

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: CA16224 - European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility

STSM title: STSM8 Review of constraints on raptor sample collection and sharing

STSM start and end date: 03/12/2018 to 28/02/2019

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PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

The purpose of this STSM was to identify and search for solutions to the main limitations to obtaining and sharing raptor samples, and related contextual data about the individual and/or population from which samples are obtained. To achieve our proposal, we collected information from different actors involved in the European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility. Constraints differ between countries, especially those related to differences in national legislation, country geography and abundance and distribution of focal raptor species. Our aim was to collect data to contribute to a more effective and comprehensive pan-European biomonitoring schemes using raptors.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

The main constraints for raptor sampling were identified first by doing an exhaustive bibliographic review of scientific papers about monitoring contaminants with raptors, this step was important to understand the context of the programme and to identify several constraints. Then we worked in the first draft of the sampling framework, this activity allowed us to identify all actors and activities involved in biomonitoring raptors. For a better understanding of the results of contaminant levels of the samples, we also made a list of contextual data – individual and population information- important to record.

We ended up with a list of several constraints, that we divided in four different types: legal, methodological, spatial coverage and skills. The list of constraints was assessed, first with a reduced group of experts through a short-survey, the respondents provided information about legal procedures and methodologies to sample raptors in their countries. They also give ideas of important constraints to solve and suggestions of important actions to improve the collection of raptor samples.

Then, the list of constraints was presented in the workshop on Thessaloniki, where the participants provided their opinion about the constraints and also important solutions suggestions to solve them.

In order to collect information Europe-wide from different actors involved in sampling raptors, a questionnaire about the constraints has been send to the management committee members who are distributing it. This questionnaire is going to provide information about the most important constraints to solve, and the differences of these constraints between countries and actors involved in the biomonitoring programme. At the moment we are collecting the questionnaire results.

Finally, we made a list of specific solutions for each constraints and ideas to implement them, these solutions were presented in the 2nd General Meeting that took place in Florence in March.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

At the moment we obtained a list of 30 main constraints that have to be solved to implement the European Raptor Biomonitoring Scheme. We have also identified groups of actors and suggestions to solve each constraint. We distributed a questionnaire to collect information among all European countries and from different actors involved in monitoring raptors, we expect to have the analysed questionnaire results in April.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

We are going to collaborate in the analysis of the review of constraints questionnaire results. We expect to prepare a scientific paper publication about the review of constraints. Furthermore, we are going to establish a collaboration about ecotoxicology analysis with raptors samples between the host and home institutions.