

Lesser Kestrel in the Balkan Green Belt

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Project title

LIFE for Lesser Kestrel LIFE19 NAT/BG/001017



Challenge:

- The target species is Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*, Fleischer, 1818). The species is on Annex I of the Birds Directive and is on the Ornithological Committee list of birds that are priorities for LIFE funding.
- According to Report under the Article 12 of the Birds Directive for the period 2008-2012 (EEA, ETCBD) - Although at the EU level population status of the species was assessed as secure, in Bulgaria contrary all trends are negative: “breeding population trend (both short term and long term)” and “breeding range trend (both short term and long term)”.
- The current project targets connection of Greece and Bulgaria subpopulations and an overall increase and improvement of the status of the species in the South East Balkans.
- Most of its activities are going to be implemented in the scope of European Green Belt in Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey that is going to improve the popularization of the initiative

General Location of the Project Area - Better Life for Lesser Kestrel in South-East Balkans



Objective:

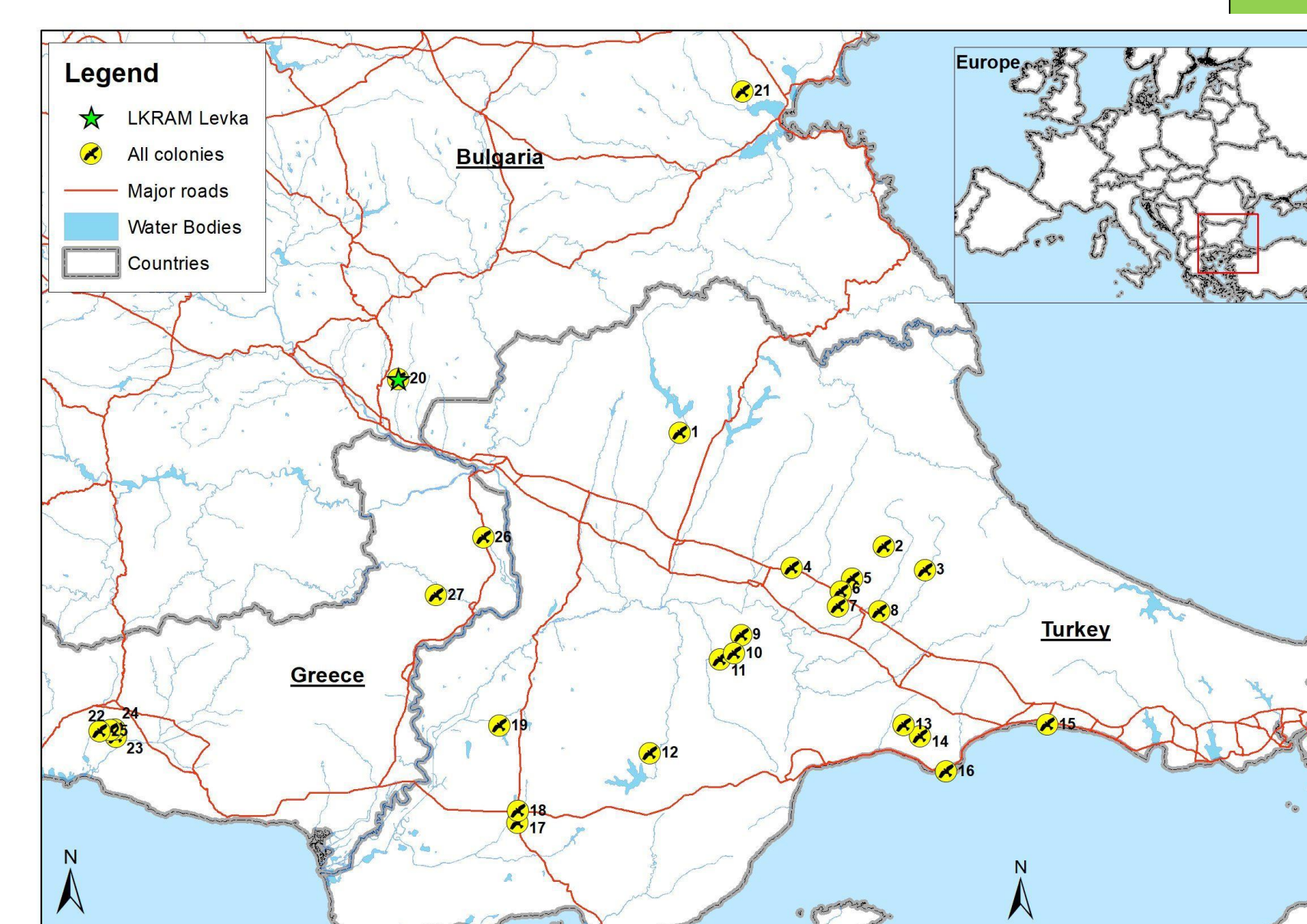
Key nature protection objectives:

- To cease the decline and improve the species conservation status not only in Bulgaria and Greece (especially in NATURA 2000 sites), but also in the entire Southeastern Balkans.
- To strengthen, stabilize and increase the newly established by Green Balkans Lesser Kestrel colony in Bulgaria - SPA Sakar BG0002021.
- To assist the natural expansion and recolonization of the species, supporting other newly found colonies in Bulgaria and elsewhere.
- To gather data and assist the conservation of the scattered colonies in different countries in the Southeastern Balkans.

Approach:

The overall goal is to expand the nesting distribution of the species ensuring the existence of independent colonies. The existence of at least two linked population cores in the project countries is a prerequisite for survival. Strengthening the colonies in Greece assures the connectivity of the Mediterranean and Middle-East populations.

Capacity building, communication and replication objectives: - to implement a capacity building programme for young experts in the field



Project facts :

Project location: Bulgaria – All regions; Greece – Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki Kentriki Makedonia, Thessalia;

Duration: Start: 01/09/2020 - End: 01/09/2025;

Coordinating Beneficiary: Green Balkans Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

Associated Beneficiaries:

- Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, Greece;
- University of Thessaly (Laboratory of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Management), Greece;

Project webpage: www.lesserkestrelife.greenbalkans.org

