

## OPERATIONAL PROTOCOL FOR POISONING INCIDENTS IN THE RUPIS PROJECT AREA

*This protocol is prepared as part of the Life Project Rupis (LIFE14 NAT/PT/000855), within action A5: Preparation of adequate field protocols for toxicological identification of direct (poison) and indirect (heavy metals, antibiotic) contaminants in the target species.*

### Introduction

#### **Protocol objective**

Identify right stockholders and establish official procedure for collection and analyses of presumably poisoned animals found in the field per the national regulations in order to improve the detection of poisoned animals in the nature.

Due to the differences in national regulations, already established practices and experience was not possible to provide common protocol or scheme that can apply to the entire Rupis project area (Portuguese and Spanish side). Therefore, this operational protocol provides different recommendations specific for each sub-project area (Portuguese and Spanish side).

The operational protocol includes two technical protocols for sampling (annexed):

- *Protocol for taking samples from dead animals for toxicological analyses (Annex I).*
- *Protocol for taking biological samples from live birds for toxicological and parasitological analyses (Annex II).*

These two protocols provide detailed information on collection, conservation and transport of biological materials per the EU regulation. The objective of these protocols is to secure adequate handling, conservation and quality of samples.

Both protocols are applicable for Portuguese and Spanish side from the Rupis Project area.

## Detection and collection of presumably poisoned animals and biological samples

### For Portugal

The only responsible authorities according to the Portuguese regulation to collect dead animals, samples or baits (evidences for presumably poisoning case) is **SEPNA (Serviço de Proteção da Natureza e do Ambiente)**.

All other entities (Rupis project team or any other entity or person) should inform SEPNA in case dead animal or other indication for poisoning is detected in the field. Nobody except SEPNA can handle or collect samples or evidence!

SEPNA telephone number for environmental crime is SOS Ambiente 808200520, which works 24/24,

*Note: It will be useful if the Rupis project team can raise some publicity for this telephone number and explain to the public what should be done in case presumably poisoning incident is detected in the field.*

The collected evidence (dead animals, samples and baits) must be delivered also by SEPNA to the necropsy centres (wildlife recovery centres).

\* We highly recommend the use of the technical protocol for sampling of dead animals (Annex I) to secure good quality of samples.

Responsible entity for collection of samples and transport to the necropsy centre: SEPNA within action C7 from the Rupis Project.

### For Spain (CyL)

There is already well established practice on detection and collection of samples, dead animals or poisoned baits. The responsible authorities on Spanish side are the **environmental agents** from the regional government (in this case the Junta de Castilla y Leon) and the special unit for environmental crime from the national police (Guardia Civil) called **SEPRONA** (Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza).

There is already established 24/7 free telephone number on national level for reporting of poisoning cases, called SOS VENENO: 900 713 182.

\* We highly recommend the use of the technical protocol for sampling of dead animals (Annex I) to secure good quality of samples.

Responsible entity for collection of samples and transport to the necropsy centre: Environmental agents – Junta de Castilla y Leon and SEPRONA. No costs for the Rupis Project.

## Forensic necropsy

### For Portugal

There are two necropsy centres identified in the Rupis project area that can assume the responsibility for performing the forensic necropsy:

- CERVAS - Centro de Ecologia, Recuperação e Vigilância de Animais Selvagens
- LHAP-UTAD - Laboratório de Histologia e Anatomia Patológica da Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro

### Important notes:

- Samples collected in North Duero must be delivered to LHAP-UTAD, and from the South Duero to CERVAS.
- Dead domestic animals (presumably poisoned) from the entire Rupis area should be delivered to LHAP-UTAD
- LHAP-UTAD and CERVAS will perform the forensic necropsy with no charge to the Rupis Project.

### For Spain (CyL)

According to the Spanish regulation (and already established practice in Castilla y Leon) the recovery wildlife centre from Valladolid CRAS (Centro de Recuperación de Animales Silvestres) is the relevant authority that can perform the forensic necropsy. They are also responsible for preparing and sending the samples to the toxicology lab.

Responsible entity for forensic necropsy: CRAS Valladolid (Centro de Recuperación de Animales Silvestres) – Junta de Castilla y Leon. No costs for the Rupis Project.

## Toxicological analyses

### For Portugal

The referent laboratory for Portugal that could perform the toxicological analyses is FMU - Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária from Lisbon.

Therefore, after the necropsy performed in CERVAS or LHAP-UTAD samples for toxicological analyses has to be delivered to FMV.

Sampling, packaging and transport should be done according to the protocol for dead animals (Annex I). Responsible entities for preparing the samples to be send to FMV are: CERVAS and LHAP-UTD.

The transport of the samples should be done by official carrier (MRW, Tel. 232 415 527).

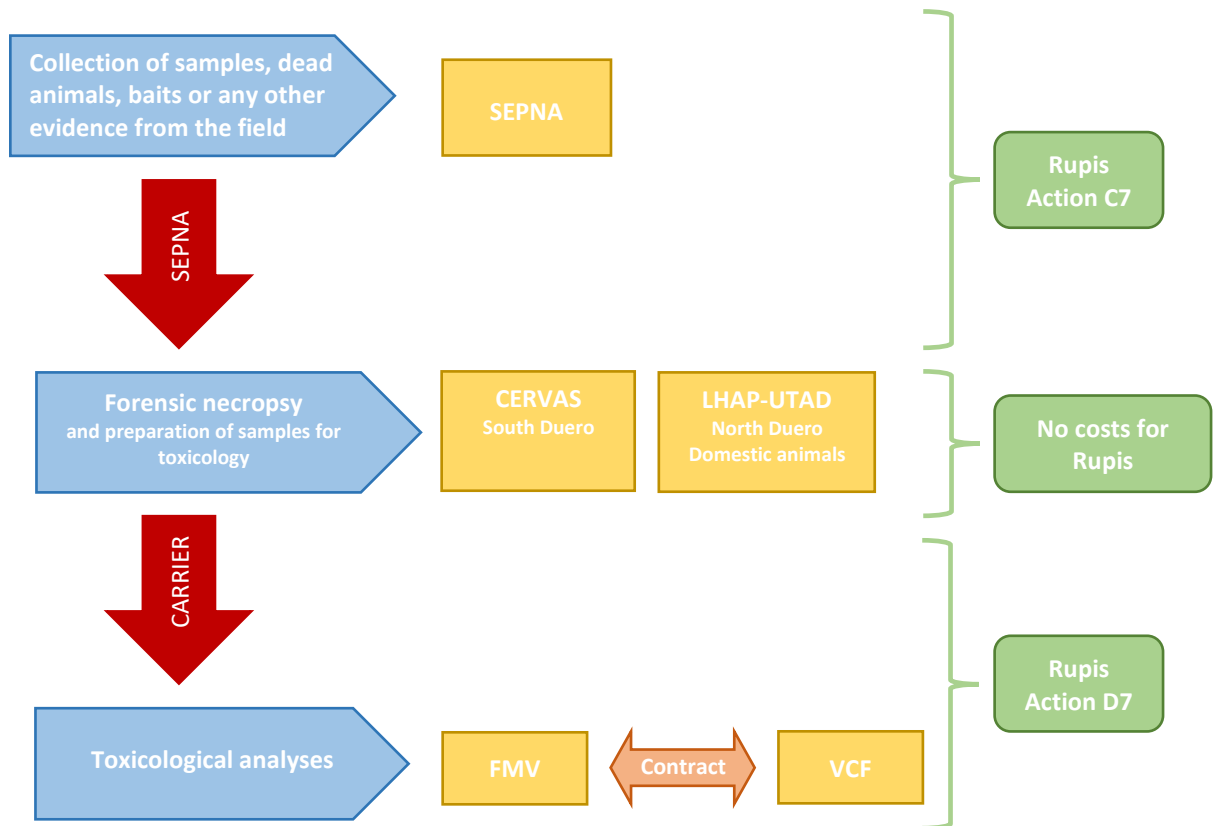
Responsible entity for performing the toxicological analyses is FMV within contract established with the VCF (action D7).

### For Spain (CyL)

The identified toxicological laboratory for the samples collected on Spanish side is IREC -Spanish Institute of Game and Wildlife Research.

Responsible entity for performing the toxicological analyses is IREC within contract established with the VCF (action D7).

1. Scheme chart – operational protocol on Portuguese side



2. Scheme chart – operational protocol on Spanish side

