Egyptian Vulture Conservation in France

2015, 5-8 July.
Sofia Bulgarie International Workshop
Speaker: Marie-Pierre Puech

With the contributions of
Pascal Orabi - LPO
Cecile Ponchon – CEN PACA
Statuts and population size in France

• *Endangered species on the red national list (UICN/MNHN)*

• *Two core populations: one in the Pyrenees and a smaller one in the South-East*
The french population in 2014

- **Core of South East:** 17 pairs
- **Core of Pyrénées:** 71 pairs
Statuts and population size in France

Numbers of territorial pairs of Egyptian Vulture from 1935 to 2014
Evolution of the breeding parameters

Productivity in France
Breeding success in France
Fledging rate
Linéaire (Productivity in France)
Linéaire (Breeding success in France)
Linéaire (Fledging rate)
Main threats

• Changing in livestock breeding habitats (lack of food availability)

• Habitat loss because of urbanization

• Toxics / poisoning (pesticides or poisoned baits)

• Electrocutions/collision

• Disturbances during breeding season (climbing, paragliding, hiking, forestry works, military flying, photographers...)
Conservation initiatives

• First National Restoration Plan 2002-2007
  • Applied in the South-East thanks to a LIFE program
    • Applied in the Pyrénées with an INTERREG/POCTEFA program around the vultures guild still running

• 2nd National Action Plan (2014-2023)

• Ringing program since 1997
LIFE03 NAT/F/00103
Recovery plan for the Egyptian Vulture in South-Eastern France
2003-2008
Context reminder

• Declining for several tens of years (>50% decrease over the last 50 years)

• In 2001, just 12 breeding pairs left

Urgency to implement conservation actions in the South East, in accordance with the National Restoration Plan to stop the local decrease while trying to initiate a return to abandoned site
Departments concerned by the LIFE program
Identification of the 6 sites of the project
Main purposes

• Providing food with the settlement of breeders feeding places

Figure 2: Summary Histogram of the cumulated numbers of feeding stations installation per year.
Carte 2: Building efforts of the feeding stations within the timeframe of the LIFE Nature No. LIFE03NAT/F/000103 program
Example for the site: « Crau et Marais »
7 feeding stations

Number of pictures and time of presence of Egyptian Vultures on the 7 feeding stations
Plan d’actions Vautour et pastoralisme
Others Actions

• Threats Inventory on each breeding sites

• Previous sites Inventory

• Identification of dangerous electrical pylons

• Electricity company Action Plan to insulated pylons

• Follow up and monitoring

• Veterinary analysis

• Vigilance Poison
Communication tools

An exhibition with 12 panels

A poster

DVD, Slideshow with photo gallery...
Education tools
Evolution of the SE population

Evolution de la population française de Vautours percnoptères

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Breeding pairs</th>
<th>Flying young</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIFE Project n° LIFE03
NAT/F/00103
Ringing Programs

Max Gallardo’s Program: coloured rings from 1997 to 2009
140 chicks ringed

Max Gallardo’s Program: 2010 white code on black ring
24 chicks ringed
Ringing Programs

Erick Kobierzycki’s Program: since 2006 in the Pyrénées and 2014 in the SE
Black code on white ring
Pyrénées: 98 chicks ringed
SE: 200 chicks ringed
Thank you for your attention and to all our partners