique for sustainable and long-term conservation planning in Turkey because it is simple, easy to use and serves for a focused objective. During the development process, as a team, we took advice from our academic advisors and partners to maximise the impact of the tool, while make it easy to use. We were anticipating 300 downloads and 150 denouncements from the app. On contrary, more than 927 downloads in App Store and Google Play had been achieved and more than 420 denouncements had been shared during the project period. The collected data gives a wide range of knowledge and help us to understand the impact roadkill threat against raptors and other wildlife elements.</p>
<p>Expansion of our knowledge about the roadkills of raptors and</p>				<p>With help of our experience from the first RSG, as a team, we were active researchers on raptor conservation. In</p>

<p>other wildlife elements in terms of the hotspots, the species, the frequency of cases etc. in the project area.</p>			<p>that sense, “Life Road” gave great support to our efforts. Also, we continued to expand our knowledge via road surveys and observations in the project area. We spent more than 40 days actively in the field and covered more than 8000 km for road surveys. During those studies, we came across with more than 60 roadkill cases as team.</p>
<p>Reaching the local communities specially children and young people to raise awareness and expand the project’s objectives</p>			<p>At the beginning of the project, the impacts of pandemic were still active. It wasn’t secure enough to carry out physical activities with the local communities. However, we used the opportunity to reach locals with the help of “Life Road” app and the interactive digital materials on social media. In that sense, the cities in project area, Ankara, Çankırı and Kastamonu were the top of all cities that shared more denouncements than the others. After the second half of the project period, we had the chance to meet with children and young people from local areas for bird watching events and awareness seminars, because of the decrease on pandemic regulations. We organised three different activities with participation of more than 80 students.</p>

**Total Download of  
 “Life Road” App**

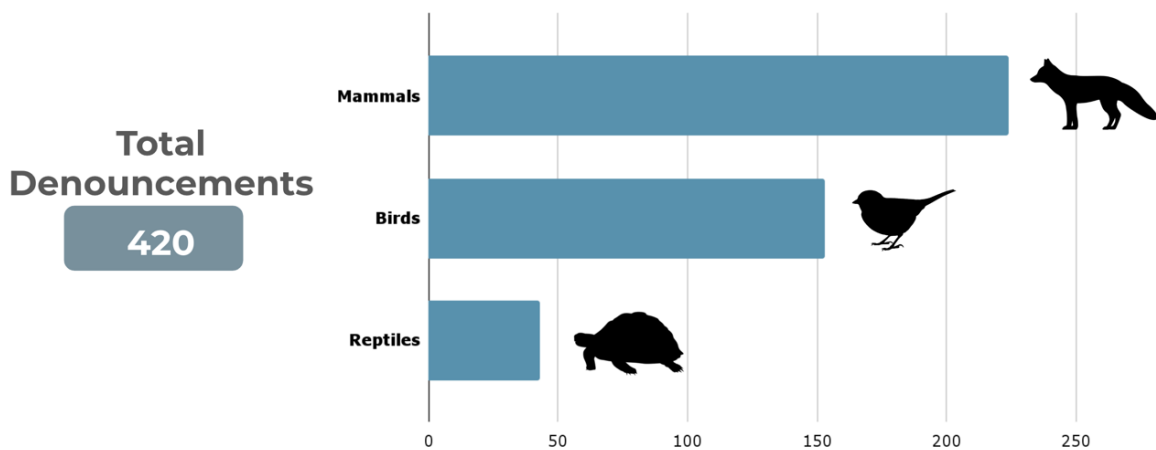
**927**



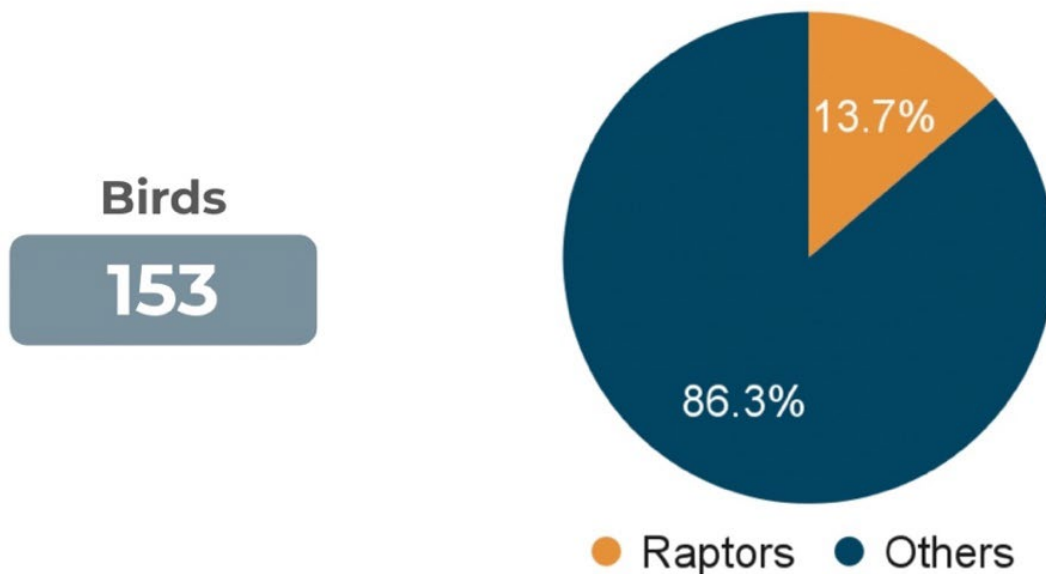
**Graph 1.** Number of downloads of the “Life Road” app according to operating system

**2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

- Roadkill is one of the most serious threats to wildlife. It is wider than anticipated and more victims/cases are being largely overlooked. After launching the app, it started to collect many denouncements from all around Turkey. However, as a team, we had more feedback than denouncements from researchers, birdwatchers, and field surveyors to update us on how many cases they came across in the field but no chance to record properly due to the many logistical challenges. This reality showed us the necessity of “Life Road” app but also gave the mission to develop the app and the project in future.
- Mammals are more common victims than the birds, especially the small mammals such as martens, hares, and foxes. The most denounced mammal species are European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), European hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). Additionally, several denouncements had been confirmed for the larger mammals such as golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), European badger (*Meles meles*) and brown bear (*Ursus arctos*).
- Birds are second largest group of victims of the roadkill. However, most birds are the small passerines instead of raptors. There had been more than 153 bird denouncements via Life Road App during the project period. Raptors form only 13.7% of all denouncements. The most common raptor species were barn owl (*Tyto alba*), little owl (*Athene noctua*) and long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*). Additionally, there are couple records of long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), kestrel (*Falco tinninculus*), lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) and marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*).



**Graph 2.** Number of denouncements according to the classes via “Life Road” app.

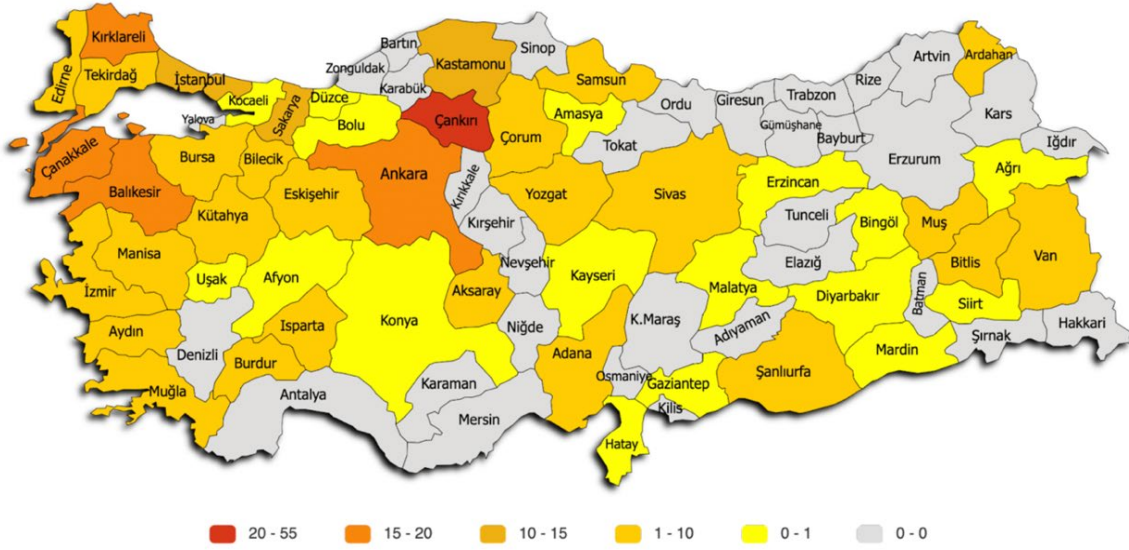


**Graph 3.** Distribution of bird denouncements according to the species via “Life Road” app.

**3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

After approval of the project, an intense and extensive economic instability occurred in Turkey. In the beginning, it was seemed that the project could easily deal with the problem because of its planned budget. However, the impact of this instability did not come from the economic side but the unwillingness and inactivity of the partner organisations, especially governmental institutions. They did not want to involve any kind of “extra” workload and get attention of supreme authorities by spending effort and budget.

Therefore, the project struggled to get support from governmental organisations for the field surveys, distribution of “Life Road” mobile app and publishment of “Raptors Guide”. The team had been completed all the field surveys with the project budget and covered the project area as planned. The lack of local governmental institution support had been felt to cover larger areas to get more detailed data. In any case, this did not affect the overall data quality but just the quantity. Because the high interest on community towards the app closed this gap quickly. More downloads and denouncements than anticipation had been sustained via the “Life Road” app. Successful digital communication strategy on social media platforms were key reason for this unanticipated community support.



**Map 1.** Distribution of cities according to number of denouncements via "Life Road" App

In terms of the Raptors Guide, the team had hard time on the process of publishment. The willingness and declarations for support in the beginning of project reduced after the economic instability of the country. To deal with the publication problem, the team changed its direction to the local municipalities and other partner organisations. While we completed all other activities in the beginning of April 2022, we continued the communication for the publication of "Raptors Guide" for more than 4 months until September 2022. The slow bureaucratic process was the main reason for this delay. After intense communication efforts, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality had agreed to publish the book to support the project. The printing and distribution process will be start in the beginning of 2023. We believe that it could be better in any aspects, if we plan the project for 15-18 months instead of 12 at the beginning of application process.

#### **4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.**

First, the whole project had been built up on the participation of local communities with the support of mobile app. The main data collecting method was citizen science via "Life Road" app. More than anticipated downloads happened, and more data has been shared with the app. The locals as well as field researchers, farmers and drivers shared their own roadkill or injured raptor observations by using their mobile phone. They became the citizen scientists that are contribute the conservation of wildlife in their local areas.

Second, the inclusion of children and young people were always the top priority of the conservation action. During the pandemic, it was physically and technically very difficult to come together with them for any kind of activities. So, we developed various digital content that aimed to get the know the raptors on social media channels to fill that gap. Luckily, in the second half of the project, the pandemic conditions had got better. As a team, we organised three birdwatching events with



participation of 80 students from the local schools in the project area. The students are still on contact and shares their observation with us time to time.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

The app was a milestone for conservation efforts in Turkey. It didn't just focus on raptors but also other wildlife elements. The collected data has a great potential to help wildlife conservation. So, as a team we would like to continue to work on that issue and keep the app alive for more comprehensive studies. During the project, we preserved the app's independence to keep Rufford's name in the foreground. However, we continued to communicate with potential partners to sustain the app after the end of project. Nowadays, we are in a negotiation process with some of the partners and soon there will be several new updates and enhancements for the app to gain more detailed data and tools to process the collected data.

The "Raptors Guide" is the first of its kind in Turkey. It is a comprehensive study to get the know raptors first hand. However, like the all research books, it requires enhancements and detailed knowledge to present a larger perspective. As a team, we have already started to work to enlarge the contents with more detailed knowledge, illustrations, and data to give more comprehensive overlook to the raptor conservation in Turkey.

#### **6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

An online consultation and knowledge sharing meeting had been organised with participation of 30 academics, experts, NGO professionals, wildlife photographers, birdwatchers, and students from partner organisations. It was a very beneficial meeting to share the results of project to take feedback to develop the weak points of the project as well as to gain ideas to sustain the project in long-term.

The project collected extensive data on raptor and wildlife conservation. The team is working on an academic paper to publish the results of the project. It is on the finalisation process and will be submitted to the academic journals. At the same time, the raw data is open to all researchers and conservationists to use in their academic studies. We had been informed the academic community and experts which are working on wildlife conservation for possibility to use the open-source data.

The final report will be shared with its highlights on the social media channels of the project as well as with media. During the project, the milestones had been shared with the community time to time, but after the final report is submitted, the results will be simplified and visualised to share in digital sphere. Additionally, the "Raptors Guide" itself is one of the best ways to share the objectives of the project.

#### **7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

First step is the continuation of the mobile app to gain long-term data to create sustainable solutions to threats facing raptors and other wildlife elements. We feel responsibility to serve sustainable and effective efforts for wildlife conservation in

Turkey. Because of that, we carry out an active communication for the future of the app with potential partners such as NGOs and municipalities.

Second step is the production of more interactive materials that could engage the public. By this way, we aim to increase the overall interests and awareness for wildlife and especially raptors in Turkey.

Third and final step is the keep the tools alive and the action active until the next step of the "Raptors Conservation Action" project. The "Raptors Guide" is an important tool in that mean. Until the next step, we would like to popularise the guide and prepare a suitable environment for the future of raptors conservation in Turkey.

**8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Firstly, the project and the app had been placed in several digital media platforms, online blogs, and news websites. The Rufford Foundation had been mentioned as the funder of the project and the app.

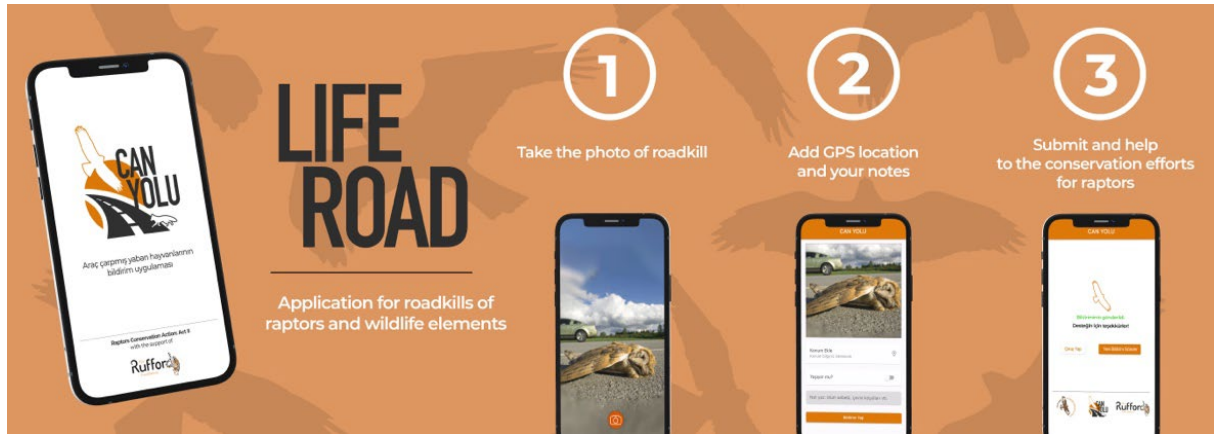
*Table 1. The list of websites that shared news about the project.*

<b>Name of the Website</b>	<b>Link the website</b>
<b>Yeşil Gazete</b>	<a href="https://yesilgazete.org/can-yolu-mobil-uygulamasi-arac-carpmis-bir-yaban-hayvaniyla-karsilastiginizda-ne-yapmalisiniz/">https://yesilgazete.org/can-yolu-mobil-uygulamasi-arac-carpmis-bir-yaban-hayvaniyla-karsilastiginizda-ne-yapmalisiniz/</a>
<b>İklim Haber</b>	<a href="https://www.iklimhaber.org/arac-carpmis-bir-yaban-hayvaniyla-karsilasildiginda-ne-yapilmali/">https://www.iklimhaber.org/arac-carpmis-bir-yaban-hayvaniyla-karsilasildiginda-ne-yapilmali/</a>
<b>Bianet</b>	<a href="https://m.bianet.org/bianet/hayvan-haklari/254555-arac-carpmis-bir-yaban-hayvaniyla-karsilasınca-ne-yapmalisiniz">https://m.bianet.org/bianet/hayvan-haklari/254555-arac-carpmis-bir-yaban-hayvaniyla-karsilasınca-ne-yapmalisiniz</a>
<b>Milliyet</b>	<a href="https://www.milliyet.com.tr/teknoloji/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek-6658268">https://www.milliyet.com.tr/teknoloji/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek-6658268</a>
<b>Haberler.com</b>	<a href="https://www.haberler.com/guncel/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-14587478-haberi/">https://www.haberler.com/guncel/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-14587478-haberi/</a>
<b>Bursa'da Bugün</b>	<a href="https://www.bursadabugun.com/haber/hayvanlari-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-o-yollar-1465667.html">https://www.bursadabugun.com/haber/hayvanlari-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-o-yollar-1465667.html</a>
<b>Sondakika.com</b>	<a href="https://www.sondakika.com/haber/haber-yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-14587478/">https://www.sondakika.com/haber/haber-yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-14587478/</a>
<b>Bursa Sancak</b>	<a href="https://www.bursasancak.com.tr/genel/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek-h321697.html">https://www.bursasancak.com.tr/genel/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek-h321697.html</a>
<b>Bursa TV</b>	<a href="https://www.bursatv.com.tr/genel/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek-h939160.html">https://www.bursatv.com.tr/genel/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek-h939160.html</a>
<b>Number1</b>	<a href="https://www.numberone.com.tr/2021/12/10/can-yolu-uygulamasi-hayvan-kazalarinin-onune-gececek/">https://www.numberone.com.tr/2021/12/10/can-yolu-uygulamasi-hayvan-kazalarinin-onune-gececek/</a>

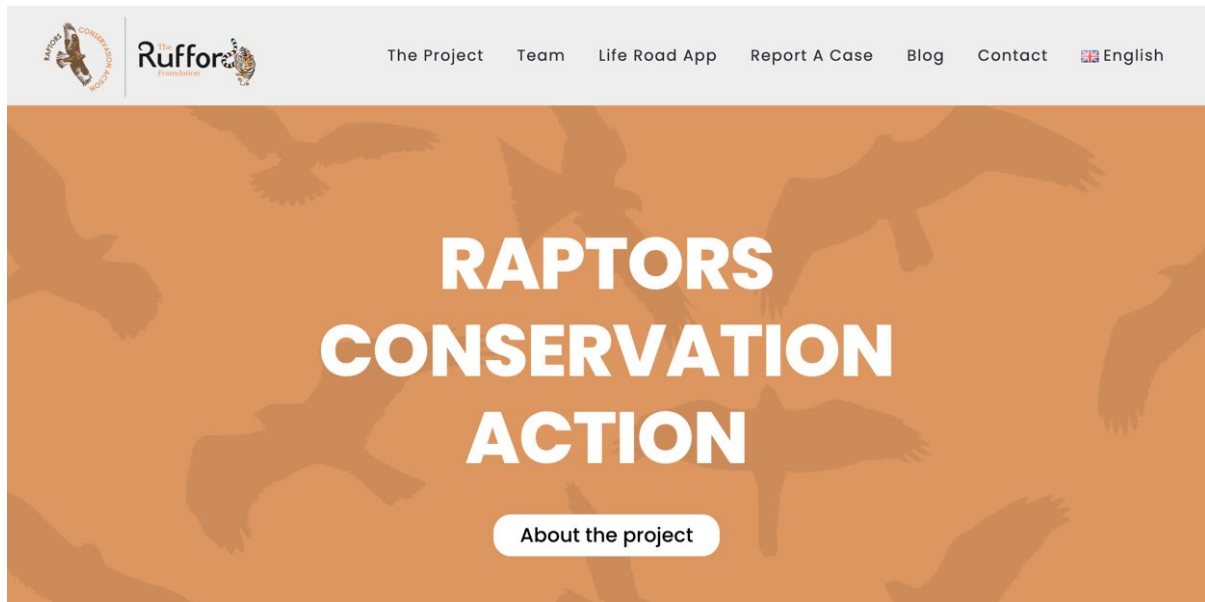


<b>Sonsöz</b>	<a href="https://sonsoz.com.tr/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek/">https://sonsoz.com.tr/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek/</a>
<b>Vizyon24</b>	<a href="https://www.vizyon724.com/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek/">https://www.vizyon724.com/yaban-hayvanlarini-koruyan-yeni-uygulama-tehlikeli-yollar-tespit-edilecek/</a>
<b>Çağın Gazetesi</b>	<a href="https://www.cagingazetesi.com.tr/gundem/can-yolu-hayvanlari-kurtariyor-144419">https://www.cagingazetesi.com.tr/gundem/can-yolu-hayvanlari-kurtariyor-144419</a>

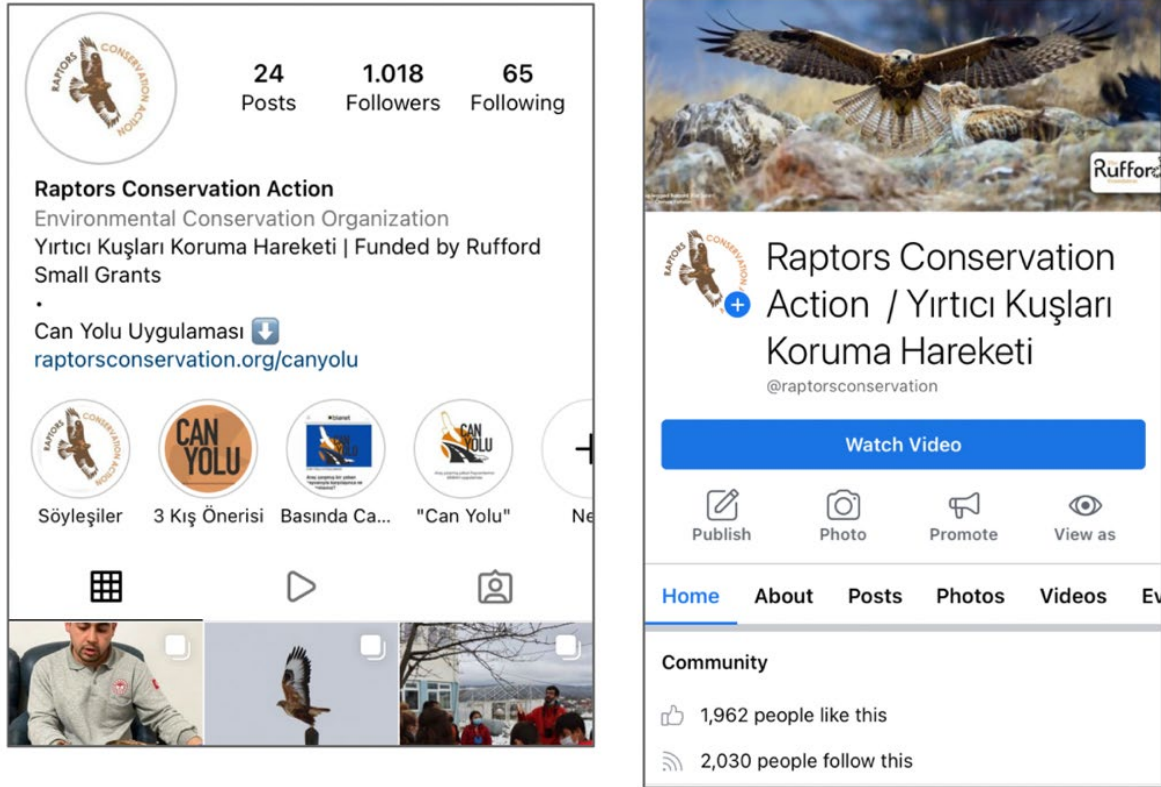
We produced online materials on project website and social media accounts. The “Life Road” app which was the most visible and effective material of the project carried out the Rufford Foundation logo all time.



Picture 1. The steps that how the “Life Road” app works.



Picture 2. Home page of [raptorsconservation.org](http://raptorsconservation.org)



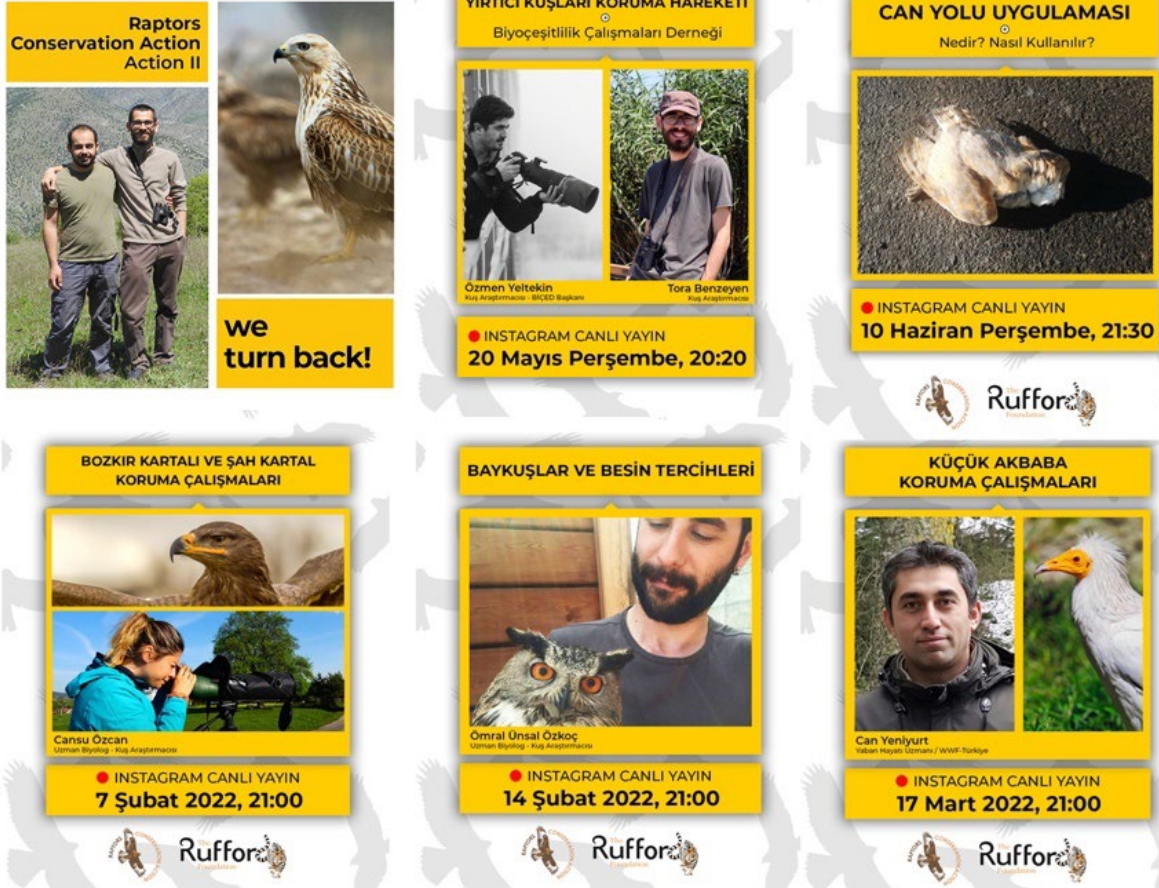
**Picture 3.** Profiles of Instagram and Facebook account of the project.

We printed several cards for birdwatching activities to share with students. The Rufford Foundation logo were always on the foreground.

We organised six live seminars with participation of experts who are working on raptor conservation on Turkey. The videos reached more than 5000 views in total. In each seminar, The Rufford Foundation had been highlighted as the funder of project.

An advertisement video had been produced to promote the "Life Road" app in digital channels. The Rufford Foundation logo had been used at the end of video. The video gained more than 36,000 views in YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook.





Picture 4. Announcement posts of the online seminars.



Picture 5. A screenshot from the video. You can watch full video via [clicking here](#).

**9. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**Salih Tora Benzeyen** – *Project management, communication, illustrations.*

He coordinated and implemented all the project activities, meetings, reporting, presentations, publications, digital communication, and any other managerial issues of the project. He prepared all scientific illustrations that used in the “Raptors Guide” and co-wrote the texts. Coordinated all communication issues for the print process of the book with freelancers, partners, and third-party supporters.

**Onur Okur** – *Field coordinator, veterinary expert, data collection, academic studies*

He coordinated all field activities, surveys, data collection and analysis, communication with academic partners. He carried out the surveys on the project area. Additionally, he actively engaged all veterinary activities on the raptors to treat and rehabilitation of injured ones in the project area, if necessary.

**Merve Temiz** – *Communication & editorial support*

She supported the communication activities of project on social media channels. Additionally, she became the text editor of “Raptors Guide”

**Özmen Yeltekin** – *Fund management on behalf of hosting NGO*

He carried out all legal procedures to follow-up the financial requirements of the project as the representative of hosting NGO, “Association for Biodiversity Studies”. Additionally, he provided the local knowledge on conservation of some raptor species in various regions of Turkey.

**Nizamettin Yavuz** – *Development of the maps & technical advice*

He prepared the distribution maps of raptors for the “Raptors Guide” with up-to-date observations. Additionally, he shared his field survey experiences with the team.

**Okan Ürker & Kiraz Erciyas Yavuz** – *academic advisors*

They shared their academic knowledges with the team to maximize the impact of project on nature conservation in Turkey.

**Ece Adıgüzel** – *field support and veterinary assistance*

She assisted Onur Okur during the field surveys and supported veterinary activities when needed.

**10. Any other comments?**

We are thankful to The Rufford Foundation for giving us this great opportunity to develop the conservation efforts in Turkey. As young researchers, we are happy and feel ourselves lucky. We are grateful to gain chance to expend our capacity to create positives changes in the lives of threatened raptors species as well as other wildlife elements. We hope to continue our “conservation action” by follow-up projects.



Some photos from the activities



**Photo 1-2.** Team on the road surveys.





**Photo 3-4.** Team on the seminars with students in a local school.





**Photo 5-6.** Birdwatching event with students from a local school.