

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Maksim Karanović
Project Title	The Future of Imperial Eagles in Serbia
Application ID	34638-1
Date of this Report	6.6.2022

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
Early-season nesting site survey				A total of 45 sites have been visited, resulting in valuable data from many locations that were so far unknown. Even though there were no new nesting sites discovered, these allowed for us to gather data on the habitats about the suitability for the eastern Imperial eagles, as well as particular trees and the local bird fauna, prey availability and threats. These have been scored and evaluated to highlight the most suitable habitats which could be planned for any active conservation measures in the future.
Fledgling ringing / Satellite tagging				Two young eastern Imperial eagles have been marked with satellite tags, making them the first members of their species to be tracked in Serbia. Furthermore, all the known chicks have been ring-tagged successfully.
Continuous nesting site surveys and guarding				Throughout the year, the locations were regularly visited. This resulted in safe fledging of all the known chicks. Furthermore, one new potential nesting site has been discovered. An incident was also recorded; one of the nests has fallen due to cold, and detection allowed for action on this matter.
Education and Communication actions				Posters have been printed and distributed to local schools in the areas close to current eagle habitat, as well as in other major cities. The notice boards have been constructed and set up. Social media campaign has been active on BirdLife Serbia social media.

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

- a).** Marking and ringing of the eastern Imperial eagle chicks (details below).
- b).** Survey data- Gathering data on the so far unknown or lesser-known sites, as well as evaluating these in terms of EIE habitat suitability, is an important and necessary first step in the conservation planning process.
- c).** Discovery of a potential new nesting site - A new nest discovery could mean a fourth known EIE nest in Serbia. The site in question is to be re-affirmed, due to the absence of birds at the time of discovery

Two young eastern Imperial eagles have been marked with satellite tags, making them the first members of their species to be tracked in Serbia.

The action was coordinated together with relevant national authorities (the Nature Conservation Institute of Vojvodina Province), as well as assisted by our colleagues from the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society (MME - BirdLife Hungary). The complete known national population of fledglings was also marked with both metal and plastic colour rings. These actions will, hopefully, pave the way for much more insight and data on the movement and behaviour of the birds, as well as improve their safety and lower the risk of human-caused mortality.

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

Even though the continuous survey was planned to only take place until October 2021, our schedule was planned too tightly – this resulted in the need to prolong the continuous surveying until February 2022, but this also resulted in the important potential nest discovery during January 2022, as well as the discovery of the fallen nest.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

The surveying was largely assisted by a local hunting association which operates in the vicinity of the nesting sites. Their help was of key importance, and the good relations that have been established allowed for good communication, as well as raising their awareness to the importance of EIE conservation.

The materials produced allowed for many local establishments to receive informative posters and allow for more awareness of the EIE in local communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

It is crucial to actively continue the work on both conservation planning and active conservation measures to secure the future of EIE in Serbia.

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

The satellite tag data has been added to the Movebank and Anitra tracking platforms, to allow for our colleagues to view and use certain data, as well as request full data on the movement of our tagged eagles in real time.

The data gathered within the field survey will be a part of the conservation planning process, in which one of the next steps is to create and share EIE habitat suitability maps.

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

The most important next steps in EIE conservation in Serbia would be to continue the work on gathering data and working towards a comprehensive species conservation plan. Furthermore, regular surveys and local communication and contacts is still very crucial to keep up to allow for the current successful nesting pairs to survive and thrive. Habitat restoration measures are, also, fundamental for the future of the species.

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?

Yes, the logo was used in the poster design, as well as the notice boards design. The foundation received and will continue to receive publicity with the usage of these materials.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Mirjana Rankov – Field Surveys, local contact management, ringing of the chicks

Radislav Mirić – Field Surveys, active conservation measures

Damir Trnovac – Field Surveys, drone surveys

10. Any other comments?



