

We make power lines along the Danube river safe for birds



11th SYMPOSIUM KOPAČKI RIT - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE 2022

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One of the biggest threats for the wild living species of birds is electrocution and collisions with power lines causing thousands of avoidable deaths and injuries. These threats are targeted by the LIFE DANUBE FREE SKY project (01/09/2020 – 28/02/2026) representing a unique example of wide transnational cooperation along with one of the most important migration corridors, stop-over sites, and wintering places for many bird species in Europe - the Danube river.

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Bird mortality caused by interaction with power lines and other electricity structures has been documented for over **380 species of birds**, including critically endangered and threatened ones. Around **2074 km of 8 types of above-ground power lines** dangerous for birds can be found within the LIFE Danube Free Sky project area. The impact of this range of power lines represents a serious and considerable threat to wintering and breeding/ reproducing population of **12 target species**.

AREA & OBJECTIVES

During the period of over 5 years of project implementation, **15 partners from 7 countries** will develop strong collaboration and implement the most effective solutions in order to prevent existential threats to birds in **23 Special Protection Areas** and **9 Important Bird Areas**. After this period, the visibility of more than **245 km of top priority power lines** will be increased. Also, more than **3200 of the most dangerous poles** within the project area will be adjusted to ensure birds' safety. Main objectives: elimination of risk of collisions with power lines and electrocution, increase the population of the target species by improving and creating safe nesting and breeding opportunities, etc.



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

During the months 01/2021 to 04/2022, power lines located in the project area were inspected with the participation of nearly 80 trained field assistants. Preliminary results indicate more than 1500 recorded carcasses with more than 50 bird species represented. The dominant mortality factor at the project level is electrocution. The type of mortality contribution varies depending on the habitat and species composition of the particular landscape and the voltage level of the monitored lines.



A detailed analysis of the causes of mortality, species composition and risk of the lines will be developed in October 2022 after verification and expert evaluation of all data collected. Summary report of the monitoring of selected power lines will be published on danubefreesky.eu.



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