

# Illegal raptor poisonings in Hungary: experiences of the Helicon and PannonEagle LIFE projects



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# The problem

- The illegal poisoning of raptors means a huge problem **worldwide**



- HELICON LIFE: Conservation of imperial eagles by managing human-eagle conflicts in Hungary  
2012 - 2016 [www.imperialeagle.hu](http://www.imperialeagle.hu)



- PANNONEAGLE LIFE: Conservation of the eastern imperial eagle by decreasing human-caused mortality in the Pannonian Region  
2016-2022 [www.imperialeagle.eu](http://www.imperialeagle.eu)



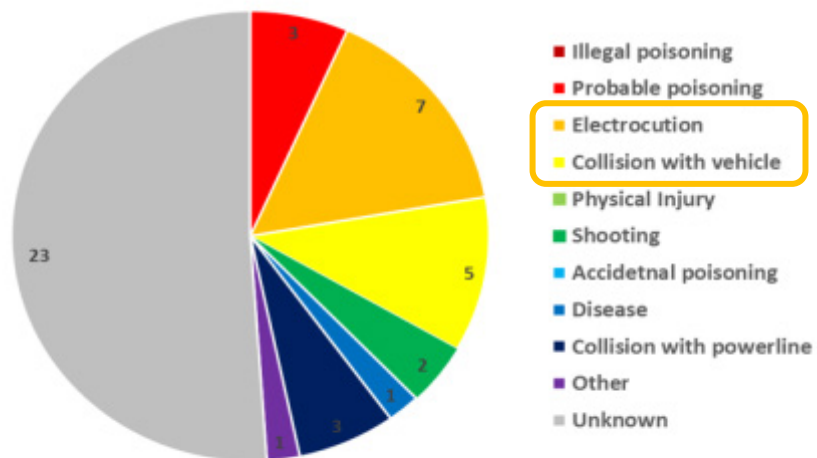




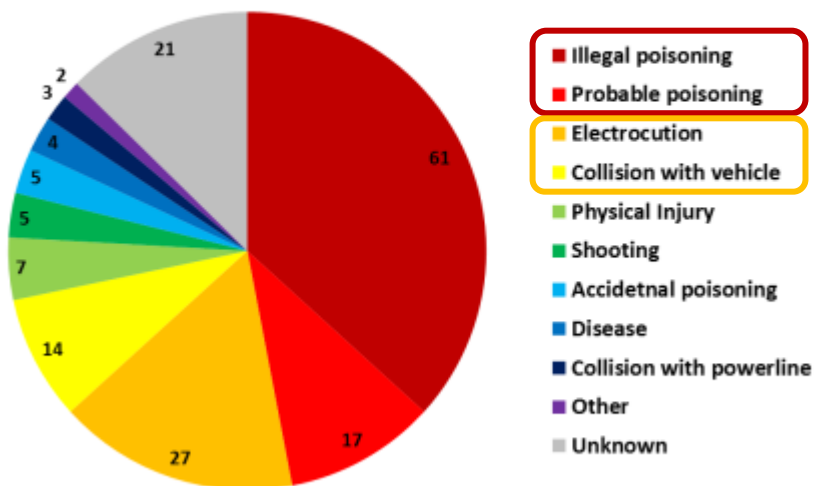
2005: these two poisoned IEs were found



Mortality causes of imperial eagle in Hungary  
between 1980-2004 (n=45)



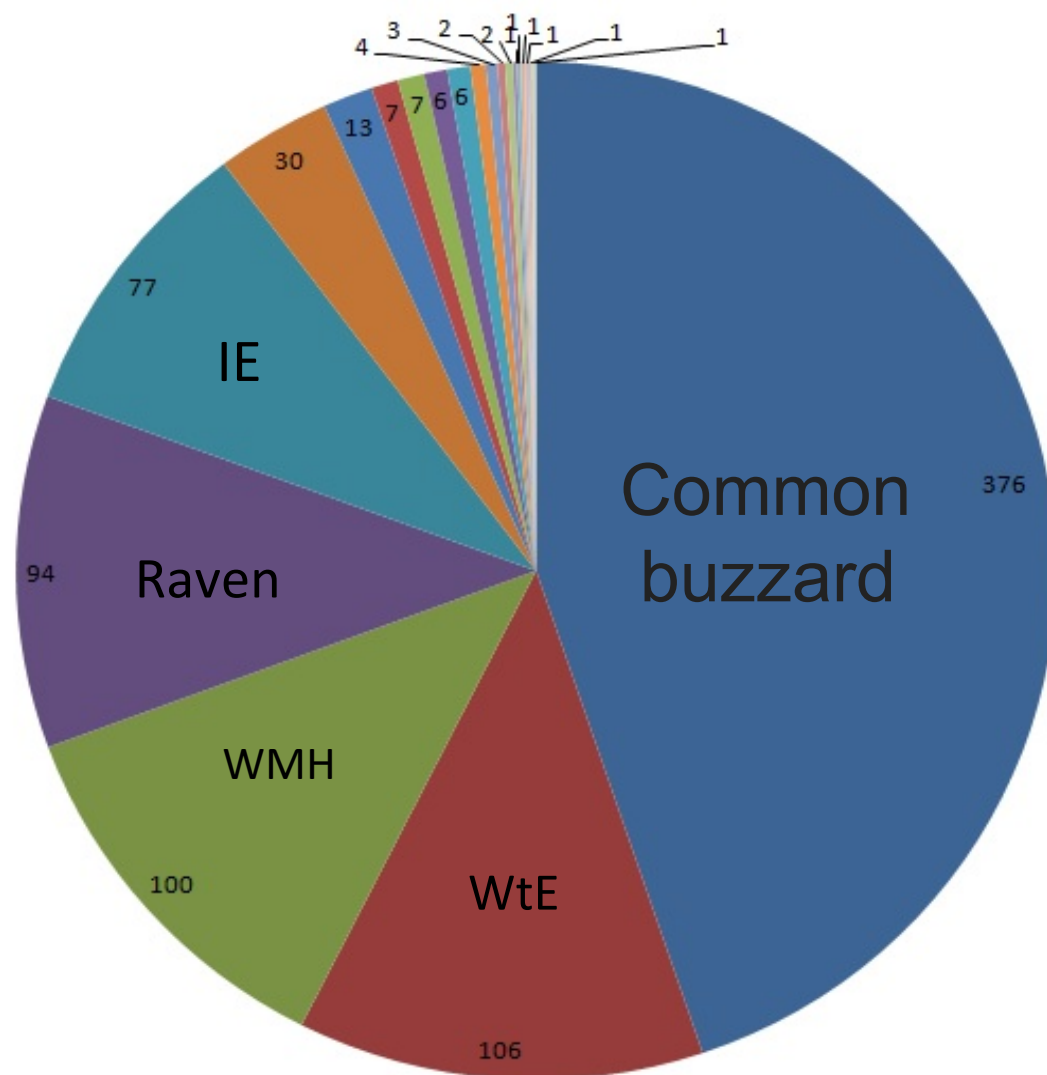
Mortality causes of imperial eagle in Hungary  
between 2005-2016 (n=166)



- Biggest threat for strictly protected Imperial Eagles: illegal predator poisoning
- between 2000-2018:
  - 1824 poisoned victims (birds and mammals) found - 1559 protected species
  - 234 eagles: 142 White-tailed eagles, 88 Imperial eagles, 3 Golden eagles, 1 Lesser spotted eagle



# Poisoned protected bird species found between 2000-2015



- egerészólyv
- rétisas
- barna rétihéja
- holló
- parlagi sas
- vetési varjú
- kerécsensólyom
- gatyás ölyv
- dankasirály
- nagy kócsag
- kékes rétihéja
- szürkegém
- szirti sas
- barna kánya
- héja
- vándorsólyom
- erdei fülesbagoly
- széncinege
- vörös kánya
- uráli bagoly
- erdei pinty



[parlagisas.hu](http://parlagisas.hu)  
[imperialeagle.hu](http://imperialeagle.hu)



# Who?

Hunters/  
Game keepers



Pigeon  
keepers



Poultry  
farmers



Fish farmers

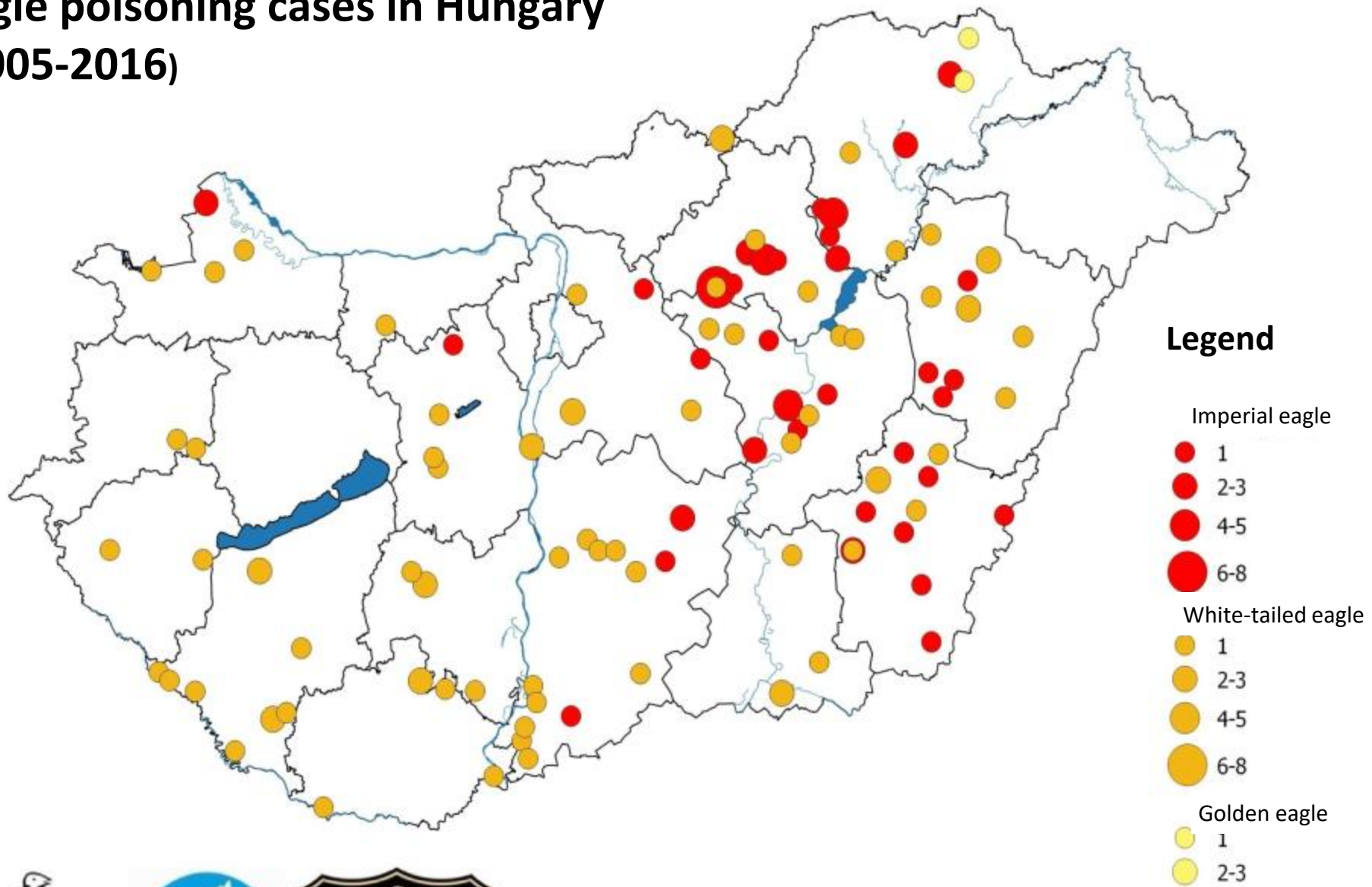


# Why?



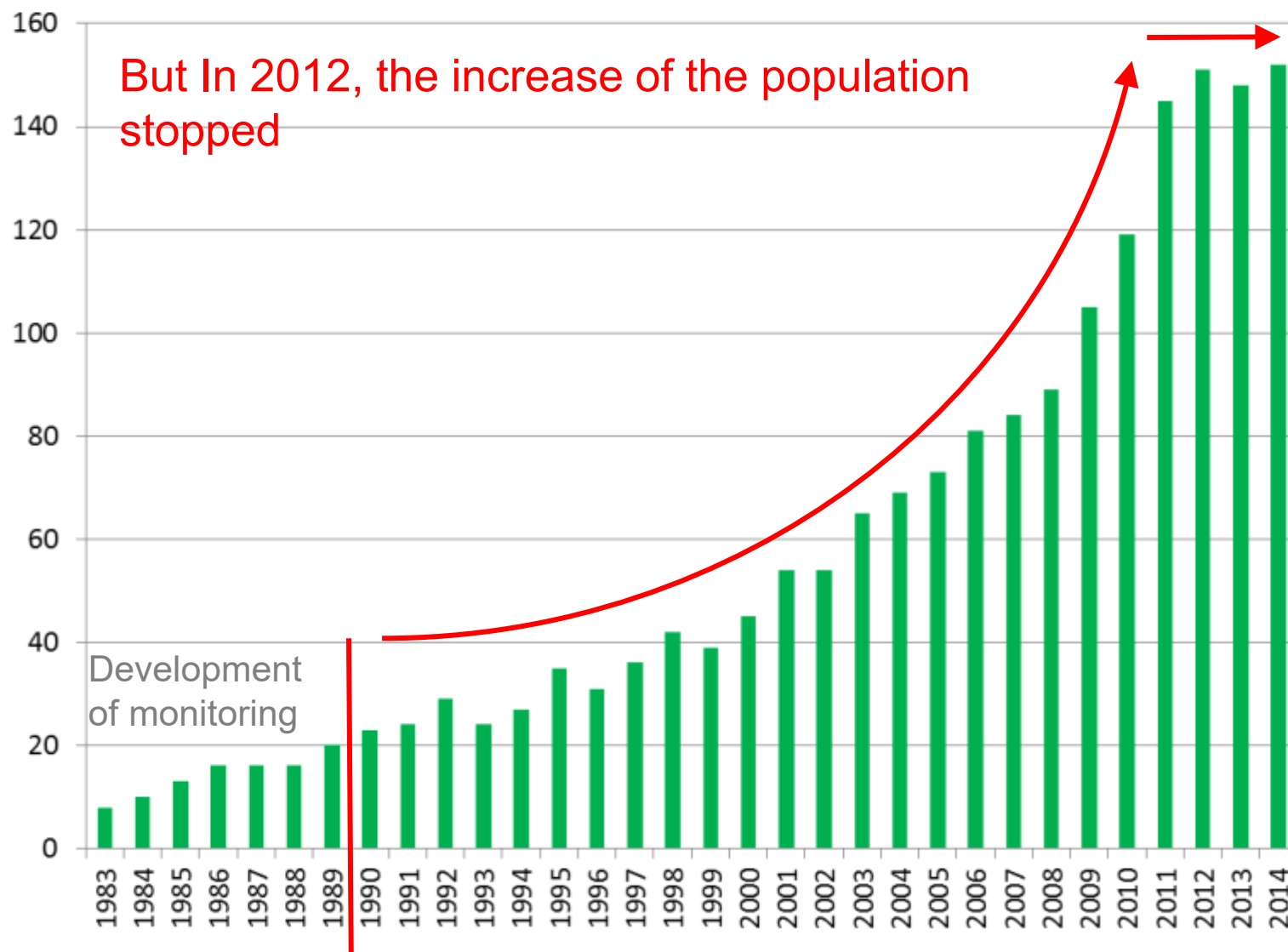


# Eagle poisoning cases in Hungary (2005-2016)



[parlagisas.hu](http://parlagisas.hu)  
[imperialeagle.hu](http://imperialeagle.hu)



## No. of known eastern imperial eagle nests in Hungary (1983-2014)



[parlagisas.hu](http://parlagisas.hu)  
[imperialeagle.hu](http://imperialeagle.hu)



# Problems of enforcement Solutions

- Difficulties in detection  Use of detection dog units
- Wildlife crimes are not taken seriously enough  Protocols, trainings  
Awareness raising

# Poison and carcass searching dog units in Europe

## *Spain*

- since 2004
- labradors, German shepherds, Belgian malinois





# Poison and carcass searching dog units in Europe

## *Italy*

- since 2010
- LIFE Antidoto
- LIFE Pluto





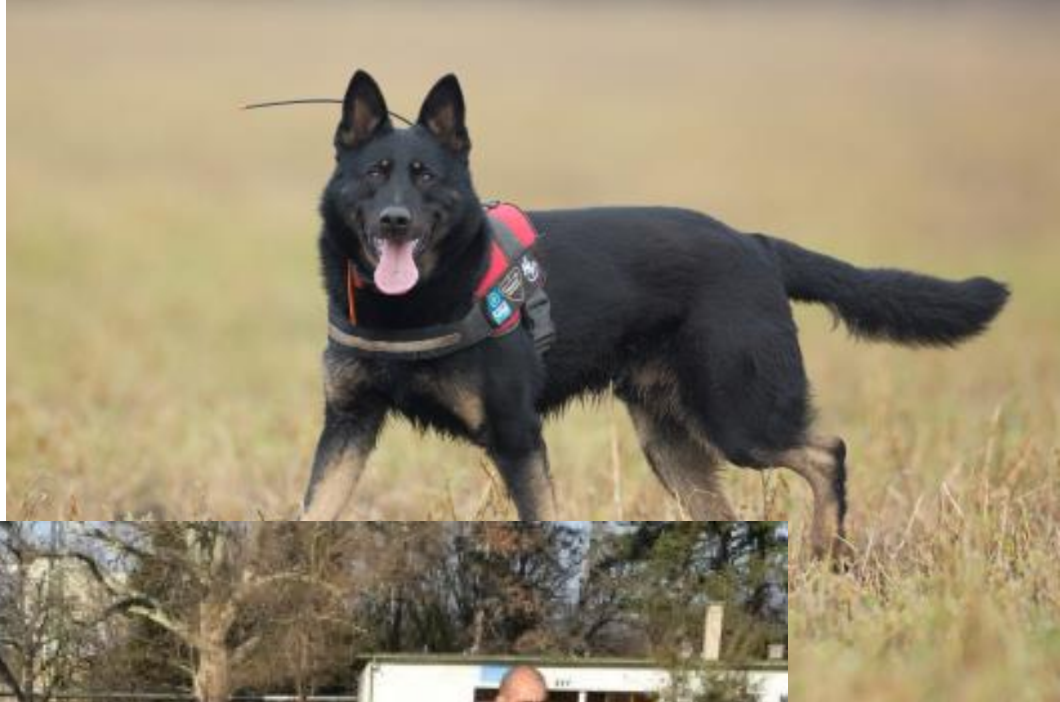
*And more...*





# ***HUNGARY***

- since 2013
- first in Central Europe
- Ranger Service



# PannonEagle LIFE dogs

## *Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria*





## Main tasks

- To find poisoned birds and poisonous baits: reported and random field searches
- House searches during the investigative phase
- Prevention



- 13.09.06 Tiszaalpár
- 12 marsh harriers, 3 saker falcons, 1 buzzards, injected egg baits, 4 foxes)





14.04.07 Sárrétudvari





15.03.21 Hernád





# Carbofuran

banned since 2008 in the EU, (since 2014 in Serbia)



2016.01.12 – Csikéria





Lead is Poison Coalition

# LEAD



Amount of Lead contained in size 7-1/2 shotgun shell  
(Approximately 347 pellets/1 ounce)

This small amount of Lead from a size 7-1/2 shotgun shell is enough to Kill a Bald Eagle when ingested  
(2 pellets)

an education moment from the Lead Is Poison Coalition

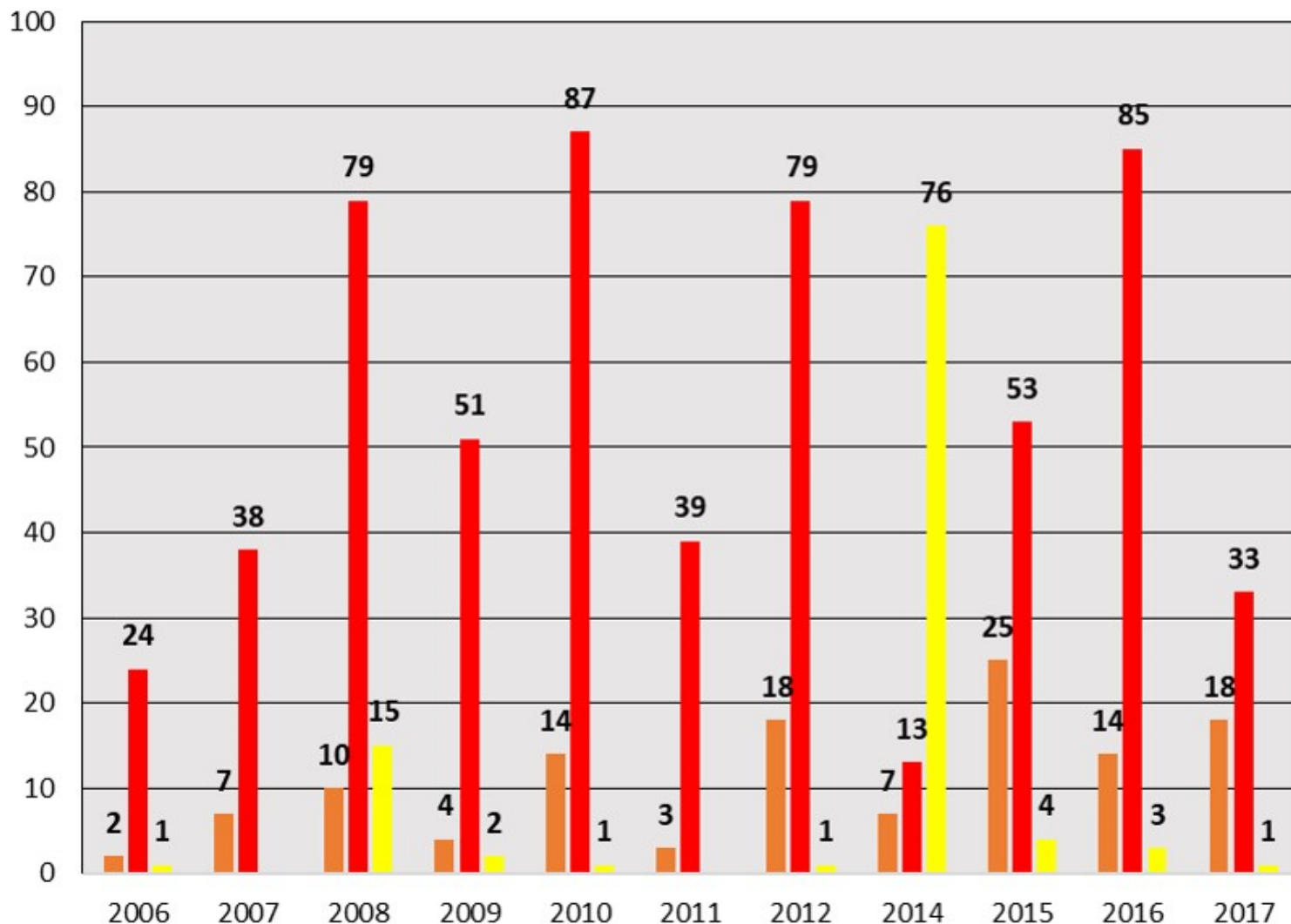
www.leadispoison.com



# Poisoned protected birds and mammals in Hungary between 2006 - 2017



[parlagisas.hu](http://parlagisas.hu)  
[imperialeagle.hu](http://imperialeagle.hu)



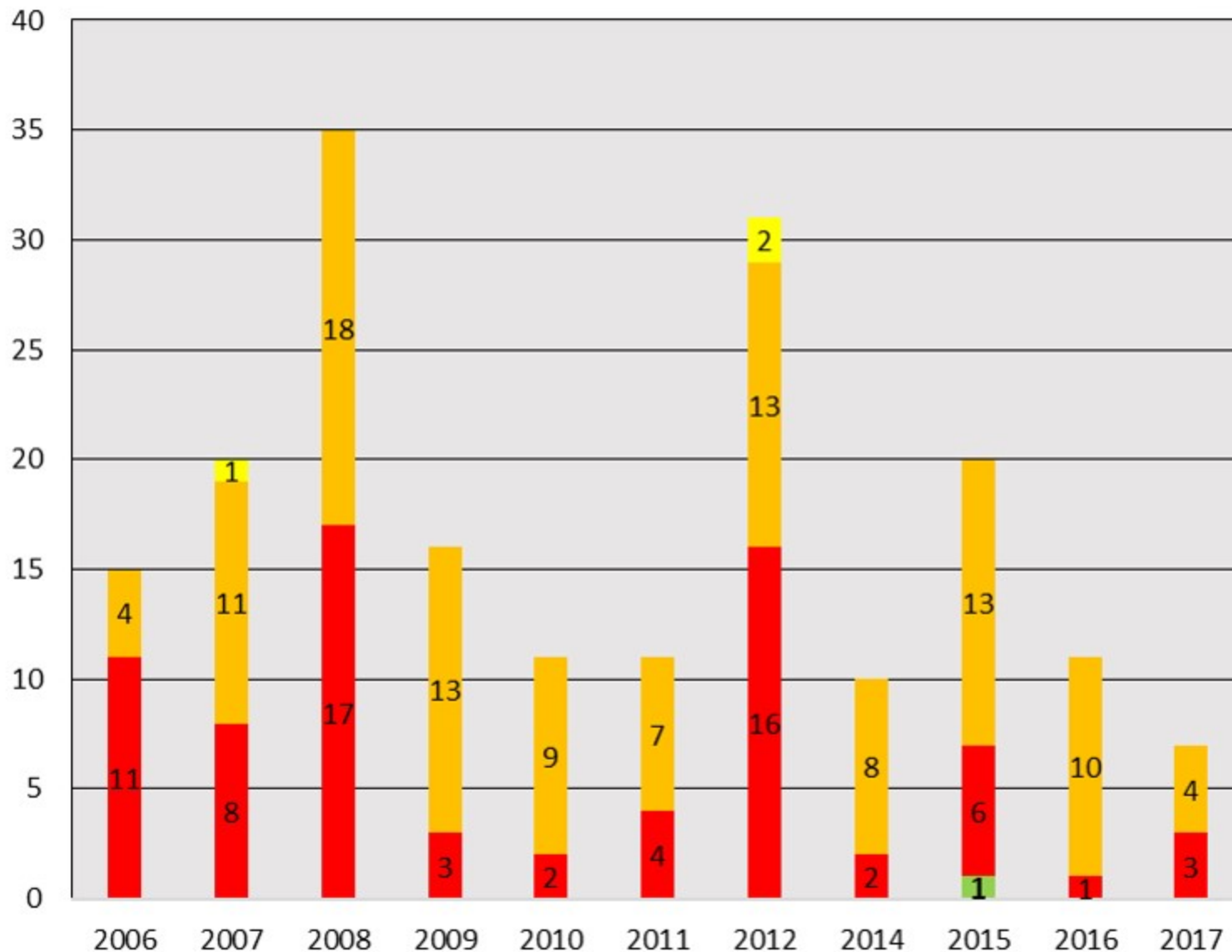
 Suspected poisoning

 Illegal Poisoning

 Accidental poisoning



# Number of eagles found poisoned in Hungary between 2006-2017



[parlagisas.hu](http://parlagisas.hu)  
[imperialeagle.hu](http://imperialeagle.hu)

- Golden eagle
- White-tailed eagle
- Imperial eagle
- Lesser spotted eagle

		BIRD CRIME			
Country	Year	DETECTED bird crime cases	POLICE INVESTIGATION started in bird crime cases	PROSECUTION started in bird crime cases	CONVICTION in bird crime cases
Austria	2017	23	17	0	0
Czechia	2017	24	18	0	0
Hungary	2017	20	12	1	1
Serbia	2017	6	0	0	0
Slovakia	2017	8	8	2	0
PANNONIA	2017	81	55	3	1

*Outcomes of the bird crime cases in the Pannonian region in year 2017*





## Verdicts:

- sentenced in 4 cases:

- Professional hunter - 3 marsh harriers – small financial penalty €300
- 2 professional hunter - 2 imperial eagles + 1 marsh harrier – financial penalty €4000
- Professional hunter - Several stuffed birds – 1 year 3 months (suspended for 2 years) and € 2400
- Duck farmer - 14 buzzards -1 year 7 months (suspended for 3 years)
- Some case on going...





**Desiree 01/2018**



- Imperial eagle
  - White-tailed eagles (2)
  - Common buzzards (6)
  - **Golden jackals** (9)
  - Fox
  - Dog
  - Magpies (3)
- 

Total: 23 victims



# Thank you for your attention!



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