

NEWSLETTER N.3

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September 2025



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photo V. van Bergen



e-distribuzione





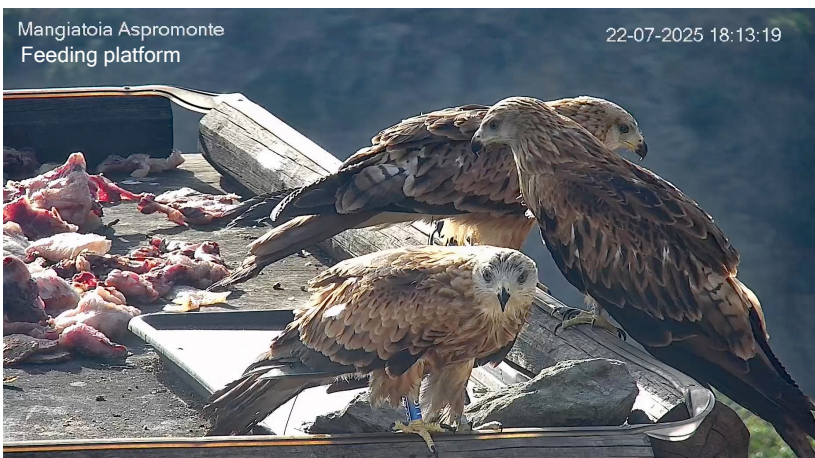
Third release of red kites in the Aspromonte National Park (ANP)

In July 2025, fifteen young red kites were released in the Aspromonte National Park as part of the reintroduction programme implemented through the LIFE MILVUS project.

Ten individuals originated from the Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland, were collected from nests around mid-June, while five individuals were born in captivity at the *Centro de Recuperación de Fauna Silvestre La Alfranca* in Aragon, Spain.

After being transferred from the donor areas, the birds underwent a period of acclimatisation in the aviaries of the release centre located in the southern part of the Park and were equipped by the LIFE MILVUS team with GPS, metal rings, and coloured identification rings.

Between 2023 and 2025, a total of 40 red kites of Swiss, French (Corsican), Spanish, and Italian origin were released into the ANP.





Collaborations 2025

The 2025 release is the outcome of an international collaboration between European institutions, associations, and experts.

Switzerland - The delivery of red kites is made possible through the support of the Canton of Fribourg, the Federal Office for the Environment, and the Federal Veterinary Office. A team of expert ornithologists and climbers, coordinated by Adrian Aebischer, conducts field activities (nest monitoring, collection of juveniles, etc.), in collaboration with the “Rita Ruch” Recovery Centre, affiliated with the Natural History Museum of Fribourg.

Spain - The Government of Aragon authorises and supports the transfer to the ANP of red kites born in the *Centro de Recuperación de Fauna Silvestre CRFS La Alfranca* (Zaragoza), where a team of veterinarians and biologists manages an innovative and highly successful captive breeding programme for the species.

Italy - The Endangered Raptors Centre Association CERM (and the Monti Cimini Institution (with the Wild Animal Recovery Centre of the Lake Vico Reserve) offer temporary hospitality to the young red kites during transfers from the donor areas to the ANP. The CERM also supports the tagging operations of the individuals to be released and collaborates in their remote monitoring.





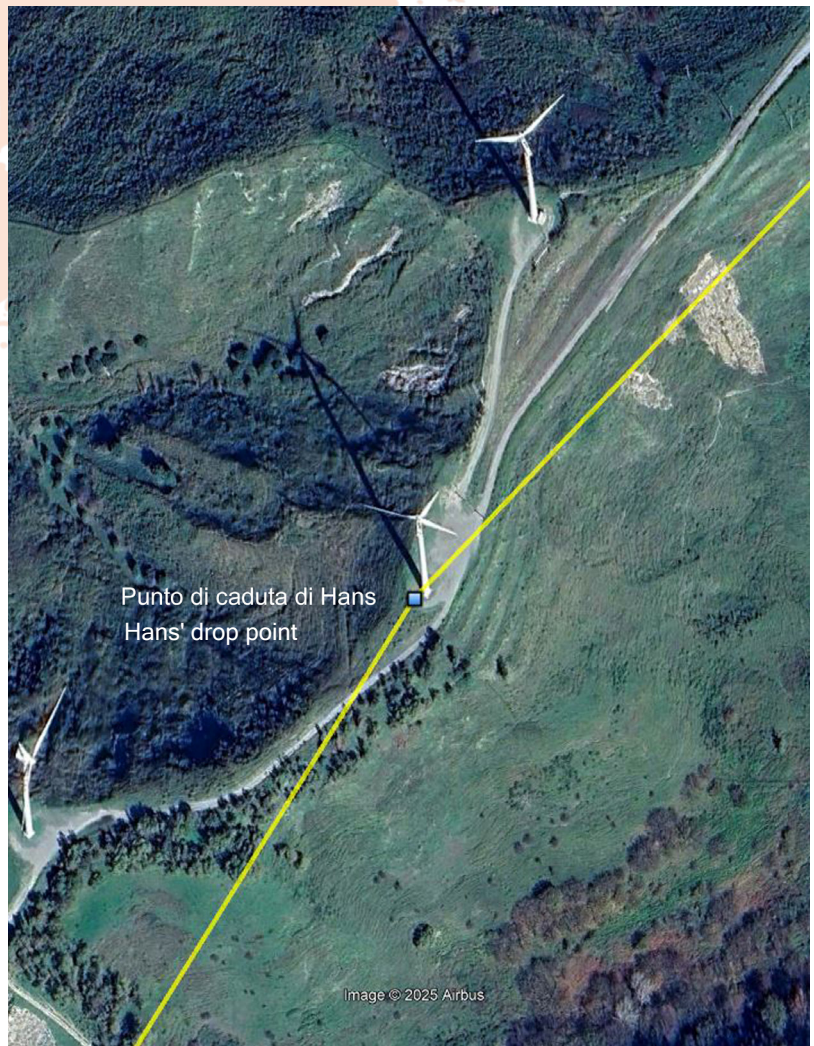
Updates on red kites released in the ANP

First nesting attempt

In spring 2025, a first nesting attempt was recorded by two red kites released in the ANP in 2023. The pair, consisting of the Swiss-born individuals Julia and Balù, had chosen a nesting site just south of the Aspromonte National Park's southern border. Unfortunately, the attempt was unsuccessful due to unknown reasons.

Hans' dangerous misadventure

The young Red kite Hans survived a close encounter with a wind turbine. Born in Switzerland, Hans was released into the ANP in August 2024. In spring 2025, he migrated to the north and on May 6, he flew through a wind farm in central Calabria and amazingly survived the risky encounter with only some injuries, including damaged plumage and small fractures to the distal part of his right wing. Despite his injuries, Hans flew to the nearby town of Catanzaro Lido and stopped in a city park, where he was captured by volunteers and handed over to the Catanzaro Wild Animal Recovery Centre. Hans was subsequently transferred to the Wild Animal Recovery Centre of the San Giuliano Reserve in Basilicata, where he received care and rehabilitation in a special aviary. Hans is scheduled to be released back into the Aspromonte National Park in September 2025.





Updates on red kites released in the ANP

Andrea's travels

Red kite Andrea is a remarkable traveller. Born in Switzerland, Andrea was released into the ANP in summer 2023. In October 2024, he was shot and wounded while flying south of Reggio Calabria. After receiving treatment at the 'Stretto di Messina' Wildlife Recovery Centre, Andrea was released back into the wild on January 19, 2025, in the Madonie Regional Park, Sicily. Between January and August, Andrea covered 5,891 km!

Initially, he wandered around Sicily, before flying to Calabria, on May 3, and returning to the release area. After various round trips from the ANP to Basilicata and Puglia, from July 24, Andrea headed north until he reached the province of Fermo, in the south of the Marche.



Red kite Andrea's movements from 19/01/2025 to 31/08/2025

Bird electrocution hazard prevention

The Symposium “Prevention of the risk of bird electrocution” was held in Rome on March 26, 2025, hosted by E-Distribuzione. The symposium provided a global overview of the issue and highlighted the impact on threatened species in Italy, as well as the most hazardous types of medium-voltage power line supports and effective technical solutions to make them safe for birds.

A representative from Spain’s Ministry for Ecological Transition (MITECO) shared the legislative, technical, and financial strategies adopted for mitigating the impact of power lines on birdlife in the Iberian country, one of the most advanced in the world on this front.

The symposium concluded with proposals to develop a national strategy in Italy to tackle bird electrocution, focusing on detecting cases, creating risk maps, and identifying critical areas and power lines where insulation interventions should be prioritized.

Available for download:

Symposium presentations
in PDF format:

<https://lifemilvusproject.it/documenti/>



Video recording:

https://youtu.be/_BCoA9t9MiU



Symposium programme:

<https://tinyurl.com/4yvhn4b5>



E-Distribuzione has created
a brochure dedicated to the
knowledge and prevention of
bird electrocution, which can be
downloaded here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4keyeby5>



The main objectives of the **LIFE MILVUS project** are the reintroduction of the Red kite in the Aspromonte National Park (ANP) and the implementation of conservation measures for the species in Corsica.

Project areas

Aspromonte National Park (Italy) and Corsica (France)

Coordinating beneficiary

Aspromonte National Park Authority

Associated beneficiaries

e-distribuzione S.p.A., Regione Calabria, Conservatoires d'Espaces Naturels de Corse CEN Corse

Duration

01/10/2019 - 30/09/2027



www.lifemilvusproject.it

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