Conservation of Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus) in Azerbaijan

Project Report



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1. Brief background and summary of project

Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus) European breeding population is small (as few 3.500 pairs), and declined substantially between 1970-1990. On top of earlier declines, this equates to a very large decline (>50 %) over three generations (BirdLife International, 2004). The IUCN classifies the raptor as Globally Threatened species with category - Endangered.

It is mentioned as a priority species in many international conventions and lists. In Azerbaijan is nesting species. Population size: >100 - 300 (Bird in Europe, Birdlife, 2004), agree to M. Patrikeev in the late 1980- early 1990s – 80-100 pairs (Patrikeev, 2004). The exact number of individuals is completely unknown yet.

Azerbaijan is the country with fast developing industry and agriculture and as result with strong human impact to the natural habitats. Intensification of animal husbandry is result degradation of forest, irrigation of agricultural fields is lead to unstable water regime of many important water reservoirs; urbanization lead to general environmental pollution etc. All these influence on decrease territories, in first duty of unprotected key biodiversity areas which have not protection regime supported by government. The literature information about Egyptian Vulture is not modern. The last researches for this species was conducted by Michael Patrikeev in 1991 (Patrikeev, 2004) and as result the data base about of Egyptian Vulture is poor. Project will give opportunity to collect data about it and to calculate population size in Azerbaijan. All of this will help us to identify the threats for Egyptian Vulture.

The main aim of the project is research of Egyptian Vulture in Nakhchivan Autonomy Republic and Gobustan region as selected areas.

This project is focused on the conservation of Egyptian Vulture in Azerbaijan. Nakhchivan Autonomic Republic and Gobustan regions were selected for the project as the most likely places of key species distribution but also covered some parts in western part of Greater Caucasus. The project had duration 10 months and helps to fill the gaps of data on the number and distribution of the Egyptian Vulture in Azerbaijan. In result 51 nests of Egyptian Vulture were found and general number of EV in Azerbaijan is estimated between 200-500 pairs. Information leaflet on EV was distributed between local populations during expedition work. Nesting habitats and main threats were identified. Digital Data base for EV was created.

2. Objectives

Management

Establishing of project coordination

Purchasing the necessary equipment - some equipment are required for field survey and they was showed in budget;

Project implementation (Research and public awareness)

Conducting of field surveys - field surveys will organize to key area during of both breeding and wintering periods of Egyptian Vulture. Team will take the coordinates of every nest of species;

Analyzing of obtaining data which gathered during of field surveys - team will identify threats by observation and interview with locals;

Creation of distribution map of species on the base of collected data with help of GIS programs. This will give us opportunity for to calculate of nests distance and population size of species in this area;

Preparation and publication of informational leaflet about key species and its habitat – Informational leaflet will prepare after collected and analyzed data. It will include main information about Egyptian Vulture, its habitat, threats and its role in biodiversity; Distribution of informational leaflet - It will serve for enlighten of local people about conservation of project species;

Work with Mass Media - Conducting of press-releases and press-conference about project success;

Post project activities

Prepare and send the financial and activity report

3. Activities and results

Management:

Establishing of project coordination.

During February-April 2011 project team was established. This team included Sevinj Sarukhanova (coordinator), Tahir Kerimov, Sevinj Mirzoyeva, Sevinj Humbatova, Elchin Sultanov and Arzu Mammadov (field researchers, 2 last persons participated voluntarily).

Purchasing the necessary equipment

Necessary equipment: 1telecope for conducting of field work was purchased (Pic.1). *Project implementation (Research and public awareness)*

Conducting of field surveys

Finding of nests of Egyption Vulture (EV) was conducted mainly betwen April and June. For finding of nesting places we used quetionaire (see. Pic. below) and literature data about preferable habitats for nesting of EV.In general 51 field days with participation 3 or 4 reserachers were spent for this project. From this number 33 field days with particiption 2-3 persons were financed from budget of project and other reserches were conducted voluntarily. Our experience had showed that most appreciable time for search of nests of EV is second part of May and June. Birds during this time had occupied nest already and watching during morning or evening time help to find arriving or departuring birds from halls and caves weher we had proposed their nesting.





Pic.1-3. During field study.

Nests are located as rule in halls or caves on hills or small mountains, sometimes under the cornices in cliffs. Monitoring of breeding succes was conducted during July just befor leaving by nestlings of nests (as rule in beginning or middle august) and some new nests wer found too. During monitoring we often could see the nestling. It was qauit big and noticeable but still could not flight. But in case when halls of caves were deep watching of nestlig was possible only fter leaving by him the nest. As rule young birds first 1-2 week or more still occur around the nest.

It is easy different nest in cave or hall because it always consist dry branches. Besides living nest always has white colored spots from excrements and uric acid or birds. But it is not always visible because birds sometimes prefer do defecation in depth of nest or on distance from nest.





Pic.4-5. Nests of EV along Goychay river.



Pic. 6-7. Birds in front of nests.



Pic. 8. Nest in cliffs – Gobustan.



Pic. 9. EV on carcassus.

Main results of our field work researches presentated in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of field researches

ID	CODE	HABITAT	NEST place	Nest number (incl. old)	REGION	DATE (dd,mm,yyy y)	TIME	Numbe r of birds	AGE- SEX	NOTE	Name	Elevation, m
					Nakhchivan AR							
1	Noh-1	Mountain plane	Eroded mountains with height near 100- 150 m	1	Babek distrct, vil. Nehram, mt. Nohuddag, Zangazur NP	19.04.2011, 30.07.11	905	3	ad .pair, 1 nestling	Small cave in mt., 70- 80 m from ground, direction to south, small branches on bottom	Nohuddag	1270
2	Noh-2	Mountain plane	-"	1	"_"	7/30/2011	930	1	ad frmale?, 1 nestling	"_"	Nohuddag	1270
3	Dar-1	"_"	"_"	1	Babek distrct, Mt. Darasham	01.06.2011, 30.07.2011	835	2	ad pair, inside of nest nonvisible	Hole in mt., 120-130 m from ground, dirction to south-west	Darasham	1302
4	Dar-2	"_"	"_"	1	_"	30.07.2011	930	1	ad fem, inside of nest nonvisible	Holein mt., 90-100 m from ground, 150 m from Dar-1	Darasham	1302
5	Aydash-1	"_"	Canion, depth 150- 200 m	2	Julfa distr., vil. Diza, Mt. Aydash	17.04.2011, 31.07.2011	700- 900	3	ad. pair,1 nestl. 5-6 week age	Hole 100-110 m from ground	Aydash	776
6	Aydash-2	"_"	-"	1	"_"	17.04.2011, 31.07.2012	700- 900	3	ad pair, 1 nestl. 5-6 week age	Hole 70-80 m from ground	Aydash	776
7	Aydash-3	"_"	"_"	2	"_"	17.04.2011, 31.07.2011	700- 900	3	ad pair, 1 nestl. 5-6 week age	Hol 100-110 m from ground	Aydash	776
8	Aydash-4	"_"	"_"	2	"_"	17.04.2011, 31.07.2014	700- 900	3	ad pair, 1 nestl. 5-6 week age	Hole100-110 m from ground	Aydash	776

9	Darydag- 1	Mountains	Canyon 110-120 m depth	1	Babek distr., between mounts Ilandag and Darydag, "Armammad piri" site	19.05.2011; 19.06.2011; 30.07.2011	800- 900	3	_"	Hole80-90 m from ground, direction to south	Darydag	1205
10	Darydag- 2	Mountains	"_"	1	"_"	"_"		3	"_"	"-" 250 m from Darydag-1	Darydag	1205
11	Ord-1	Mountains	Steap cliffs	1	Ordubad distr., vil. Kotam, Mt. Kotam	421.04.2011	900- 1000	3	ad pair+1 subad. in flight	Hole 80-90 m from ground	Kotam	1089
12	Shar-1	"_"	Steap cliffs	1	Sharur distr., vil. Shahbulag, Mt. Hadiqayib	5/29/2011	100- 1100	1	1 adult	hole 70-80 m from ground, nest direction to south	Shahbulag	1653
13	Shahb-1	"_"	Steap cliffs	1	Shahbuz distr., vil. Bichenek, Mt. Bozdag	05.05.2011	1100- 1200	2	ad. pair in flight	Hole 90-100 m from ground	Bichenek	2100
14	Ord-1	Mountain plane	Canyon 150-170 m depth	1	Ordubad distr.,near Ordubad town, site Dasta	15.05.11; 31.07.11	1100- 1200	2	1 ad+ 1 nestling 5- 6 week	Hole 120-130 m from ground	Ordubad	699
15	Ord-2	Mountain plane		1	Ordubad distr.,near Ordubad town, site Dasta	31.07.2011	1000- 1100	3	ad pair	- "_"	Ordubad	699
					Gobustan							
1	Gob-1	Foothill	Low cliffs up to 50-70 m	4	Garadag distr. df Baku city, Gobustan histart. Reserve	21.04.2011;0 5-13.07.2011	10-00	1	1 adult; 1 nestl. next visit	small hole in cliff, 10 m from ground	Garatly Piri	53
2	Gob-2	Lowland	Bank of river (canyon up to 15-20 m depth)	1	Garadagh distr., near set. Sangachal, Sangachal river	21.04.2011;0 5-13.07.2011	1115	0	0	Small hole in high river bank ,near 10 m from river level	Sangachal	-5
3	Gob-3	Foothill	Cliffs up to 70-100 m		Garadagh distr. Near set. Shongar	5/5/2011	1045	2	ad.pair		Shongar	48
4	Gob-4	Foothill	Separate cliff (about10 m height))	1	Gobustan distr.	16.05.2011; 05- 13.07.2011	1130	1	1 adult; 1 nestl. next visit	Nest in eroded cliff near 7-8 m from ground	Gargabazar	206

5	Gob-5	Foothill	Cliffs near 100 m height	1	Garadagh distr., near set. Umbaki	02.05.2011;0 5-13.07.2011	1200	1	1 adult	Nest in cliff near 70-80 m from ground	Umbaki	146
6	Gob-6	foothill	Cliffs		Gobustan distr, , Shihzerli vil. Near town Maraza	16.05.2011	1300	2	ad.pair		Shihzerli	
7	Gob-7	Mountains	River Akhsuchay		Shamakha distr., road to Ismayilli	15.06.2011	1445	2	ad.pair		Akhsuchay	
8	Gob-8	Mountains			Shamakha distr. Near vil. Ivanovka	20.06.2011	1100	2	ad.pair		Ivanovka	
9	Gob-9	Foothill	Cliffs up to 100 m height	1	Garadagh distr., Gobustan histart reserve, Mt. Boyukdash	22.06.2011	1200	2	ad.pair	Hole in cliff near 100 m from ground	Boyukdash	189
10	Gob-10	Foothill	Cliffs up to 100 m height		Hajigabul distr., near vil. Rangebar, Pir Hasan, near small w.r. on Pirsaatchay river	05.06.2011	1145	2	ad.pair		Pir Hasan	69
					Agdash-Goychay							
1	Sav-1	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabala distr., vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.11	Morni ng	2	ad.pair	Small cave in cliff, 50- 70 m from ground	Savalan	223
2	Sav-2	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	2	Gabala distr, vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.12	Morni ng	2	ad.pair	Small cave in cliff, 50- 70 m from ground	Savalan	247
3	Sav-3	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabala distr, vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.13	Morni ng	1	1 adult	Small cave in 150-200 m from ground to east from road Agdash- Gabala	Savalan	227
4	Sav-4	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabala distr, vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.14	Morni ng	2	ad. Pair	Right bank of Turianchay riv., 500 m upper by river from Sav-5, 150-200 m from ground, in hole	Savalan	203
5	Sav-5	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabala distr, vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.15	Morni ng	1	1 adult	Right bank of Turianchay river, 150- 200 m from ground, in small cave	Savalan	188

6	Sav-6	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabala distr, vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.16	Morni ng	1	1 adult	Cave on hill 100-150 from ground to east from road Agdash- Gabala	Savalan	192
7	Sav-7	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabala distr, vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.17	Morni ng	2	ad.pair	In 500 m further cave in hill 150-200 m from ground, to east from road Agdash -Gabala	Savalan	214
8	Sav-8	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabala distr, vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.18	Morni ng	2	ad.pair	Near Sav-4, about 300 m down by river, 150- 200 m from ground , in hole.	Savalan	204
9	Sav-9	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabala distr, vil. Savalan	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.19	Morni ng	2	ad.pair	Cave in 50-70 m from ground, 500 to north fom Sav-2	Savalan	256
10	Bey-1	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	2	Gabala distr., vil. Beyli	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.20	Morni ng	3	ad. pair, 1 nestl 4-5 weeks	Hole in cliff 50-70 m from ground	Beyli	241
11	Bey-2	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabal distr, vil. Beyli	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.21	Morni ng	1	adult	Cave in cliff 40-50 m from ground	Beyli	245
12	Bey-3	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabal distr, vil. Beyli	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.22	Morni ng	2	ad.pair	Cave in cliff 150-200 m from river on left side	Beyli	223
13	Bey-4	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabal distr, vil. Beyli	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.23	Morni ng	2	ad.pair	Cave in cliff 150-200 m from river on left side in 200-300 m from bey-3	Beyli	252
14	Bey-5	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabal distr, vil. Beyli	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.24	Morni ng	1	1 adult	Cave in cliff in 150- 200 m from river level on right side	Beyli	245
15	Bey-6	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabal distr, vil. Beyli	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.25	Morni ng	1	1 adult	Cave in cliff in 150- 200 m from river level on right side	Beyli	245
16	Bey-7	Foothill	Canyons up to to 250- 300 m depth	1	Gabal distr, vil. Beyli	21-28.04.; 5- 7.05;05- 11.07.26	Morni ng	1	1 adult	Cave in cliff in 150- 200 m from river level on right side	Beyli	245

17	Goy-1	Foothill	"_"	1	Goychay distr., Goychay valley	5-7.05 and 5- 11.07.11	Eveni ng	2	ad.pair	Hole in cliff , 100-150 m from ground, left side	Goychay valley	229
18	Goy-2	Foothill	"_"	2	Goychay distr., Goychay valley	5-7.05 and 5- 11.07.12	Eveni ng	2	ad.pair	Hole in cliff , 100-150 m from ground, left side	"_"	242
19	Goy-3	Foothill	"_"	1	Goychay distr., Goychay valley	5-7.05 and 5- 11.07.13	Eveni ng	2	ad.pair+ 1 subad.	Hole in cliff , 50 m from ground, after Garachay riv., right side	"_"	264
21	Goy-4	Foothill	"_"	3	Goychay distr., Goychay valley	5-7.05 and 5- 11.07.14	Eveni ng	2	ad.pair	Hole in cliff , 100-150 m from ground, ight side	"_"	272
22	Goy-5	Foothill	"_"	1	Goychay distr., Goychay valley	5-7.05 and 5- 11.07.15	Eveni ng	1	1 adult+sub ad.	Hole in cliff , 100-150 m from ground, left side	"_"	283
23	Goy-6	Foothill	"_"	2	Goychay distr., Goychay valley	5-7.05 and 5- 11.07.16	Eveni ng	2	ad.,pair	Hole in cliff , 100-150 m from ground, left side	"_"	277
24	Goy-7	Foothill	"_"	1	Goychay distr., Goychay valley	5-7.05 and 5- 11.07.17	Eveni ng	1	1 adult	Hole in cliff , 100-150 m from ground, right side	"_"	304
					Ajinohur							
1	Aj-1	Foothill	Range near 300 m	1	Sheki distr. Winter pastures surrounded by low ranges	5-7.05; 7- 11.07.11	Eveni ng	2	ad.pair	Cave in cliff in 150- 200 m from ground	Ajinohur	193
2	Aj-2	Foothill	"_"		"_"		Eveni ng	2	ad.pair	"-", opposite slop	Ajinohur	193
3	Aj-3	Foothill	"_"	1	"_"		Eveni ng	1	1 adult	Cave in cliff in 150- 200 m from ground about 500 m further to east	Ajinohur	177

Analyzing of obtaining data which gathered during of field surveys

The nests of Egyption Vulture are located often along the rivers on cliffs and hills. This provide vultures open space in font of nests for beginning of flight. This birds prefer dry landscapes with poor vegetation. This help birds to find dead animals bringing by river and also help to find dead domestic animas which had grathing on open lands.

Colonial nesting is quit characteristic for this birds and distance between nest depend from number of accessible halls and caves and abundance of food. Our results show that colony can include 2-8 nests in distance from 30-50 up to 300-500 m. Distance form ground was between 10-20 (2 finding in Gobustan area), more often 50 m and up to 300m. Elevation of nests were between 10-15 m (Gobustan) and up to 2100 m (Nakhchivan) but mainly between 200-300 m (in Nakhchivan – between 700-1300 m).

Nesting on unachievable places quarantee very low level of threat for nest and nestlings. But agree to information of local people poisoned food for predators or rodents can influence of this bird because they can it meat together with poison for predators or dead rodents (after ptheir poisoning). Besides some cases of catching the nestlings or ammature birds for selling (for legal and illegal private zoos or for making of stuffed birds), ocasional shoting and decreas of food base from different reasons also can influence of number of this species. But in general all these threated for Egyption Vulture is not high in Azerbaijan and we did not registered no one dead bird during our reserches. In general highdeveloping of animal husbandary in Azerbaijan occuring more 12 million sheeps and more 3 million caws is quarantee for sustainable food base and quit high nember and density of this species in Azerbaijan.

Our reserach show that not lesser than 51 pairs of Egyption Vulture breed in Azerbaijan. Agreeto regions their distribution is following: Gobustan - 10 pairs (20%), Agdash-Goychay – 23 (45%), Ajonohur – 3(5%) and Nakhchivan – 15 (30%). Taking in account that high dencity of birds in some areas (Agdash-Goychay area, for exmple) where up to 7-9 nests can be located around just 1 village (Savalan, Beyli etc.), we can estimate real number of nesting pairs in 4-5 times more, up to 200-500 pairs.

In general, Egyption Vulture has nesting on open (with poor vegetation) foothill and mountain areas on elevation from 15-20 up to 2200 m on unaccessible cliffs, also halls and caves of hills and high mountains even on steep banks of rivers. Existing threate still are quit low and breeding successagree to results of July monitoring was about 100%.



Pic.10. EV in flight.

Table 2. Estimation of population size of Egyptian Vulture on researched areas.

International and	Aroa	Location	Population (pairs)		Protoctod	Type of protected		
national name	(ha)	Lat Long		Min	Max	areas name	area agree to IUCN classification	
Goychay Bozdag Mountains and Turianchay Nature State Nature reserve and around	More 25 000	N40°42 and 40°44	E47°37 and 47°29	23	100	Turianchay Nature State Nature reserve	Strict Reserve (I)	
Gobustan Area including Mounts Gushgaya and Gargabazari and around et c.)	100 000	N40°11′	E49°22′	10	50	Gobustan Historical Art Reserve	Similar with National Park (II)	
Ajinohur Area	100 000	N41°04′	E46°55′	2-3	10	Ilisu Nature Reserve and Sanctuary	Partly strict reserve and partly sanctuary (III-IV)	
Nakhchivan Autonomic Republic	5 500 000	N39°17′	E42°33′	15	50	Zangezur NP, Shahbuz State nature reserve	I, II and unprotected	

Creation of map of distribution of species on the base of collected data with help of GIS programs.

Using programme Google Earth the maps of EV nest distribution with exact coordinates were prepared (see below).



Pic 11. Map of found EV nests on all researched area.



Pic. 12. Map of EV nests in Gobustan area.



Pic.13. Map of EV nests on western part of Greater Caucasus



Pic. 14. Map of EV nests in Nakhchivan AR.

Preparation and publication of informational leaflet about key species and its

<u>habitat</u>



Ekosistem üçün vacib növlərdəndir ve sayı gettidikce azaklığından, ciddi mühafizeye ahtiyacı vardır. Burunla alaqodar yeni neşr olunacaq Azərbaycanın Qırmızı Kitabına salınması nəzərdə tutamısdur.

Mahv olma tahtiikasi (Endangered) altinda olan növ kimi Dünya Qumus Siyahsuna daxii edilmişdir. Ölmüş heyvan cosadlarinin mahv edilməsində rolu böylikdür.





Yetkin fardin badani ağ rungli lalaklarla örtüllü olub, üz hissasında darisi narıncı-san rangda, lalaksizdir. Erkak va dişi factlar bir-birina oxşayır. Dimdiyi nisbaten zelf, uzun və nazikdir. Quyruğu uzun və çoxpilləlidir. Uguşdı quyruğunun spesifik pazşaklir formada müşahidə edimasi ile ançilir. Cawan quşun rongi tünd qonuntur ağ rangi azdır. Ancaq 4-5 yaşında tələkdəyişma ile əlaqədar ağ rang qonur rengi əvəz edir.

Legyeyanin (Alsophron peronopterus) areali Afrikani, Avropani, On ve Kiçik Asyanı ahata edir Azarbaycanda ise dağateyi ve dağlıq arazilarda yayılmışdır (Zuvand yaylası, Böyük ve Kiçik Qafqaz dağları). Avropeda 6000-e yaxın, Azerbaycanda ise texminen 100-300 fand qeyde alınmışdır.



Matu: Elçin Sultanov, Arzıs Mamməlov Futu: Hartmurt Matlur, Elçin Sultanov, Arzıs Məmmədov, İnternet Dirayn: Arzıs Məmmədov

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Quraq iqlimli, qayaliq yerlerde daha çox yayılmışdır, lakin qida üçün təz-təz arana hətla Xəzərin səhilinə uçur.

Köçəri qoşdur ve Azərbaycana yuvalamaq üçün mərt və aprelin əvvəllərində gelib, oktyabrda uçub godir.

Yalnız isti ve guraq keçen bezi qelerda müeyyen ferdleri qalıb qışlayır. Gayalı açıq yerlada ve seyrek meşelerde meskunlaşır. Yuvasını adeten qayalardakı kiçik mağaraterda, bezen ise meşede (ağacda) gurur.

Boyu 55-65 sm, qənədlərinin açıd çəkildə birgə uzunluğu 165-170 sm, ağırlığı isə 2.000-2.100 q-dir.

Toxminen 6 yaşırıda cinsi yetişkənliye çatır. Eyni yuvadan bir neçe defe istifade ede bilir



Adəton 1-3 yumunta qoyur v texminen 40-45 gün kürt yətir. Yumuntarı biçüləri 57-76 x 41-58 mm-dir.

Yumurtalarının rəngi sanındıl-ağ olut lüzərində qonur-qırmız: rəngli six təkələ vantır.

Bütün karkaslar kimi leşyeyen d asasan leşle ve müxtelif heyvan monşa tullantilarla qidalanır. Tisbağa, kerterkele v ilan ovlaması da müşahide edilmişdi Habele diger quştarın yumurtasını daşl sındırıtı qidalandığı da müşahid olunmuşdur.



Pic. 15-16. Leaflet on EV.

1500 examples of informational leaflet on Egyptian Vulture was prepared and printed (see pic. 15-16). Leaflet includes world distribution map of Egyptian Vulture, pictures of old and young birds, typical nest in caves and description of main features of

plumage, size, migratory status, breeding (nesting time, size of clutch, hatching and nestling time duration), food and feeding details, conservation status etc.

Distribution of informational leaflet

Distribution of informational leaflet was conducted during all expeditions everywhere we had searching for Egyptian Vulture nests. Besides special expedition for distribution of leaflet to Shirvan town and Hajigabul district around this town was conducted in December 2012 because this town locate quit close to nest Gobustan-10 in Hajigabul district.



Pic. 17. Distribution of leaflet in Ajinohur steppe.



Pic. 18. Distribution of leaflet for schoolchildren in Ecological centre of Shirvan town

Work with Mass Media - Conducting of press-releases and press-conference about project success;

During all project work regular contacts with representatives of Mass media occurred. In result 3 articles in newspaper Zerkalo were published about main tasks of project and results of different expeditions (see pic. 19-26).

Finally Press-conference for representatives of Mass Media was organised in office of Azerbaijan Ornithological Society in Baku 14 October 2011.

Кому и зачем нужны птенцы императорского орла?

еди злейших врагов природы первом месте стоит человек

ERMANDEA

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В поисках гнезда стервятника Млегие виды янщных птиц никодится на грани исчезновения

• Г.СУЛЕЙМАНОВА

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Representatives of 9 Mass Media organs took participation on this pressconference. Press release in Azerbaijan language was distributed between participants and coordinator of project Sevinj Sarukhanova had informed journalists about main results of project. Results of project were reflected in newspapers "Zerkalo", "Azerbaijanskiye Izvestiya", informational website: www. salamnews.az etc.



Post project activities

Prepare and send the financial and activity report

This activity report is finished 14 March 2012 and sent to Rufford foundation together with financial report with scanned copies of all receipts (see Appendixes).

4. Conclusion and recommendations

In result of implementation of project 51 nests of Egyptian Vulture were revealed. 51 field days with participation of 3-4 researchers were spent. Field study of Egyptian Vulture in Azerbaijan shows that nests of EV disperse on elevation from 10-15 up to 2100 m in foothill and mountain areas with open landscape and poor vegetation. Birds have nesting on cliffs under the cornices or in halls and small caves on distance form 10-15 up to 300 m from ground. Breeding success is close to 100% and every pair has only 1 nestling.

Area of project was extended to biggest part of area of Greater Caucasus (Ajinohur steppe and Agdash-Goychay regions besides Gobustan) and also included Nakhchivan. Distribution of found nests show that majority of nests (30%) was found in Agdash-Goychay area on south slops of greater Caucasus, only 20% - in Nakhchivan and just 5% - in Ajinohur steppe. 30% of all nests were found in Nakhchivan Autonomic Republic. General number of EV in Azerbaijan is estimated in 200-500 pairs on the base of received data. Digital data base including coordinate of all found nests and maps is created.

Existing threats (poisoning, occasional shooting, catching birds for zoos and making of stuffed birds) are not important and general high developing of animal husbandry in Azerbaijan support high density of EV in Azerbaijan.

For more exact estimation of full breeding population of this species in Azerbaijan field study for Lesser Caucasus and uncovered parts of Greater Caucasus is important.

Coordinator of project

Sevinj Sarukhanova

APPENDIX. 1. Questionnaire for EV (in Azeri.).

Yırtıcı quşların müşahidəsinə dair

Vereqe.

1.147 (2004) 10042 (2450) 4004
1.Müşahidənin apanldığı tarixi
2.Müşahidə aparan şəxsin adı və soyadı
3.Müşahidəçinin telefon nömrəsi:
4.Müşahidə aparıları yerin adı və ətraf ərazisinin qısa təsviri
5.Müşahidə aparılan günün hava şəraiti- (yaxşıdır.yağmurludur və yaxud küləklidir)
6.Yuvə tapıları və yaxud müşahidə zamanı gördüyünüz quşların adı və onların sayı (leşyeyan,qarakərkəs ağbaşkərkəs və s.)
7.Yuvanın yerləşdiyi yer.yuva nədən işa edilib və yuvada olan yumurtaların yaxud balaların sayı
8.Aşkar olunan yuva boşdur,lakin quşlar yuvaya gəlib gədirlər
9.Boş yuvaya quşların gəlib-getməsi günün hansı vaxtında daha aktiv olur

10.Müşahideye dair elave melumatlar elde etmek üçün aşağıdakı telefon nömrələrinə zeng edə bilərsiniz. Mobil:050-391-94-63 iş: 5-23-69 av 5-45-17 Ətaqəlandirici - Zakir Əkyav.