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Press Release Waldrappteam LIFE+12-BIO_AT_000143

LIFE + project 'Reason for Hope': Together with Jane Goodall on new paths against illegal bird hunting

On October 12th, the primatologist and UN messenger of peace Jane Goodall signed a pioneering agreement, together with representatives of the Italian hunting associations FIDC and CCT and of the EU LIFE + project 'Reason for Hope'. The signatories support the sustainable reintroduction of migratory Northern Bald Ibises in Europe and arrange joint efforts to protect this and other endangered migratory species from illegal hunting in Italy. Afterwards, Jane Goodall also signed similar agreements with representatives of 10 Italian schools. The signing took place during a ceremony held at the Parco Natura Viva, Bussolengo.

The Hunting Association representatives became honorary patronages for reintroduced Northern Bald Ibises from the hands of Jane Goodall. They had chosen a name for their adopted birds in advance. Marco G. Romagnoli took over the patronage on behalf of the Confederazione Cacciatori Toscani (CCT). He named the bird GRANDUCA LEOPOLDO, after the duke Leopold II. MG Romagnoli: *"It is in our interest that this migratory bird, which has not been seen in Tuscany for over 200 years, returns. It is an obligation for us to maintain the biodiversity of an area; a modern hunter must agree to this commitment and fulfill it."*

Alessandro Salvelli took over the patronage on behalf of the Federazione Italiana della Caccia (FIDC). This bird got the name ARTEMIDE, after the Greek goddess of hunting. This patronage had a special meaning for Jane Goodall. It is an offspring of the Northern Bald Ibis GOJA, for which Jane Goodall had taken the honorary patronage in 2009. In October 2012, GOJA was shot dead in Tuscany. Thanks to a GPS tracking device on the back of the bird, the poacher could be identified. He is a member of FIDC, the organization that now took over the sponsorship for ARTEMIDE. J Goodall: *"For me it is not easy to sign this document together with hunters. Hunting is not my way to preserve and protect nature. However, I am open for cooperation to achieve these common, so important goals."*

Also, 10 school groups became honorary patronages. The adoptions underlie the approach of presenting the Northern Bald Ibises as personalities, with names, life histories and idiosyncrasies. The same objective underlies the publication of the free App 'Animal Tracker', which allows retrieving the current location of a tracked individual, to upload photos and to post observations. LIFE + project manager J Fritz: *"Today's technology allows us to single out the individual bird from anonymity. Meanwhile, individual birds have proper fan bases which cause large public participation if incidents such as poaching happens. Using these technologies, we not only want to raise public awareness for the problem of illegal bird*

hunting, but also increase the risk and the consequences for potential poachers substantially. We are very glad that the Italian hunting associations now support us actively."

Illegal bird hunting is a substantial problem for European bird conservation. Elaborated conservation attempts in the breeding areas are thus nullified. J Fritz: *"We can demonstrate the problem of illegal bird hunting with concrete numbers. During the last 12 years we have lost 60 birds in our project, around 70% of them have been found shot dead or they disappeared particularly during the hunting season in Italy. Such a high rate of loss must also be assumed for other endangered migratory species. Without a reduction of this high mortality rate, no sustainable conservation of the populations is possible. "*

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Picture (1) Signing at Parco Natura Viva, Bussolengo, Oktober 12th 2014; from left Alessandro Salvelli (FIDC), Johannes Fritz (LIFE+), Cesare Avesani-Zaborra (Director Parco Natura Viva), Jane Goodall (Jane Goodall Institutes), Marco G. Romagnoli (CCT).

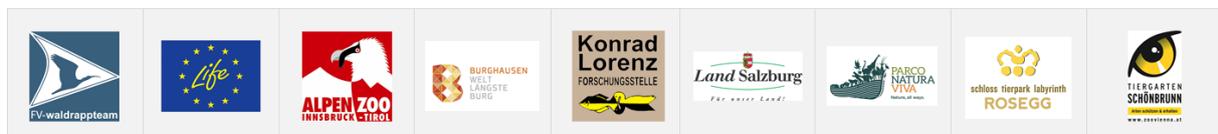
Picture (2) Signing at Parco Natura Viva, Bussolengo, Oktober 12th 2014; from left Cesare Avesani-Zaborra (Director Parco Natura Viva), Alessandro Salvelli (FIDC), Johannes Fritz (LIFE+), Jane Goodall (Jane Goodall Institutes), Marco G. Romagnoli (CCT).

Picture (3) Signing at Parco Natura Viva, Bussolengo, Oktober 12th 2014; Jane Goodall (Jane Goodall Institutes; middle of group) und Johannes Fritz (LIFE+; far right) with an Italian school group.

Picture (4) Jane Goodall (Jane Goodall Institutes) with a Northern Bald Ibis.

Picture (5) Jane Goodall (Jane Goodall Institutes) in front of the chimpanzee enclosure at Parco Natura Viva, Bussolengo.

Picture (6) Flight formation of Northern Bald Ibises.



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