









BESTbelt Pan-European Conference 14th – 18th October 2024 Jurmala, Latvia

"Conservation of emblematic birds species and capacity building in the Balkan Green Belt of

Bulgaria and Türkiye"
BirdsBELT

Project: BirdsBELT BN_23_26

Partners:
Green Balkans – Stara Zagora NGO – Bulgaria – Lead applicant
Back to Nature Association – Türkiye – Co-applicant

Duration: 01/11/2023 - 31/10/2025

Project Location:

The project is implemented in the cross-border area of Bulgaria and Türkiye. Some of the Pearls along the Balkan Green Belt (BGB) are located here, identified by Coordination group / European Green Belt Initiative (2016). For example, No.10 Strandja mountain; No.11 Sakar Mountain; No12 The three rivers complex – Tundzha, Arda and Maritza.

OBJECTIVE

The transboundary region of Bulgaria and Türkiye hosts important key habitat for several emblematic birds of prey species. Main objective of the project is providing support for biodiversity of rare and protected emblematic bird species. Project activities are executed in territories that are representative for the European Green Belt Initiative and more precisely at the Balkan Green Belt and in particular the identified pearls, with aim to contribute to preservation and restoration of biodiversity, as well as capacity building of the project partners, For two of these bird species considered "umbrella" and "flagship" species - Lesser Kestrel and Eastern Imperial Eagle the Green Belt is a key habitat at national and regional level. Capacity building with a special focus on the conservation and research of the target species will be conducted as trainings and workshops for stakeholders, project partners, volunteers and/ participants at both sides of the border.

RESULTS

The expected results of the project are conservation of the target species and improvement of their habitats in the Balkan Green Belt through direct conservation measures marking and tracking with satellite improving nesting habitats, transmitters, installing of nest boxes, afforestation with poplars suitable for nesting and an installation artificial nest. The protection of these two emblematic species and the drawing of public attention to targeted conservation measures is a good basis for promoting the biodiversity in the Green Belt and the natural wealth.



Afforestation with poplar trees in Bulgaria and Türkiye



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