

## **USE OF VETERINARY MEDICAL PRODUCTS WITHIN AND AROUND THE BREEDING GROUNDS OF THE EGYPTIAN VULTURE IN ALBANIA**



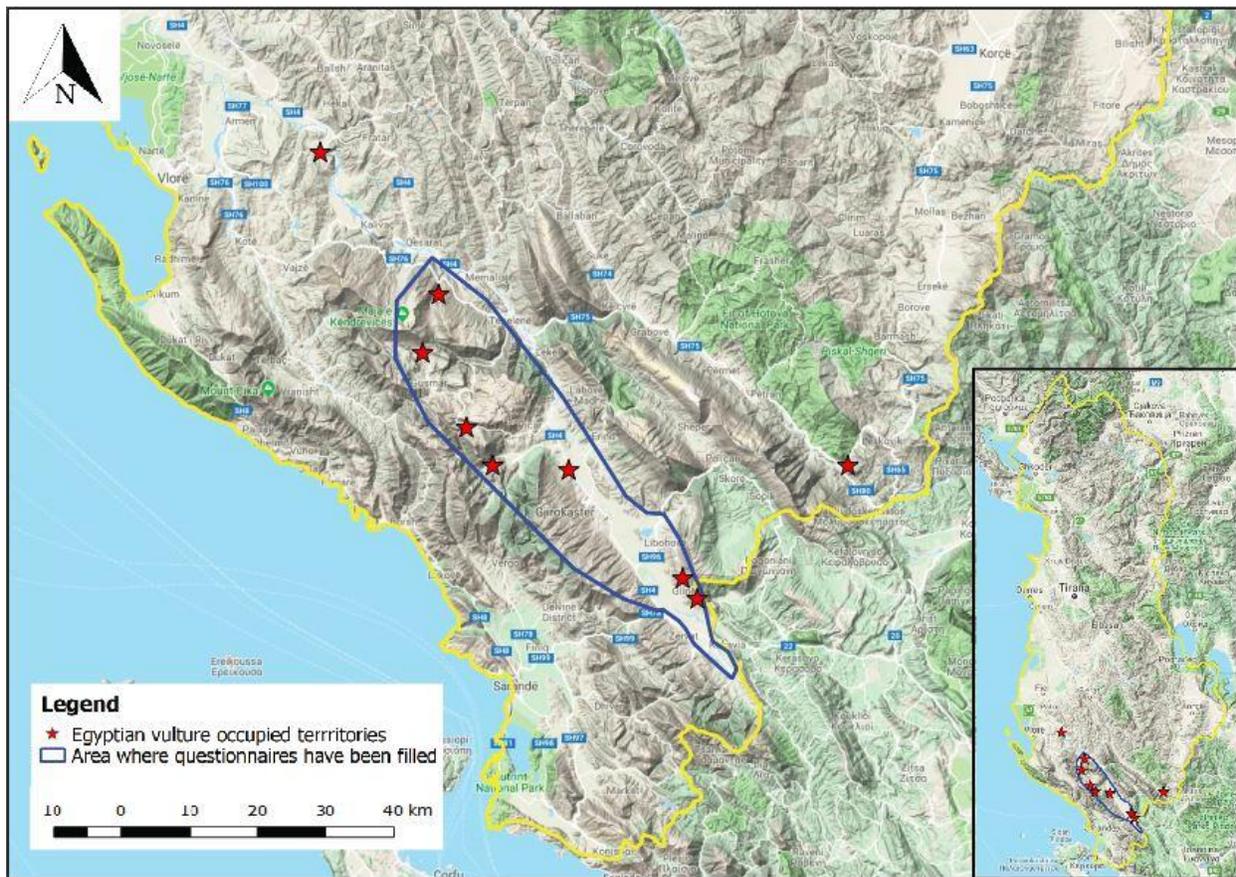
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## II. Subject and purpose of the report

This report is prepared under the Egyptian Vulture New LIFE project ( LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874 ) for accomplishing the tasks under the activity “A2” , aiming to investigate the use of Veterinary Medical Products within and around the territories of the Egyptian vulture in Albania. This is done in order to evaluate the impacts that use of Veterinary Medical Products could have on the population of the Egyptian vulture.

## III. Methodology

The questionnaire for livestock breeders (Annex 1) prepared by the project team has been implemented to collect information in Albania. A total number of **48** questionnaires have been filled within and around the Egyptian vulture territories in Albania. Egyptian vulture territories with the highest livestock presence have been selected for the implementation of the questionnaire as given in the map below.

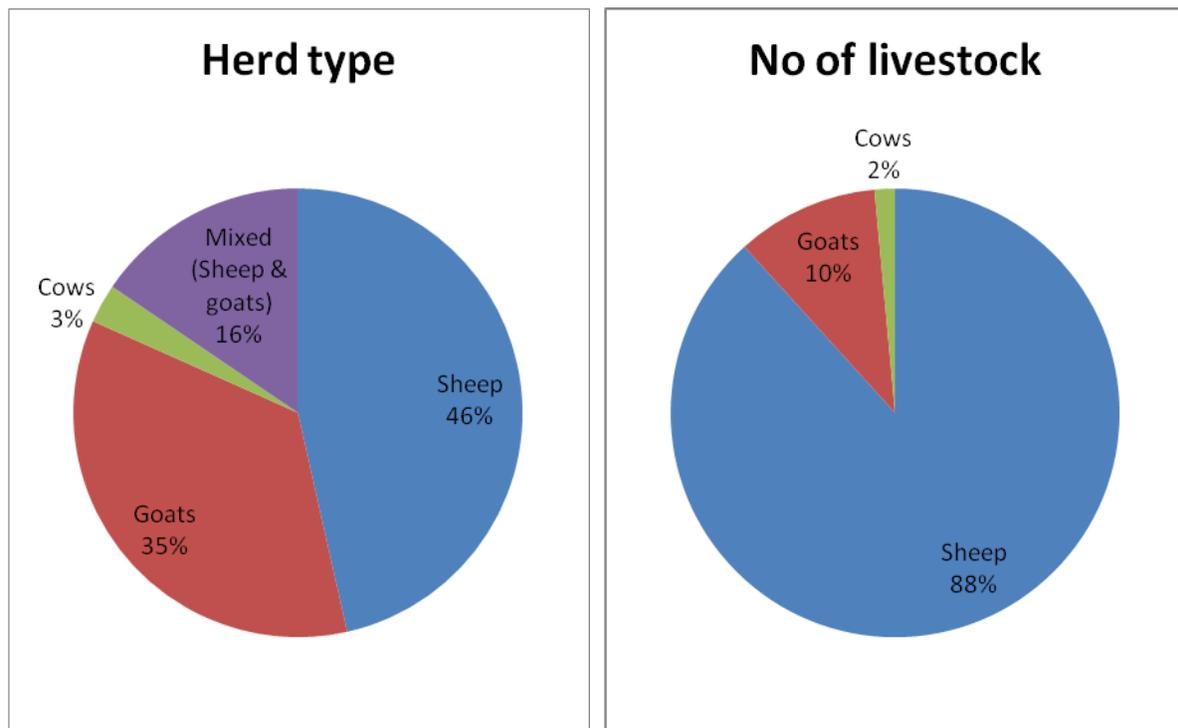


Map of the surveyed area.

## IV. Results from the field studies

### 1. Results from the questionnaires with livestock breeders

A total number of 48 livestock breeders have been interviewed in the frame of this research. Most of them (46%) have only sheep in their herd, 35% have only goats, only 3% have only cows and 16% of farmers have a mixed herd with sheep and goats. Sheep is highly dominating the grazing landscape with 88% (6050 heads) of the total number of livestock owned by all the interviewed livestock breeders, followed by goats with 10% or 702 heads and cows with only 2% or 101 heads. The average size of sheep herd is 126 heads and the average size of goat herds is 15 heads. Regarding the cows, the average size is 50 cows, however only 2 farmers mentioned to have cows, one farmer 100 heads and the other 1 cow. The largest herd owned by one farmer alone was 700 heads. In addition some farmers were mixing the herds together making larger herds such as over 900 heads.



All the interviewed livestock breeders use veterinary products. All of them regularly use the vaccines and occasionally (based on the needs, when having sick animals) other products such as antibiotics or anti-inflammatory drugs. Almost all the livestock breeders regularly use the vaccines against: A-galaxy disease, anthrax, brucellosis and enterotoxaemia. In addition regular application of anti-parasites medications have been mentioned almost by all the farmers.

The Veterinary Medication Products used mostly for the parasitic diseases of livestock are **Ivomec (Ivermectrine)** and **Cipermetrine**.

As the very majority of the livestock breeders do not know the names and particularly the active substances of the veterinary products they use, we checked the wrappings of the medications they have used along the year and noticed that **Oxytetracycline** is the product mostly used within the anti-biotic and on the other hand **Dexamethasone** is the most used anti-inflammatory drug. Bellow are given pictures of the wrappings of the veterinary products found in the Shepherd places.



**Fig 1. Veterinary products found in shepherd places while carrying out the interviews.**

The livestock breeders having large herds usually go to buy the products in the pharmacy by themselves; however they consult via telephone (most often) with the vet. In some cases the



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consultancy is also given by the veterinary pharmacist. Among the shepherds owning large herds there were a few having a relatively good knowledge of the products they need to use and some of them said that “I can now recognize some of the diseases and I know what medication is used for that, thus I go to buy in the pharmacy and apply”.

The vaccines of anthrax and brucellosis are always applied by the specialized vets whereas other vaccines and anti-parasitic drugs are also applied by shepherds themselves. The vaccines are mostly given as injection (apart from one which is applied in the eye), the anti-biotic as injection whereas the anti-parasitic products mostly through external application in the skin.

The vaccines and the anti-parasitic drugs are given regularly to the livestock, whereas the anti-inflammatory and anti-biotic drugs are applied only to the animals which are touched by the disease. The anti-parasitic drugs are usually applied at least twice, once in spring and once in autumn, however some farmers mentioned that they apply even three times.

The animals which die from anthrax or brucellosis are immediately buried, whereas the animals which are sick due to other diseases, such as gastro-intestinal, snake bite, parasites etc are usually slaughtered (when after treatment they continue to remain weak) and consumed by dogs but also by people.

Livestock breeders which had losses of livestock due to disease, said that the animal usually dies within 3-5 days after treatment with medication.

Farmers usually buy the same pharmaceutical veterinary products as they have tested the efficiency of the products and are satisfied with the results.

## 2. Results from the interviews with veterinary authorities and veterinary pharmacists

The veterinary pharmacists operating in the area of Gjirokaster, confirmed the use of the following substances for veterinary use in the area:

- *Ketoprofen it is used under the brand name Ainil and it is used usually for the arthritis and breast diseases*
- *Carprofen it is used*
- *Fluixin is used as an anti-inflammatory drug*
- *Diclofenac it is used under the brand name Voltaren*
- *Meloxiam it is used but just for dogs*

Whereas **Nimesulide** and **Acleofenac** are not mentioned to be used.

The representatives of the veterinary authorities mentioned that there are no alternative medications for these ones and some of them mentioned that they are aware about the impacts that this medication have on vultures.



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## **V. Interpretation and analysis of the results**

Results from the interviews with livestock breeders do not show the use of the problematic veterinary products and wrappings of such products have not been found in the shepherd places. The use of these products has been only mentioned by the veterinary authorities and also by the veterinary pharmacists. Livestock breeders also mentioned that the animals treated with anti-inflammatory and anti-parasitic products are usually slaughtered and consumed whether by dogs or by people as well.

## **VI. Conclusions**

The problematic pharmaceutical products are available for use in the target area and the products are authorized for use. A short complementary survey needs to be carried out with vets in the area in order to investigate the scale of use of the problematic veterinary products and based on the results actions need to be taken for discouraging the use of this products and introducing the use of alternative non-problematic products for vultures.



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## Appendices

### 1. Questionnaire used to collect the data was based on the following questions as indicated in the Methodology for the A2:

What livestock do you own? How many?

- Do you use any kind of pharmaceuticals?
- If yes, for what purpose?
- Type of pharmaceutical, active ingredient
- Supplier (vet, or bought in pharmacy without prescription)
- Method of administration (injection, oral)
- Frequency of administration
- Time of administration (i.e. regularly, state-dependent when animal is sick or moribund)
- Time between last administration and death of animal
- Disposal of animals that have been treated with pharmaceuticals: where, when and how?
- Are you aware of alternative pharmaceuticals for the same purpose?
- If yes, what is the reason you do not use the alternatives?