



LIFE EUROKITE

Cross-border protection
of the *Red Kite* in Europe
by reducing human-
caused mortality
2019 – 2027

WWW.LIFE-EUROKITE.EU



A detailed photograph of a Red Kite (Elanus caesus) in flight, viewed from below. The bird's wings are fully extended, showing the intricate pattern of its feathers, which range from dark brown to a lighter, mottled tan. Its tail is also visible, showing a similar pattern. The bird's head is turned slightly to the left, revealing a yellow beak and a sharp, focused gaze. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blur of warm, golden-brown and blue tones, suggesting a natural, outdoor environment with trees and a clear sky.

The Red Kite is an
endangered species
in parts of its range.

Project description

Project title

Cross-border protection of the Red Kite in Europe by reducing human-caused mortality (LIFE18 NAT/AT/000048)

Acronym

LIFE EUROKITE

Beneficiaries and partners

The coordinating beneficiary is the Central European Society for the Protection of Raptors (MEGEG). The project is implemented together with 18 project partners, 10 co-financiers and 73 cooperation partners.

Project duration

07.12.2019 – 31.01.2027

Main project objectives

Significant reduction of impact of **poisoning** (reduction of the rate of poisoning cases by 5% on EU level).

Identification and solving of problematic cases concerning **electrocution / collision**.

Reduction of other **anthropogenic reasons** of mortality.

Population reinforcement in Spain halts range loss and identifies the factors causing a decline of the populations, presumably associated with **climate change**.

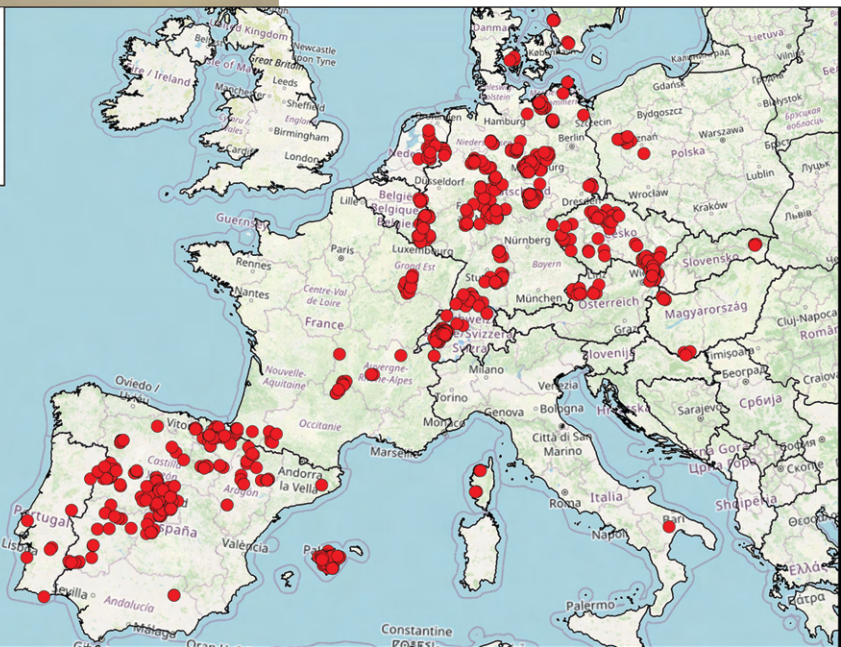


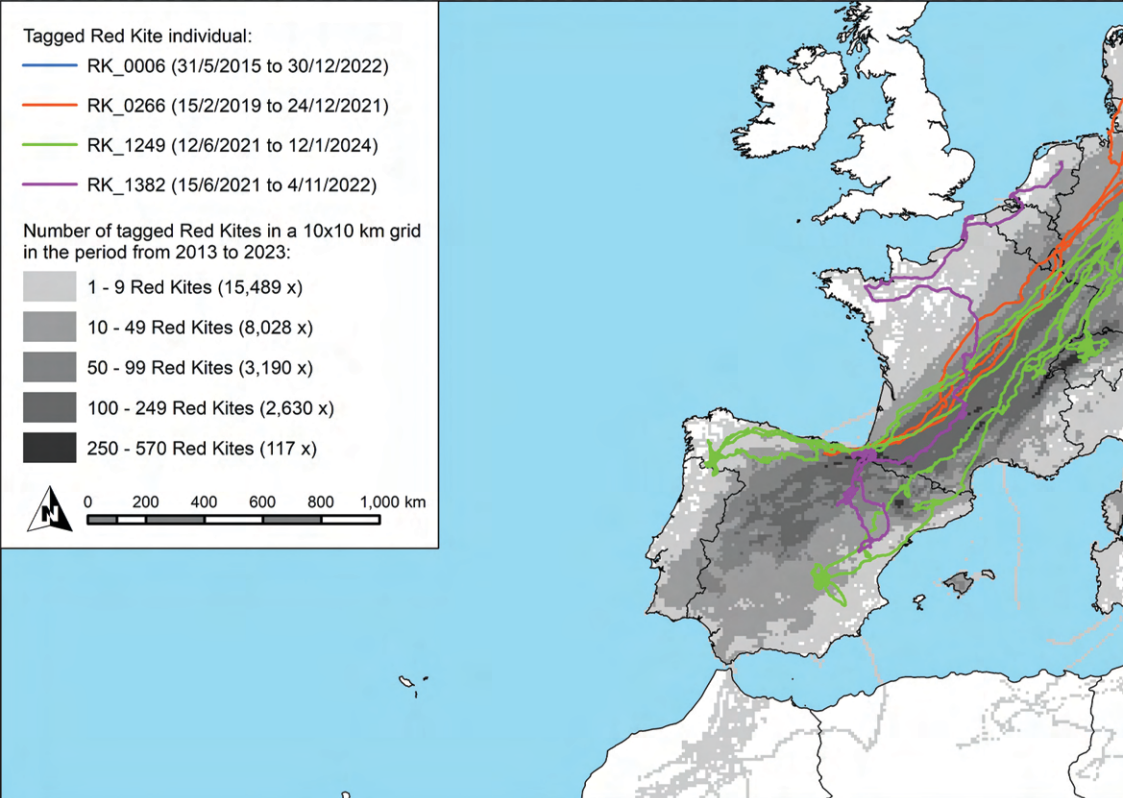
● Tagging of 2,931 Red Kites in the period from 1/2/2013 to 17/1/2024



0 100 200 300 400 500 km

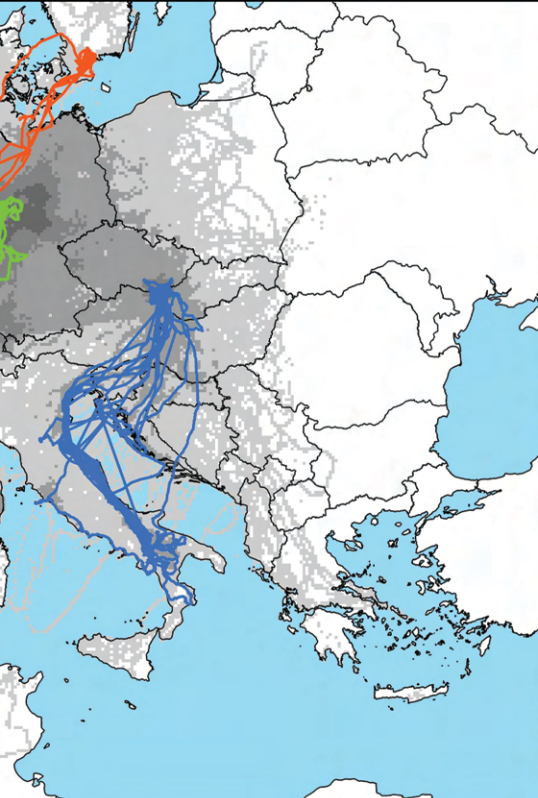
Background data: OSM





The core idea of the LIFE EUROKITE project

is to use telemetry technology to identify the spatial habitat use of the target species and quantify the causes of mortality. With the help of partners the LIFE EUROKITE project was able to collect *telemetry data of more than 2,900 tagged individuals of Red Kite* in one database.



Tagged young Red Kites in the nest
© LIFE EUROKITE



Tagged Red Kite
© G. Grünefeld

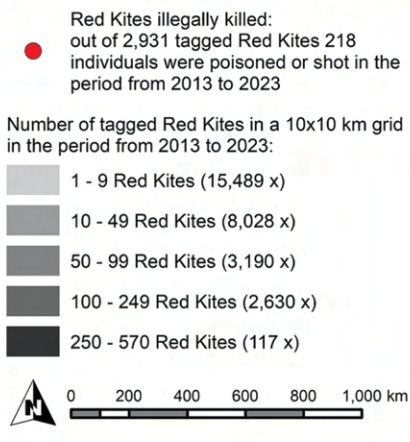
Telemetry is
a key to
identify
mortality
reasons of
raptor
species.

Illegal activities
are more
frequent
compared to
mortality caused
by infrastructure*
for Red Kites
in Europe.

*road and rail traffic,
power lines and wind turbines



Poisoned Red Kite and Raven
© Karel Makoh



Poisoning and shooting
are the main
anthropogenic
mortality reasons
for *Red Kites* in Europe.



Police investigation on dead Red Kites in Portugal
© AMUS/LIFE EUROKITE



Roosting site of Red Kites
© Pascal Lerch, www.pascallerchfotografie.ch

Since 2007, hibernating Red Kites have been recorded at their roosts on a weekend at the beginning of January in more and more European countries. Since 2021 the LIFE EUOKITE project is responsible for organizing the ***counts of 267 selected roosting sites*** in 18 European countries, which will be consistently counted in the next years in January. The main goal of monitoring is to ***detect an increase or decrease*** of the Red Kite population in Europe.



Roosting site of Red Kites
© Ján Svetlík



Young Red Kite in the nest
© TB Raab GmbH

Monitoring
of the
Red Kite
population
to analyze
its *growth*.

Coordinating beneficiary



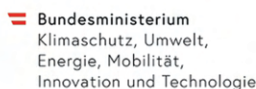
The TB Raab GmbH was commissioned to implement the LIFE EUROKITE project after a pan-European public tender.



Project partners (Associated beneficiaries, 18)



Co-financiers (10)



This project is co-financed by the LIFE Na

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those

Cooperation partners (73)



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The Red Kite
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