



Transforming conservation: Wildlife Crime Academy's groundbreaking training raises the bar in wildlife crime prosecution

Wildlife Crime Academy produces 44 experts in Wildlife Crime Investigation and Analysis from 9 countries in Europe

SUMMARY

- The Wildlife Crime Academy has successfully concluded its Level 3 Supreme Course on Wildlife Crime Analysis and Intelligence.
- Forty four participants from nine countries across Europe are now certified as Experts in Wildlife Crime Investigation and Analysis.
- The training has filled critical knowledge gaps and transformed attitudes towards wildlife crime as a serious crime in Europe.
- Participants have gained comprehensive skills to effectively investigate, manage and tackle illegal wildlife crime incidents.
- The Wildlife Crime Academy's training is expected to have a significant impact on prosecuting and convicting wildlife criminals, deterring offenders and protecting endangered species.

The fight against wildlife crime has reached new heights with the successful conclusion of the [Wildlife Crime Academy's](#) Level 3 Supreme Course on Wildlife Crime Analysis and Intelligence last Thursday, 20 April, in Málaga (Spain). Forty passionate participants from nine countries across Europe have made history as the first and only professionals in the field of wildlife conservation to obtain qualifications in this highly advanced and specialised field. Their groundbreaking training is expected to have a significant impact on prosecuting and convicting wildlife criminals, serving as a deterrent to potential offenders and ultimately minimising wildlife crimes, thereby saving the lives of endangered species.

Organised by the [Vulture Conservation Foundation](#) and the [Junta de Andalucía](#) as part of the EU-funded [BalkanDetox LIFE](#) and [LIFE with Vultures](#) projects, the Wildlife Crime Academy's series of three intense training courses have not only filled critical knowledge gaps but have also transformed attitudes towards wildlife crime, elevating it as a serious crime among competent authorities.

Tailored to professionals from diverse academic disciplines working in conservation, law enforcement and forensic science, the training equips participants with the necessary skills to lead investigations, manage teams and elevate the motivational level of relevant stakeholders. Following internationally recognised procedures from Junta de Andalucía and a syllabus designed by specialists with over 15 years of experience, along with contributions from Europol, the Wildlife Crime Academy's courses are at the forefront of cutting-edge knowledge and practices.



“By combining Crime Scene Investigation (CSI), forensic science and judicial processes, we have achieved an 80% reduction in illegal wildlife poisoning incidents in Andalusia over the span of 15 years. With the right procedures, perseverance and collaboration, we are confident that our participants can achieve comparable results in their own countries.

- Iñigo Fajardo, Head of the Protected Species Department at the Junta de Andalucía and one of the Wildlife Crime Academy’s professors

During the Level 3 course, participants honed their skills in profiling suspects and understanding criminal behaviour through practical exams on criminal signatures and case linkage. The theory section covered topics such as Forensic Psychology, Crime Analysis and Criminal Profiling. Participants learned about Behavioral Evidence Analysis methodology and how Intelligence can prevent crime and aid investigations, especially when dealing with organised crime and international networks involved in wildlife poisoning and illegal trade.

“Europe has gained 44 new experts in Wildlife Crime Investigation and Analysis from nine countries. We are impressed by their unwavering dedication to combatting wildlife crime and trust that their expertise will make a real difference in preventing illegal wildlife mortality and supporting conservation efforts. Our Wildlife Crime Academy participants have already achieved the first-ever conviction for illegal wildlife poisoning in Cyprus.”

- Jovan Andevski, Programmes Manager at the Vulture Conservation Foundation and coordinator of the Wildlife Crime Academy

With these newly trained professionals leading the charge in the fight against wildlife crime, there is renewed hope for the protection and conservation of endangered species in Europe!

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NOTE TO EDITORS

More information at <https://balkandetoxlife.eu/wildlife-crime-academy>

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Level 3 participants and professors © Antonio Atienza Fuerte

All teams during the Level 3 practical exam © Vulture Conservation Foundation

General photos from previous courses © Vulture Conservation Foundation

Practical exam

Crime scene

Body posture complex

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