



“Vulture Conservation in Europe”



life
GRIFONE

30.06.2016

Jovan Andevski,
Vulture Conservation Foundation



The Vulture Conservation Foundation

- Foundation for the Bearded Vulture conservation since 1985
- As VCF since 2009 - working with the 4 species of vultures in Europe
- Dutch Foundation, based in Switzerland, and staff throughout Europe
- 2013 - Restructuring and start a program of institutional development
- Leader in vulture conservation at European level

www.4vultures.org

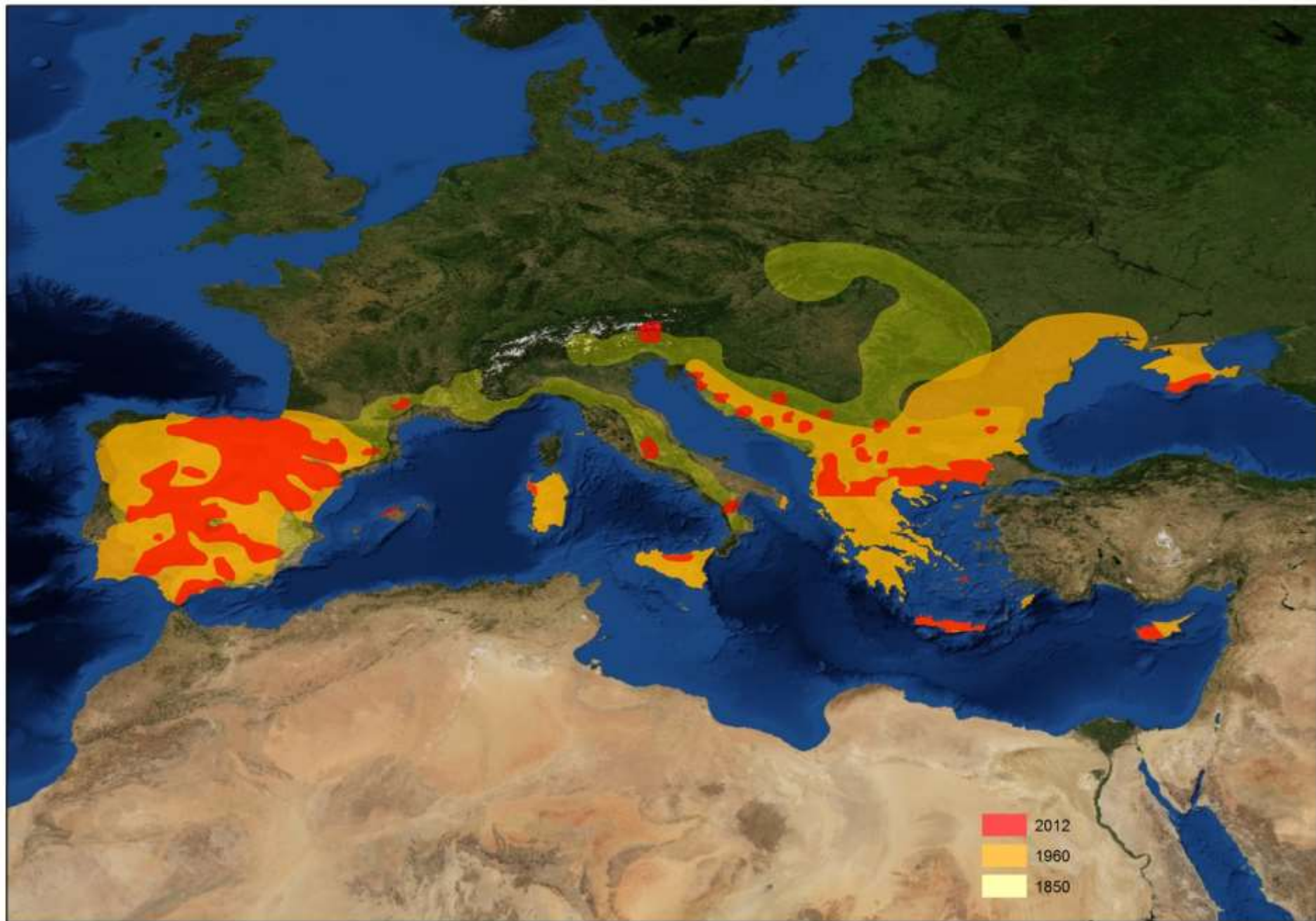


Gyps fulvus



Global IUCN status
Least Concern

Griffon Vulture - distribution map



Griffon Vulture reintroduction in Francia 1979





VAUTOURS EN BARONNIES



AGIR pour la BIODIVERSITÉ
PACA

300 birds reintroduced

Grands Causses

Jonte : 1981-1986

60 birds released

Navacelles
1993-1998



Pre-Alpes

80 birds released

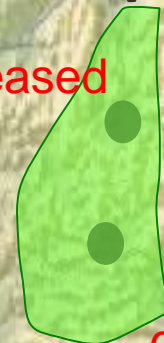
Vercors
1999-2007

Baronnies
1996 - 2001

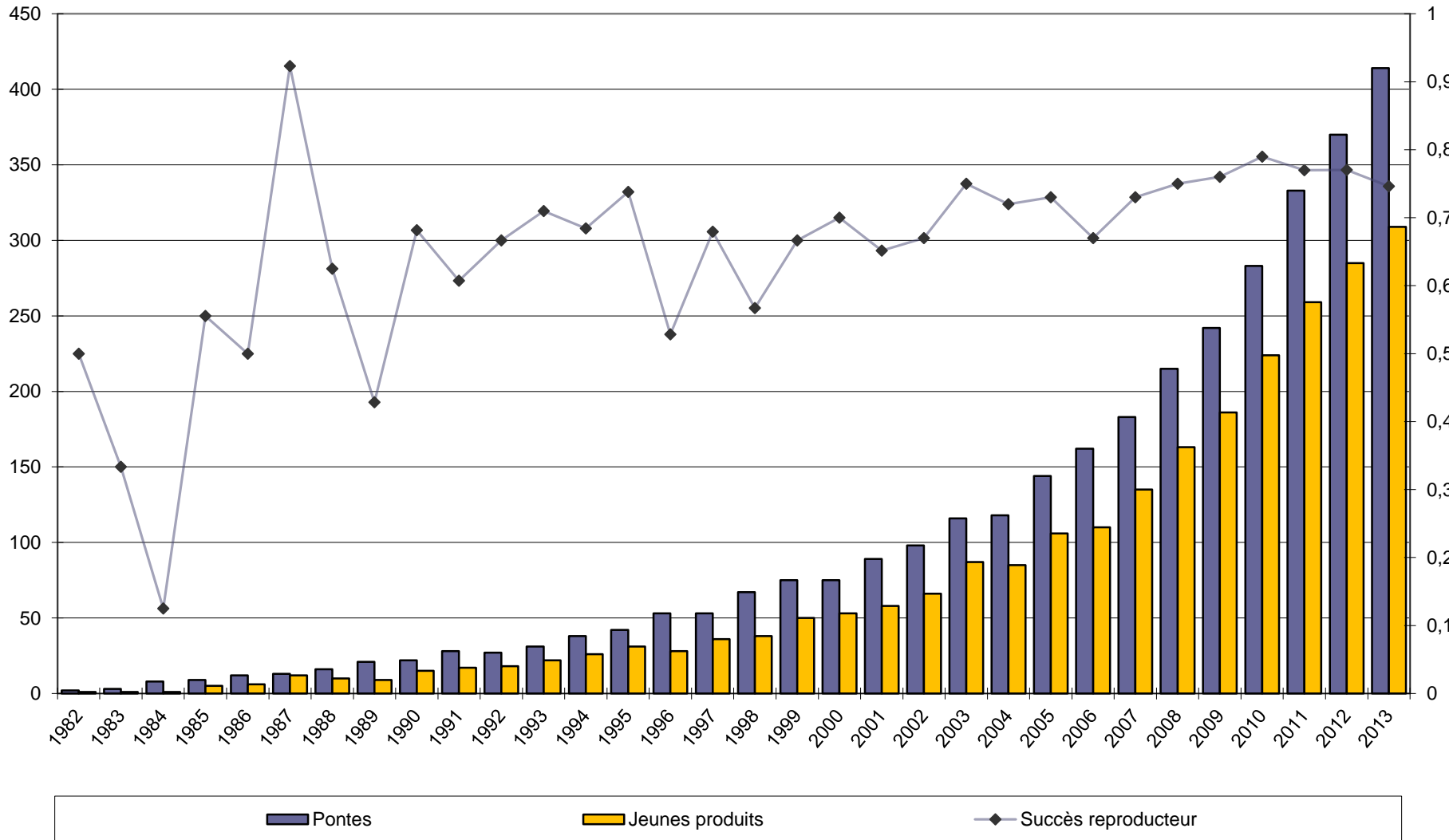
61 birds released

Verdon 1999 - 2004

91 birds released



Grands Causes - Griffon Vulture breeding pairs



from 0 to 1,400 pairs in 30 years

Griffon Vulture reintroduction in Bulgaria

2002 - Balkan Vulture Action Plan

2006 – Viability study

LIFE: Vultures Return in Bulgaria

Project duration:

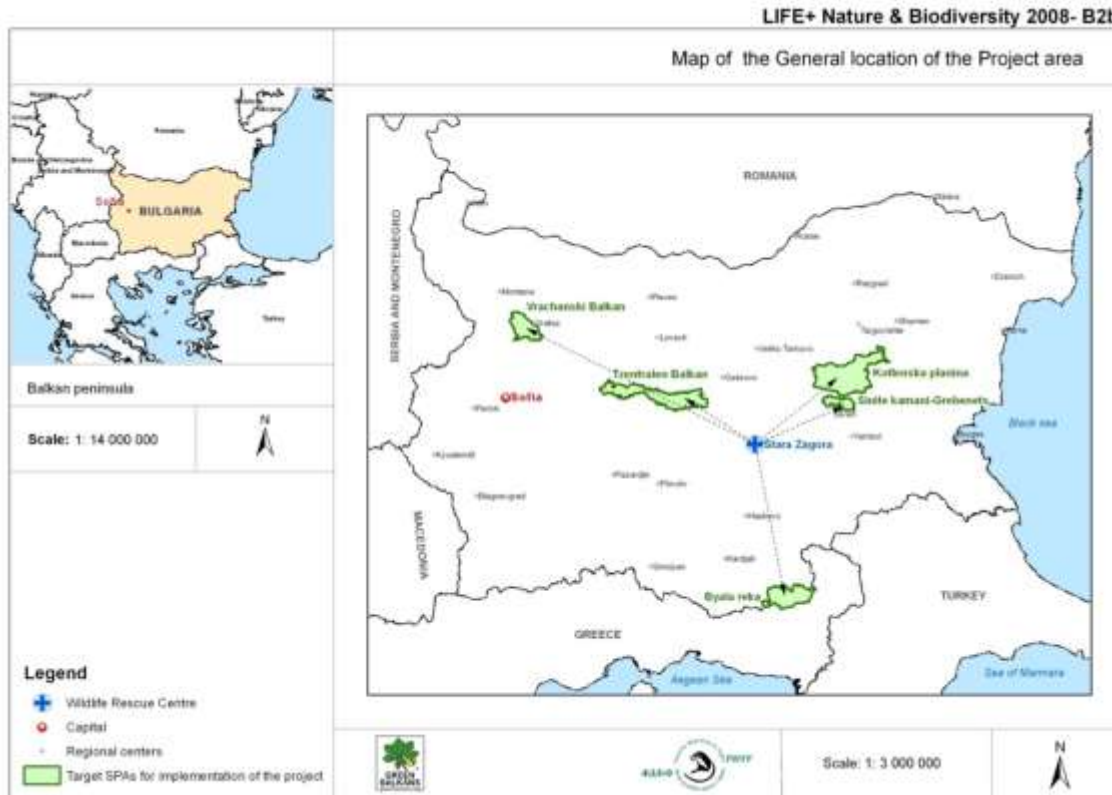
- 2010-2015

Partners:

- Green Balkans;
- Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna;
- Birds of Prey Protection Society;



Griffon Vulture reintroduction in Bulgaria



Imported 264 Griffon vultures
- 210 released

44 death cases, 50%
electrocution

12-15 breeding pairs

1st chick in 2015





Griffon Vulture Transports

- **Total of 264 vultures (2009-2014)**
 - Spain (Extremadura, Andalucía, Castilla y León, Castilla La-Mancha y País Vasco) 80%
 - France 10%
 - EEP, Zoos 10%



Griffon Vulture - population trend

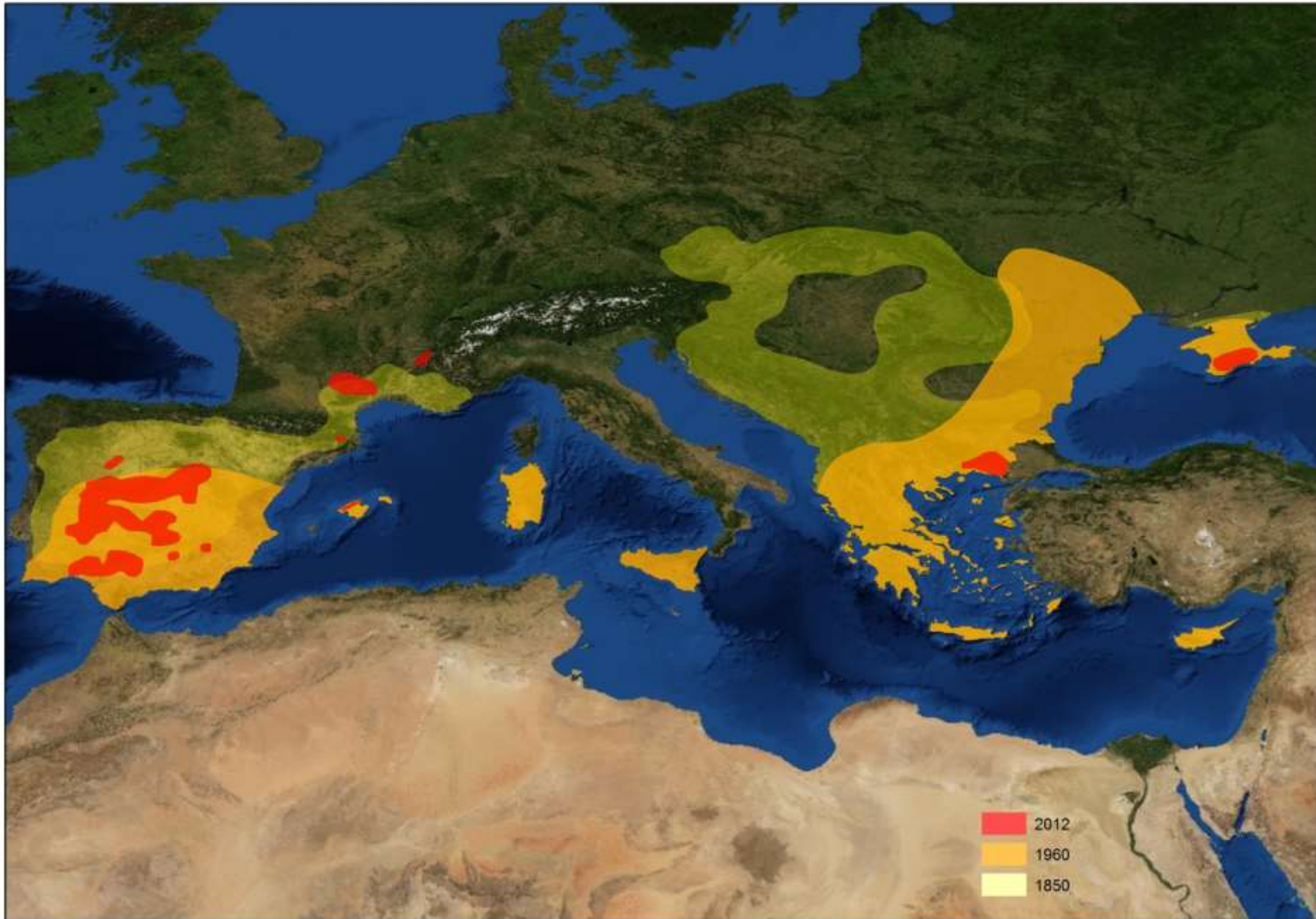


Aegyptius monachus



Global IUCN status
Near Threatened

Black Vulture - distribution map

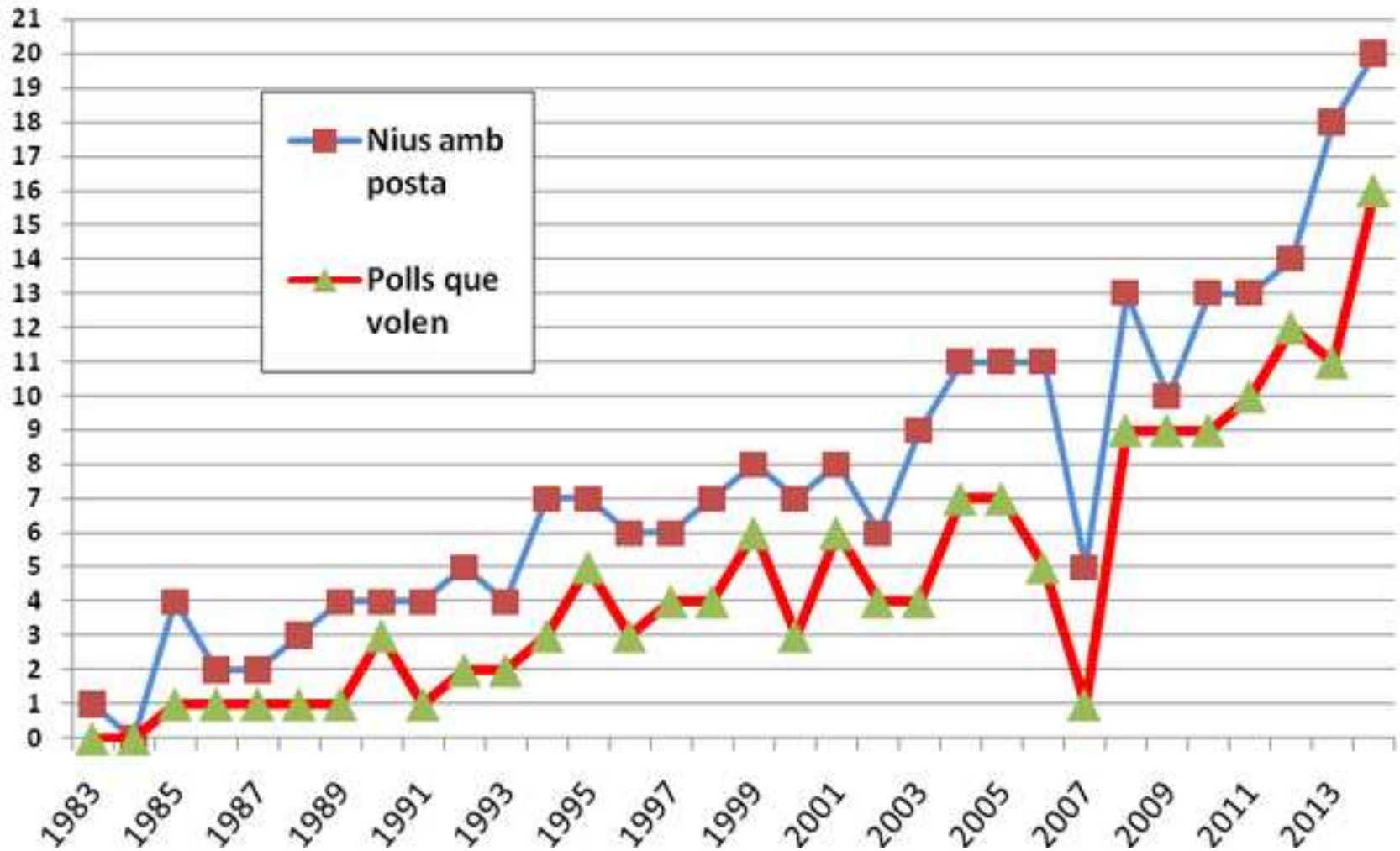


Mallorca



1984-1992: restocking with 35 individuals

Black Vulture population trend in Mallorca



From 1 to 20 breeding pairs in 30 years!

Reintroduction of Black Vulture in France



VAULTOURS EN BARONNIES



AGIR pour la
BIODIVERSITÉ
PACA



Black Vulture Reintroduction in France

125 Black vultures released/ 31 breeding pairs

Grands Causses
50 vultures released 1992-
2009
21 p – 100 ind.

Baronnies
47 vultures released since 2004
9 p. – 25 to 30 ind.

Verdon 27 vultures
released since 2005
0-3 p. – 8 to 10 ind.

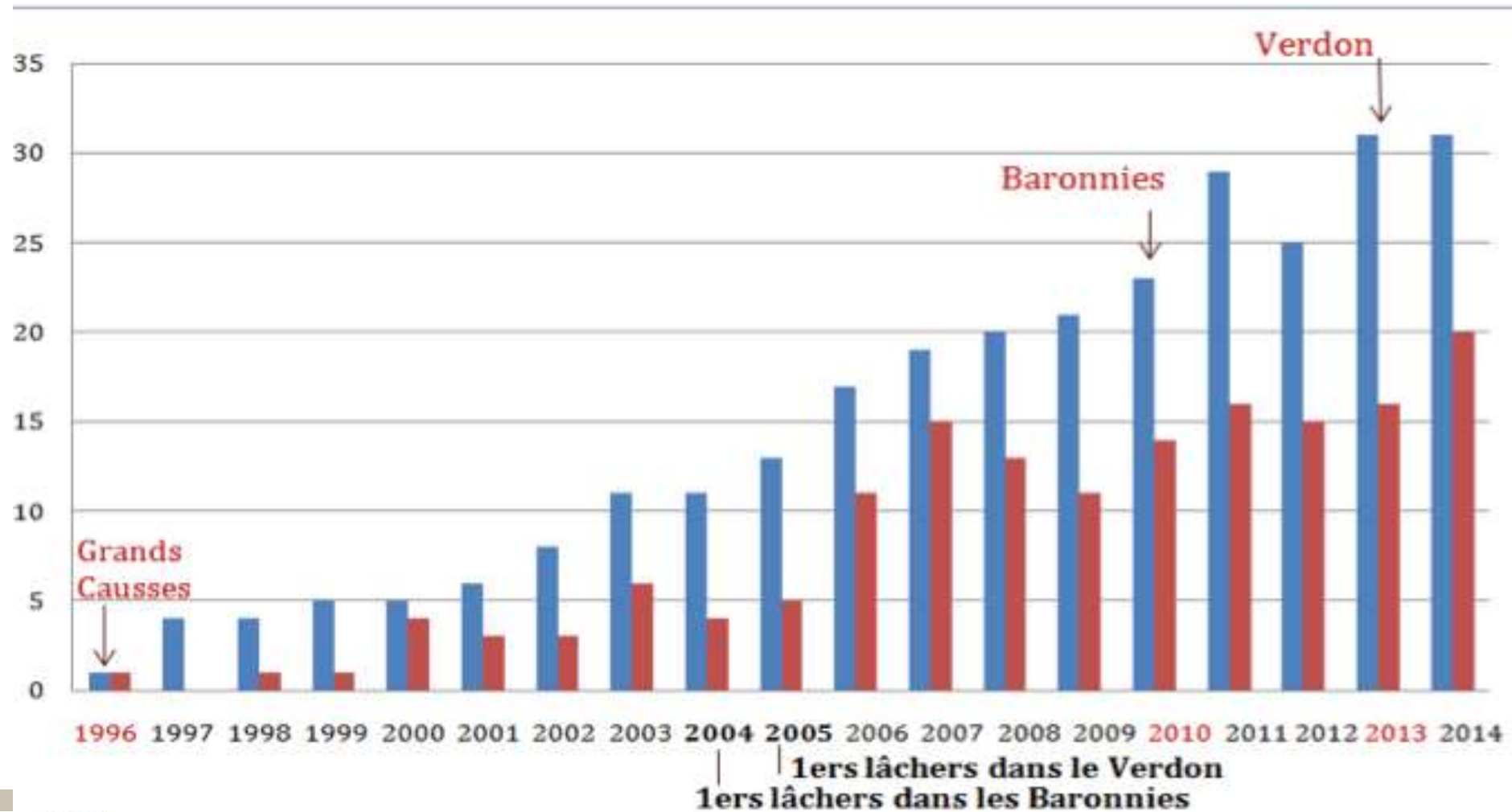


VAULTOURS EN BARONNIES



AGIR pour la
BIODIVERSITÉ
PACA

Black vulture population in France

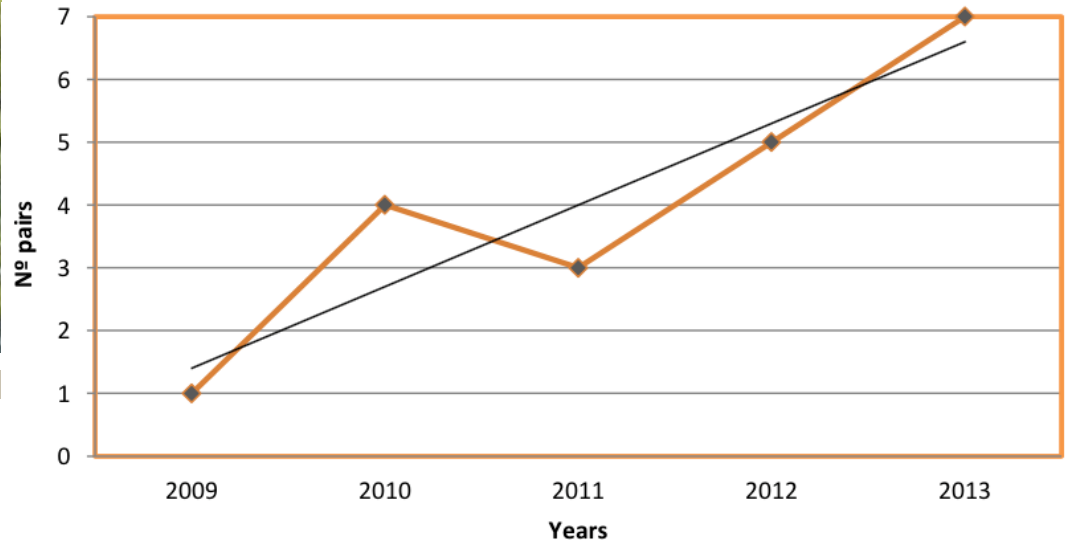
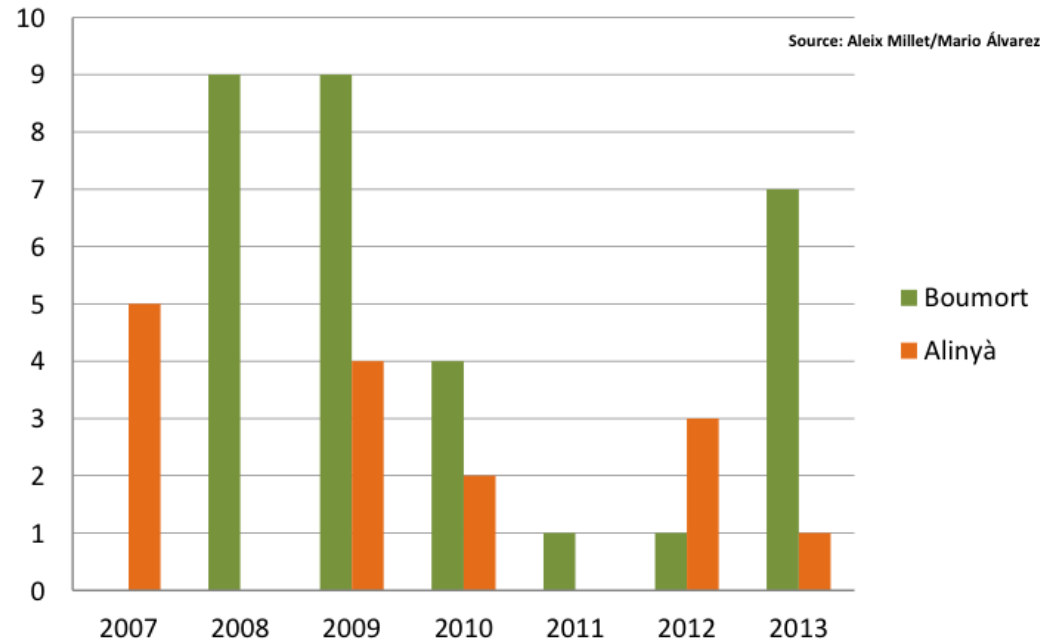


Breeding pairs

Fledged young

Black Vulture Reintroduction in Cataluña

© Aleix Millet



Grupo de Rehabilitación de la Fauna Autóctona y su Hábitat

Source: Aleix Millet/Mario Álvarez



© 2009 GeoBasis-DE/BKG
© 2013 Google
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat

Google earth

Date des Images satellite : 10/4/2013 41°03'14.71"N 0°57'46.54"E élév. 23 m altitude 1304.60 km

VULTURES BACK TO LIFE



“Bright Future for Black Vulture and Bearded Vulture in Bulgaria”

Project period: 2015 – 2022

Project leader: Green Balkans

Associated beneficiaries:

- EURONATUR
- FWFF – Bulgaria
- Junta de Extremadura
- VCF

Project area:

Bulgaria and Extremadura – Spain

Total project budget:

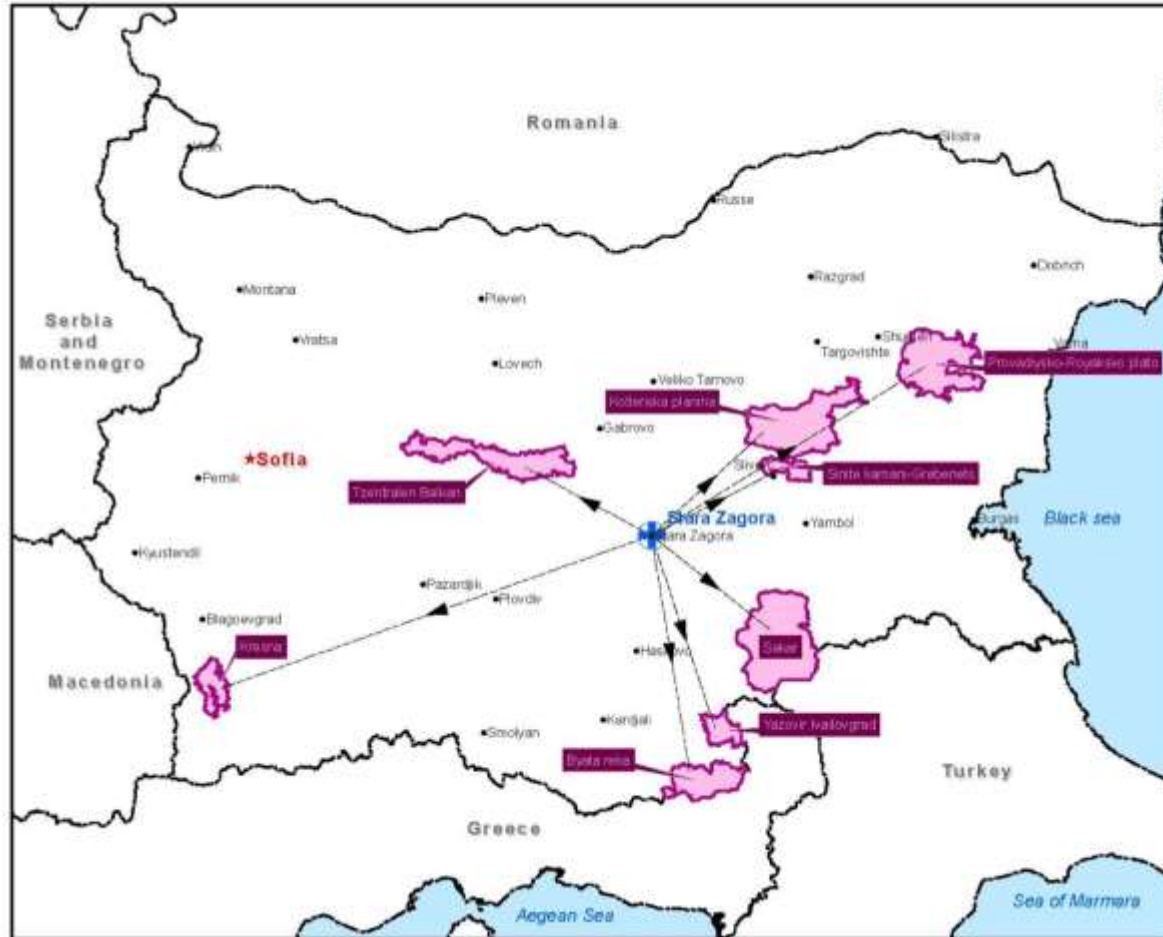
3,483,411 €



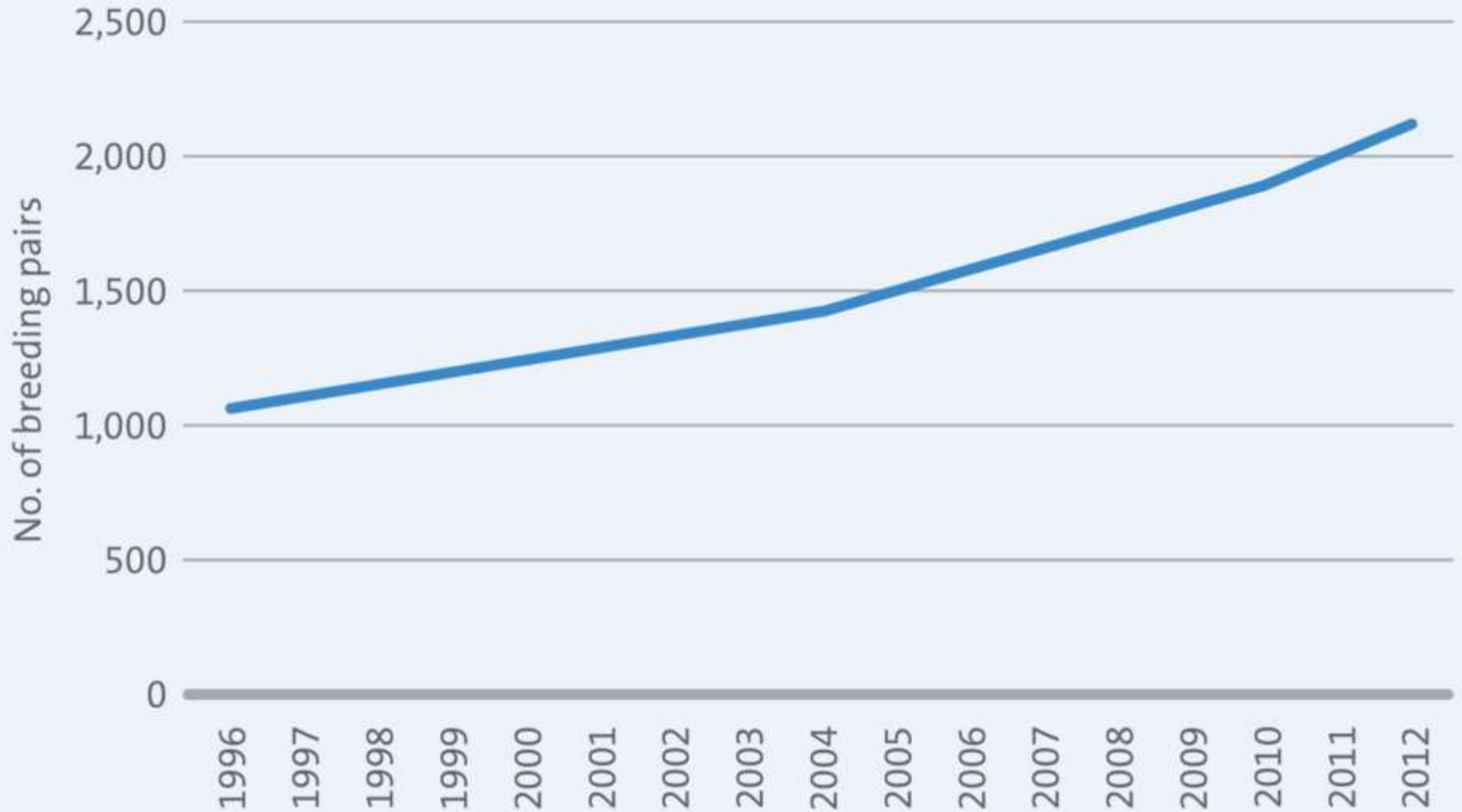
30.06.2016



VULTURES BACK TO LIFE



Black Vulture - population trend



Captive breeding network (EEP) since 1986



- 50 zoos
- 86 breeding pairs
- total of 321 individuals
- Low breeding success (21,7%)



Origin of the reintroduced birds: wild individuals collected in wildlife rehabilitation centres...(griffon & black vultures)

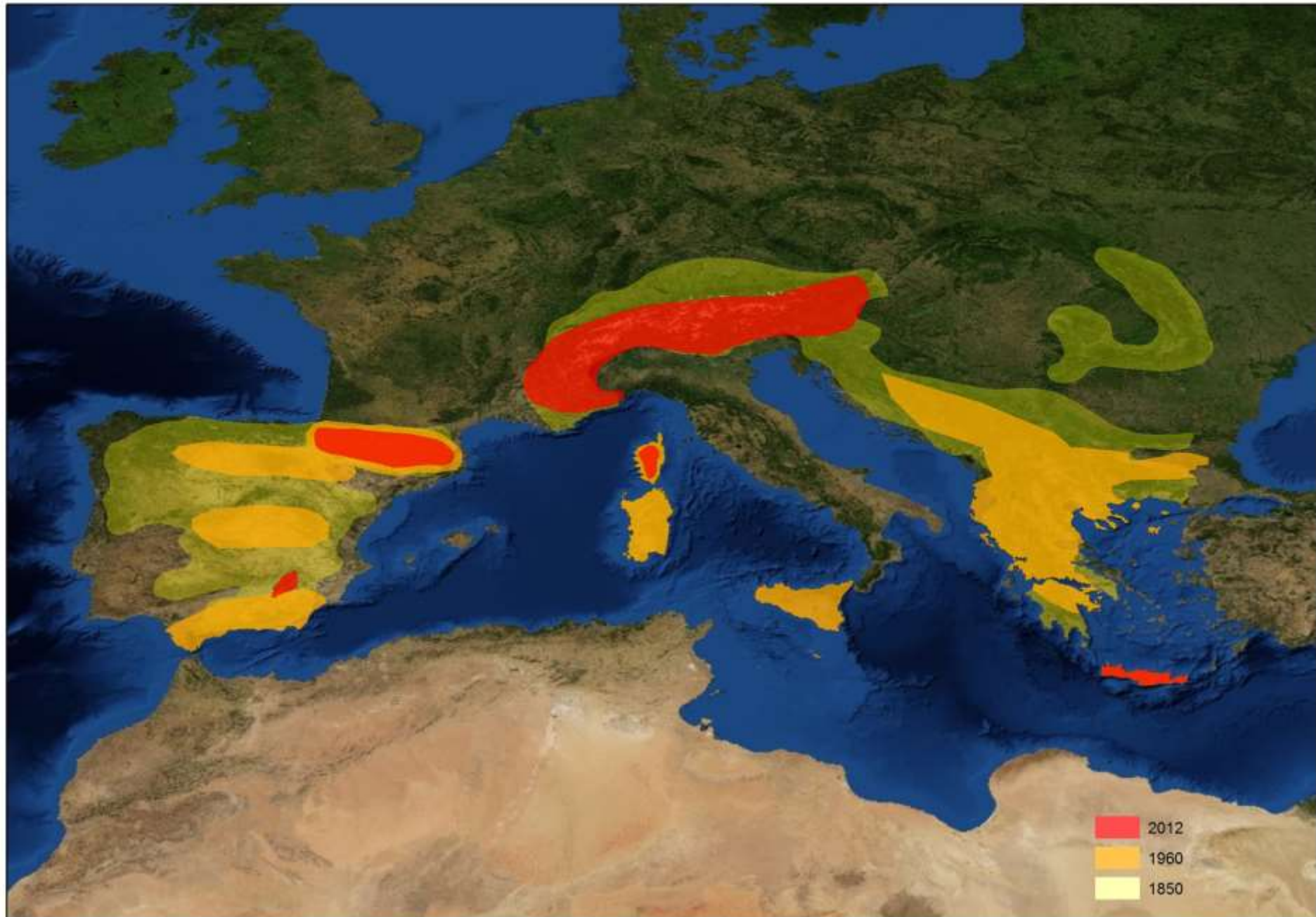




Klaus Robin©

...or captive bred young released by hacking (bearded vultures)

Bearded Vulture - distribution map



Bearded vulture captive breeding EEP

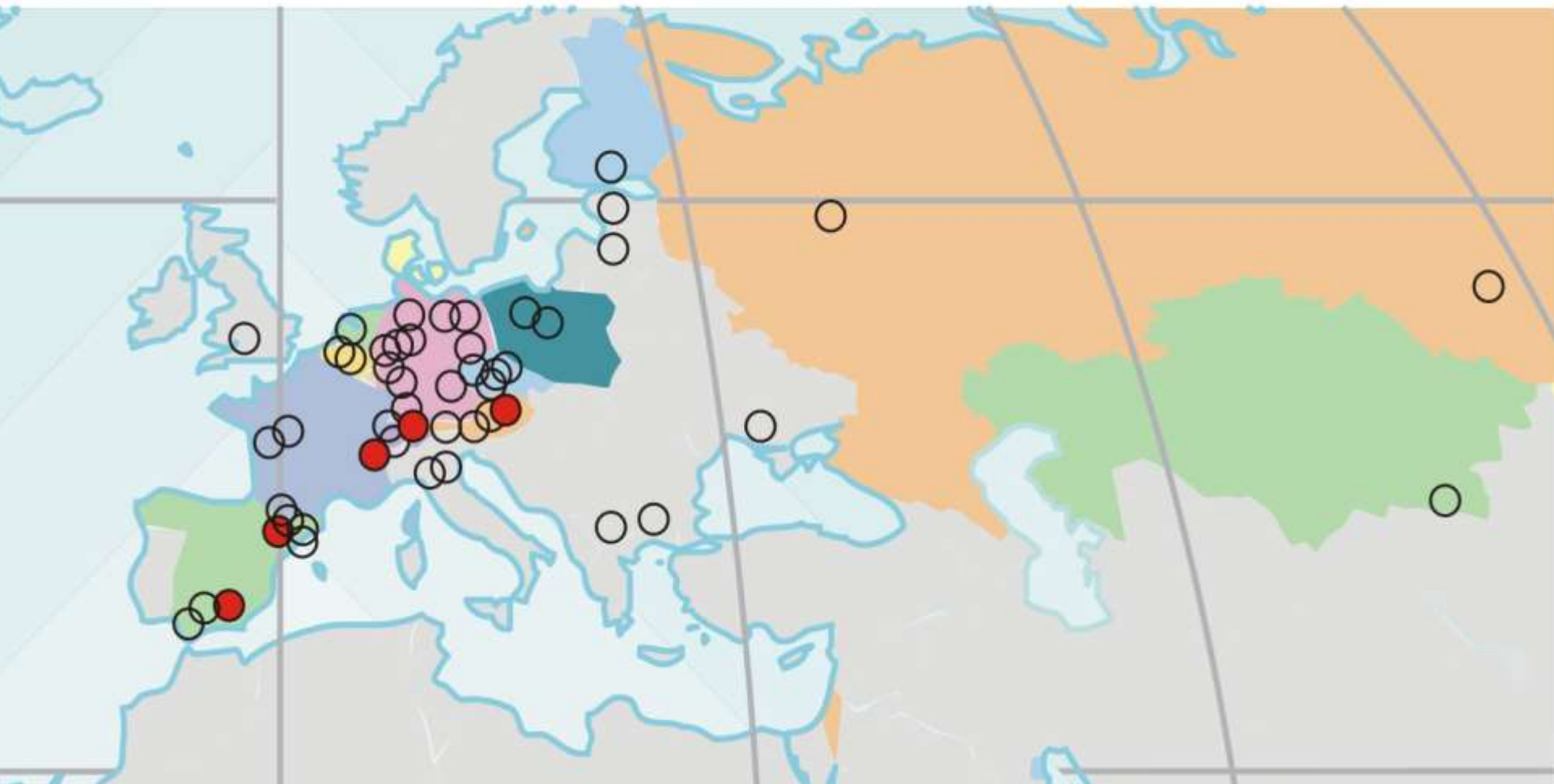
5 specialised centres:

- Three big (15-20 BV)
- Richard Faust Bartgeier Zuchtzentrum, Austria
- Centro cria de Guadalentin, Andalucía
- Valcallent, Catalunya
- Two small, (5-10 BV)
 - Haute Savoie, Francia
 - Goldau, Suiza
- 38 zoos, most of them in Europe
- Privet collections

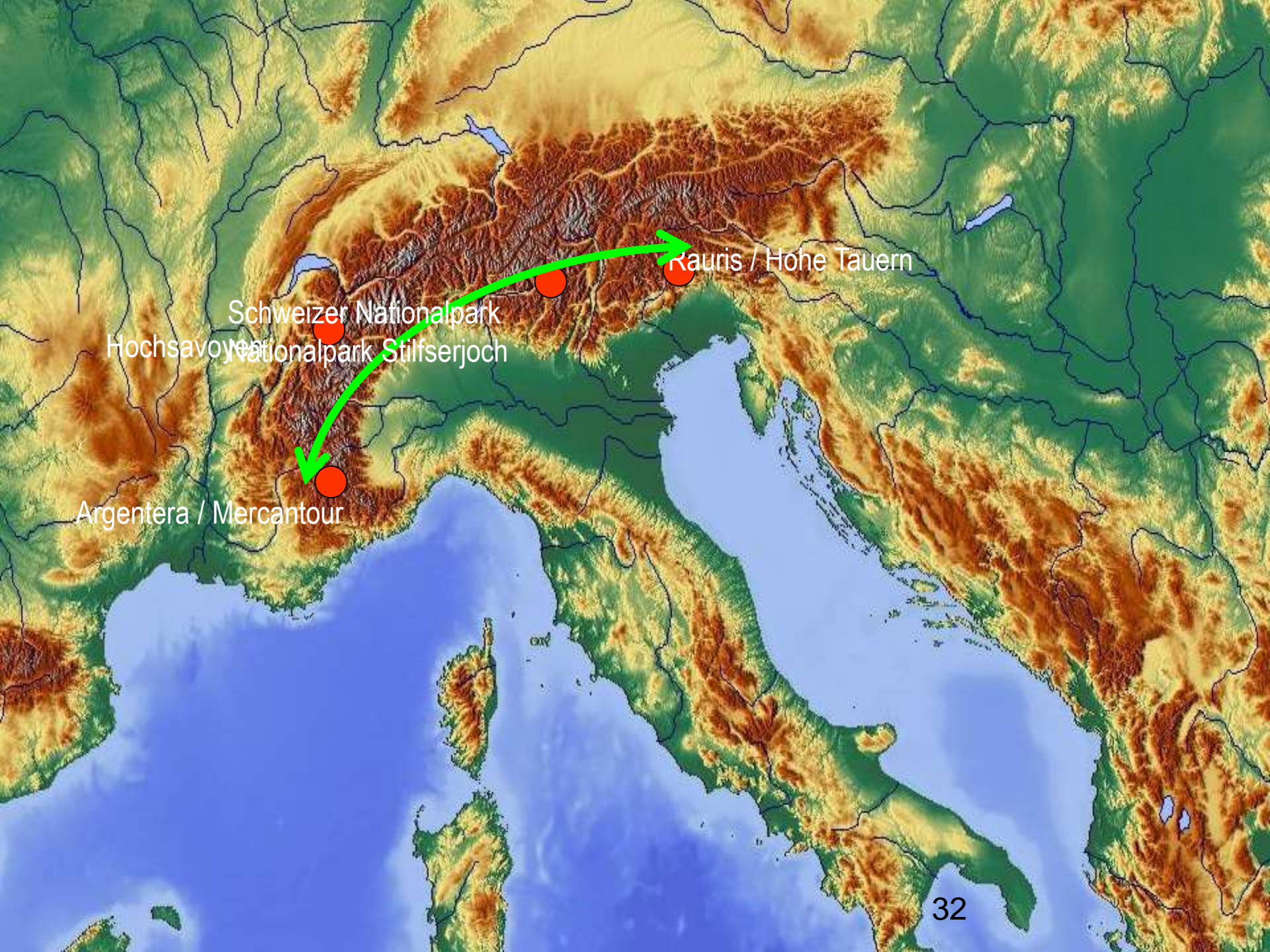


Breeding stock 2014:
153 individuals / 37 pairs









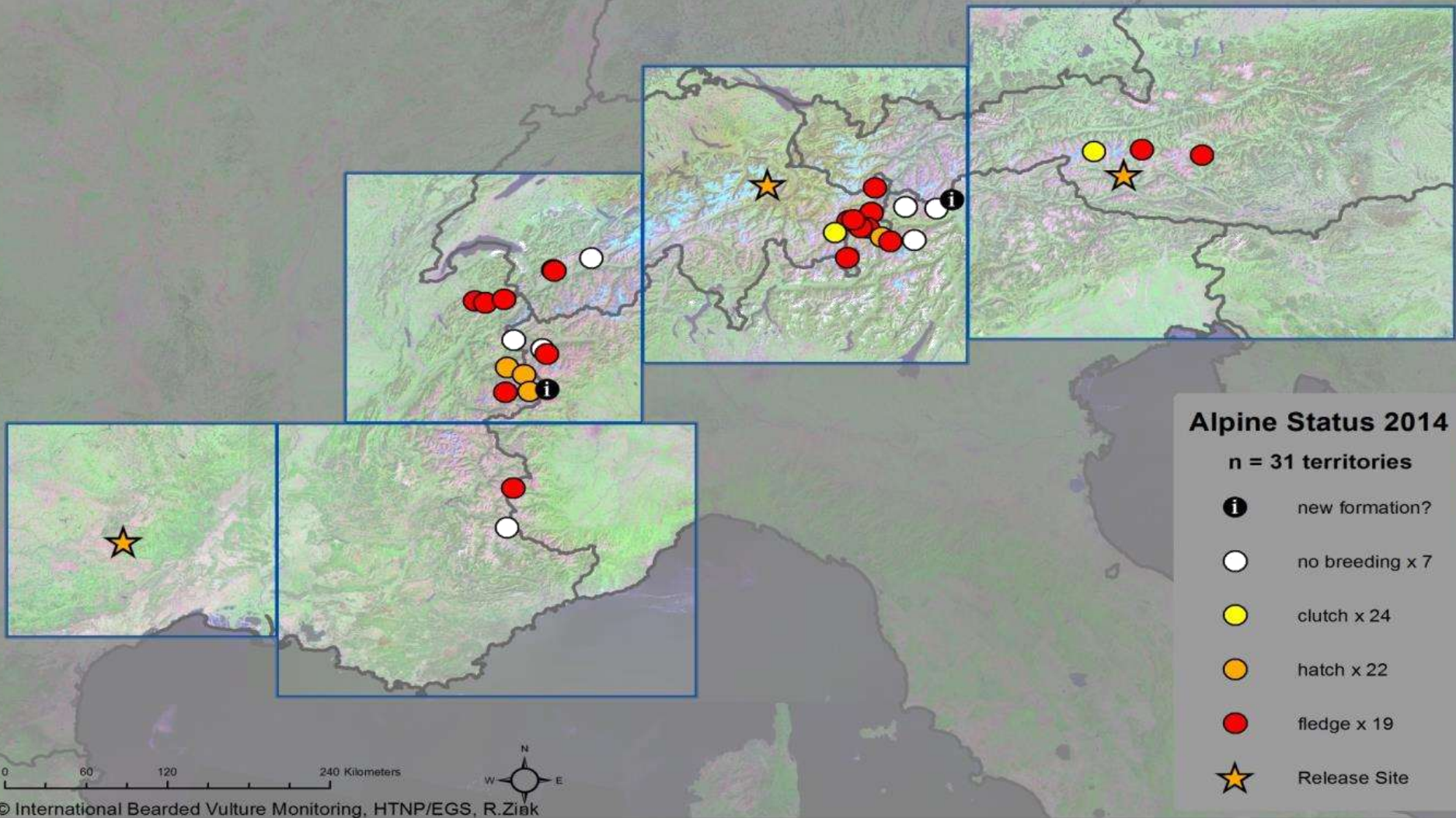
Rauris / Hohe Tauern

Schweizer Nationalpark

Hochsavoyen Nationalpark
Stilfserjoch

Argentera / Mercantour

Distribution of Bearded Vulture Breeding Units 2014 with Release Sites used 2014



- ★ Release Point
- Alps
- Cazorla (Andalusia)
- Pyrenees

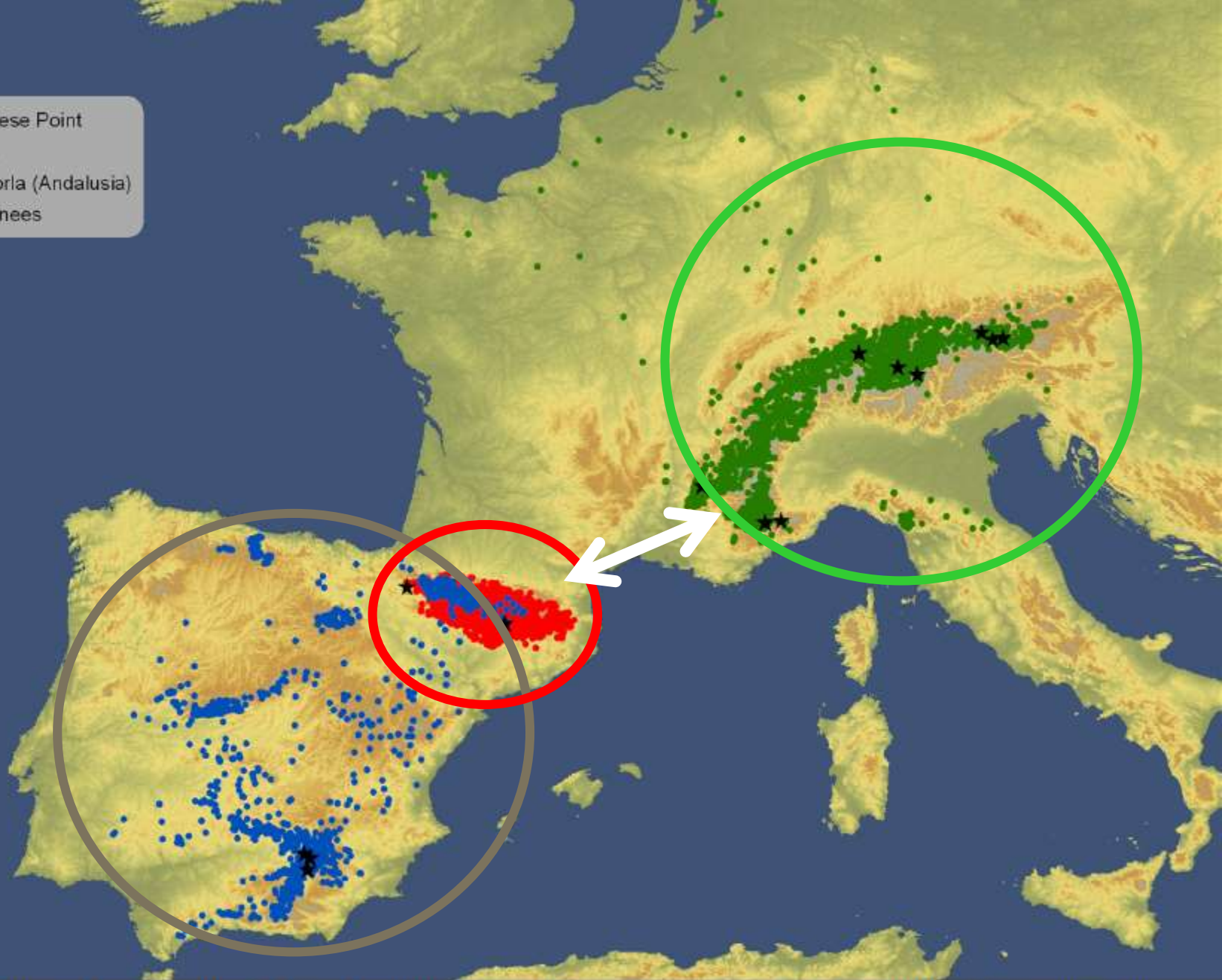


Figure 1. Distribution of mean-day locations of individual satellite-tracked pre-adult bearded vultures of the wild Pyrenean population ($n=9$), and the reintroduced populations of Andalusia ($n=13$) and the Alps ($n=24$). Stars show release points.
 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0065857.g001

Success in Andalusia in 2015!



Last breeding in 1986

- 38 bearded vultures released since 2006

First breeding in the wild



Centro cría de Guadalentín (Cazorla)



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA



FUNDACIÓN
gypaetus



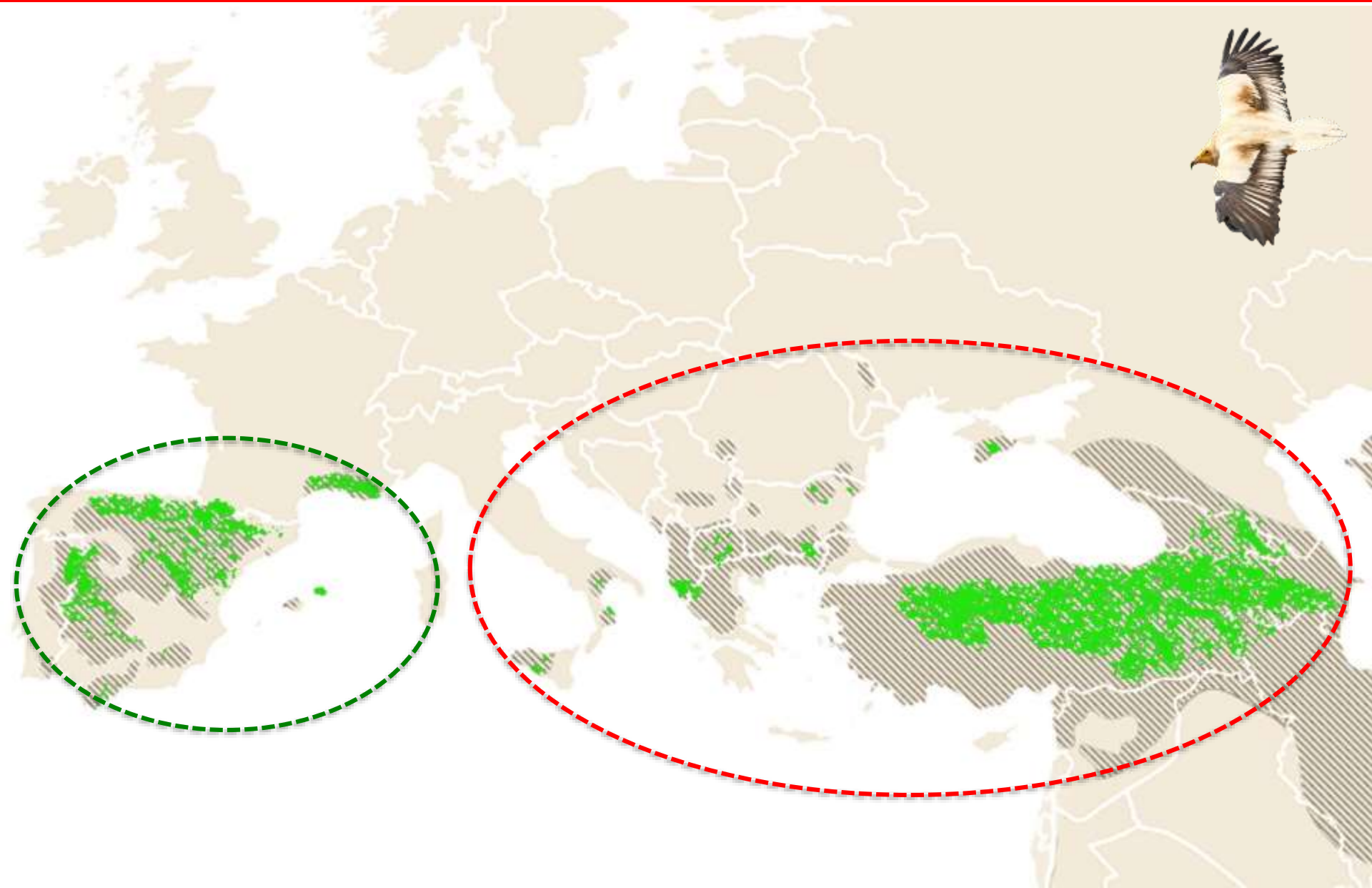
VCF
VULTURE CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

Bearded Vulture - population trend





Distribution range and status



Egyptian vulture captive breeding EEP



2015 Release - Aneta

738 km over the sea



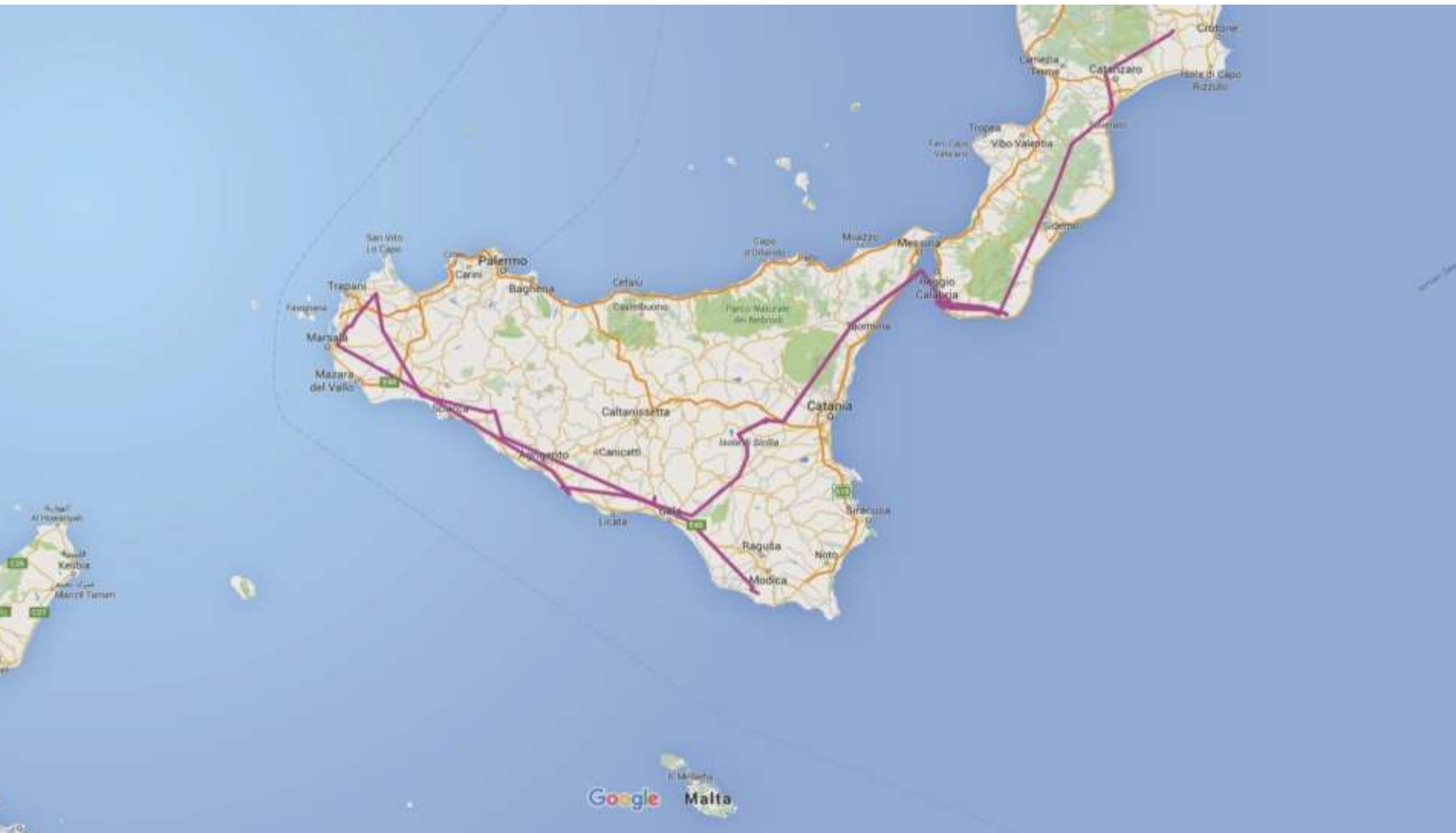
2015 Release - Carmen

758 km over the sea



2015 Release - Karel

1.197 km travelled before the last radio signal



Conclusions

- ✓ The reintroduction of vultures works – good method for the species recovery
- ✓ “know-how”
- ✓ Viability studies
- ✓ IUCN guidelines for reintroductions
- ✓ Black and Griffon vultures are available from the Spanish recovery centers
- ✓ Bearded vulture EEP is the only source for birds
- ✓ New projects for Black vultures are starting (Bulgaria y Burgos)
- ✓ Bearded vulture priority – Corridor and Andalusia
- ✓ Egyptian vulture – invest in captive breeding and establish methodology for releasing

Thank you!

