



QUESTIONNAIRE

ACTION A.3

Investigate attitude towards fish eating birds and identify potential conflict sites



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Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican along the Black-Sea Mediterranean Flyway/Pelican Way of Life

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1. Introduction and Methodology

Conflict between fisherman and fish-eating birds exists in many countries, leading to persecution and destruction of nesting sites. There were cases not long ago, when Pelican colonies were destroyed by fishermen. Risk of persecution is especially high in intensive fishponds and water reservoirs rented out for commercial fishing and angling. Some recent cases of shooting may even be attributed to negative attitudes to pelicans as fish-eating birds. Although local public awareness in pelican conservation has increased significantly in recent years, potential conflict still exists in certain areas.

This action is aimed to investigate the attitude of key stakeholders including fishermen and owners of fisheries and reservoirs towards fish-eating birds, to collect information on losses or perception of losses and identify potential sites with risk of persecution. The action will take place in several project areas where conflict is expected: 6 in Bulgaria (Belene Islands complex, Burgas lake, Ovcharitsa reservoir, Mandra-Poda, Rozov Kladenetz reservoir, Straldzha complex), 2 in Greece (Messolonghi wetland and Amvrakikos Gulf), 11 in Romania (Tasaul-Corbu Lakes, Lake Suhaia, Lake Dunareni, Valea Mostistea, Lake Oltina, Lake Galatui, Iezerul Calarasi, Lake Bugeac, Danube Delta and Razim-Sinoie complex, Valea Oltului Inferior and Bistret) and 1 in Ukraine (Kartal lake).

Data collection will be carried out by the project staff. Fish ponds, reservoirs and wetlands used by pelicans outside of the project sites will be visited as well. Information for presence of fish-eating birds and pelicans, perceptions of the stakeholders about losses caused by the birds and their attitude to them will be gathered through questionnaires completed during open interviews with the following groups:

- National agencies and NGOs: Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Forestry Agencies, Port Authorities, Protected Areas Management Authorities, Police, Professional organisations of fishermen, hunting and angling organisations;
- Representative of stakeholders: professional and recreational fishermen, owners and users of fishponds, aquacultures and fisheries, fishpond staff, anglers, etc.

The main point is that the interview of most of the stakeholders will not be evident so that honest answers are received as much as possible. The interview will be carried out in the form of an open conversation. The researcher will complete the questionnaire after the conversation is over. The open interviews of stakeholders should be conducted with great care in order to collect as precise data as possible. In this context the interviews will be structured in two stages, with questions being as indirect as possible:

- A) Generic questions regarding their job, habits, and problems (attitude questions), with the objective of familiarization and building up trust;
- B) Specific questions regarding presence of fish-eating birds, species, numbers, damages caused by them and mitigation measures including illegal shooting.

2. Questionnaire

Interviewee's personal information

Date of interview: SPA code:

Name and age:

Occupation:

Agency/Organization:

Village/Municipality:

Other:

Questions:

1. How many years do you reside in the area? Have you been working for many years in this line of work? How many years have you been fishing/hunting in the area?

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2. Are you satisfied with your job and income? Is there enough fish?

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3. How many fishponds/fisheries/reservoirs do you have under your care?

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4. Is there sufficient resources in the area for your work/fishponds/reservoirs/hunting areas?

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5. Is there any infrastructure to take care for your work/animals/fishponds/reservoirs? If yes, is it in good condition?

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6. Do you believe your children or young people in general will continue this work? Why?

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7. Have you observed any changes in the presence of wild birds or mammals during the last ten years? If yes, which species and which could be the reasons for these changes?

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8. Were there damages in your produce the last ten years? Grade them according to their volume (1 - Small, 2 - Medium, 3 - Large, 4 - Very large).

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Diseases Illegal activities..... Fish-eating Birds.....
Bad weather conditions..... Mammals..... Other.....

9. In the case of damages due to fish production, like fish-eating birds or mammals, what measures did you adapt?

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10. Do you feel satisfied from the support you have from the Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture/National agency of agricultural compensation regarding their response to your situation and the compensation given? For each one grade: 1 - Not at all, 2 - A little, 3 - Not quite, 4 - Completely satisfied

Response..... Compensation

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11. Are you aware of Aqua-Ecological measures? What do you think about them?

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12. What are the changes needed in the system of state compensations?

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13. What do you think about the birds? Do they cause any damages?

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14. Do you know cases of persecution of birds like herons, cormorants and pelicans?

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15. Who do you believe has the reasons to persecute fish eating birds? Grade each group: 1 - Very important, 2 - Important, 3 - Medium, 4 - Insignificant.

Fishermen..... Hunters..... Poachers.....
Owners of fisheries or reservoirs..... Other.....

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16. Which birds are targeted – cormorants, herons, pelicans, ducks, White-tailed Eagle, etc.?

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17. Which are the main types of damages caused by these fish-eating birds? Describe them and give an estimation of their size in the last decade (1 - Small, 2 - Medium, 3 - Large, 4 - Very large).

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18. Could you locate and name the areas where of persecution, or incidents with fish-eating birds take place most often?

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19. Do you know the types of activities (shooting, destroying nests, chasing away, covering fishpond) related to the fish—eating birds used in your area? Describe them and grade them according to the extent of their use: 1 - Small, 2 - Medium, 3 - Large, 4 - Very large.

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20. What suggestions do you have to minimize the level of conflict between human and fish-eating birds in the region?

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21. Do you believe there are measures taken to prevent this conflict? If yes, which ones?

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22. Have you ever seen Pelicans in the region? When, where, how many?

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23. Do you like pelicans? What do you think about the Pelicans?

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24. Have you ever find a dead Pelican? If yes, do you have any idea about the reason of its death?

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At the end of the interview, try to understand whether the interviewees are in favor or against the use of illegal activities to prevent the fish-eating bird's conflict as a formal control method and note it.