



EUROPEAN VULTURE CONFERENCE

Abstracts Book

#Vultures2023



14 Nov.	Auditorium
08:00	Registration
10:00	Welcome Session
	Junta de Extremadura Vulture Conservation in Extremadura
	MITECO Vulture Conservation in Spain
	José Tavares Vulture Conservation in Europe
11:45	Coffee break
12:15	Sergio Lambertucci Old and new threats for Neotropical vultures: what is happening with the Andean Condor and other vultures
	Questions & Discussion
12:55	Julien Hirschinger & Olivier Duriez Investigating the 2022 H5N1 Outbreak in French Griffon Vultures
	Jovan Andevski Wildlife Crime Academy
	Questions & Discussion
13:35	Lunch

Programme organization:

All interventions feature one name only:

Oral presentations - the speaker's name

Posters - 1st author's name

Duration of the interventions:

Standard talks - 12 mins

Speed talks - 5 mins



14 Nov.

Auditorium

Sala Europa

Sala García Matos

15:05

Rafael Mateo

Daily incidence of lead ammunition ingestion in Griffon Vulture in Spain: comparing estimations from regurgitated pellets and blood analysis

Cloé Pourchier

The conservation of vultures in an interconnected world: focus on West and Central Africa

Alex Llopis Dell

The Bearded Vulture EEP and its contribution to the advance of knowledge about its biology

Enrico Bassi

Lead ammunition: a widespread threat, hampering the conservation of large avian scavengers in south-central Europe

Fadzai Matsvimbo

Belief-based use of vultures in Africa: Finding the balance between conservation and culture

Shannon Hoffman

Bred 4 the Wild – Managing the southern Bearded Vulture for ex-situ breeding success

Andrea Bonisoli-Alquati

Lead and oxidative stress in migrant and resident Turkey Vultures in California

Sebastián Kohn

Andean Condor research and conservation in Ecuador

Jemima Parry-Jones

Conservation breeding as a conservation tool for South Asian Gyps Vultures

Questions & Discussion

15:55

Marta Herrero Villar

Monitoring veterinary pharmaceutical residues in livestock carcasses and avian scavengers: new compounds in the spotlight

MsAP Roundtable

Mohamed Amezian
Vulture research and conservation in Morocco: Assessment of progress in the framework of the Vulture MsAP

Alex Llopis Dell

Best practice how to release Bearded Vultures into the wild

Chris Bowden

Update on addressing the ongoing threat to vultures of veterinary drugs

André Botha

Preliminary report and results of the CMS Vulture MsAP Mid-term Implementation Review

Marleen Huyghe

Analysis of various release techniques for Cinereous Vultures to determine key factors for an optimal release strategy

Sophie Cook

Are the processes regulating the licensing of veterinary NSAIDs in vulture range states fit-for-purpose?

Umberto Gallo-Orsi & Iván Ramírez

The Convention on Migratory Species and beyond: Collaborative efforts for vulture conservation

Emilian Stoynov

Griffon and Cinereous Vultures delayed release of captive bred individuals in reintroduction programmes in Bulgaria

Questions & Discussion

16:45

Coffee Break

14 Nov.

Auditorium

Sala Europa

Sala García Matos

17:15

Jorge Rodríguez-Pérez

Sentinel species to inform conservation efforts: an example using Griffon and Bearded Vultures to fight against wildlife poisoning

Ursula Höfle

Tackling the infectious threat: Vaccination against West Nile Virus in captive Bearded Vultures

Ilaria Fozzi

Effect of different release strategies on the movements and mortality of restocked Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Sardinia

Justo Martín Martín

Pair composition and reproductive success as indicators of the impact of poisoning and population health in a Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) population in Southwestern Spain

Alberto Sánchez-Cano

Highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza: A new threat to free-living and captive vultures

Nili Anglister

The effect of extreme weather conditions on the survival of translocated Griffon Vultures in a desert climate in Israel

Andre Botha

Using the African Wildlife Poisoning Database and other measures to reduce the impact of poisoning on African vultures and other wildlife

B. J. Nadales

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1) infection in Bearded Vultures in Spain, 2022

Ankit Bilash Joshi

Assessing the success of the release of captive White-rumped Vultures in Nepal

Questions & Discussion

18:05

Uroš Pantović

LIFE Balkan Detox project: combating wildlife poisoning across the Balkan peninsula

Maria Patrícia Couto

The Vulture's Oral Microbiome: Interkingdom synergies as functional adaptations

Sofía Marrero Rocha

The contribution of AMUS to vulture recovery and conservation

Melpo Apostolidou

Focused anti-poison efforts to curb mortality rates of Griffon Vultures faced with local extinction in Cyprus

Celine Kalberer

Characterization of „silky“ phenotype in the European Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*)

Davide Montanari

Restoring and connecting Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) colonies to reestablish the former European range of distribution of the species

Victoria Saravia-Mullin

Pilot testing and assessment of methods to reduce human-wildlife conflict as driver of the use of poison in Greece

Slobodan Davidović

Using genetics for creating proper conservation strategies for protected species – the case of Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

Stoycho Stoychev

Reintroduction of the Cinereous Vulture in the Bulgarian part of the Eastern Rhodopes

Zouhair Amaouch

Exploring motivations and solutions: understanding poison use in human-wildlife conflicts and conservation management in Morocco

Philippe Helsen

Vultures translocations: a model to evaluate the impact of genetics in species restoration

Simeon Marin

Large vultures' reintroductions in Bulgaria, update 2023

15 Nov.	Auditorium		
09:00	<p>Marcos Moleon Pais Vultures, predators and humans: a story of interactions</p>		
	<p>Pascual Lopez Lopez Conservation challenges and opportunities for migratory vultures: a movement ecology perspective</p>		
	<p>Questions & Discussion</p>		
10:15	<p>Katherine Steinfield Carrion converging: Skull shape is predicted by feeding ecology in vultures</p>		
	<p>Milene Matos LIFE Aegypius Return: Consolidating the return of the Critically Endangered Cinereous Vulture (<i>Aegypius monachus</i>) to Portugal and Western Spain</p>		
	<p>Questions & Discussion</p>		
	<p>Cultural Moment</p>		
11:20	<p>Coffee Break</p>		
	Auditorium	Sala Europa	Sala García Matos
11:50	<p>Corinne Kendall Using survival analysis from telemetry and transects to assess short-term population trends in vultures</p>	<p>Olivier Duriez How hungry are Griffon Vultures ?</p>	<p>María Jesús Palacios Threats for carrion birds in Extremadura and their management</p>
	<p>John Mallord High annual survival rates and breeding success aid continued recovery of the Critically Endangered White-rumped Vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>) population in Nepal</p>	<p>Mattie Purinton The effects of food predictability on the foraging ecology of African White-backed Vultures (<i>Gyps africanus</i>)</p>	<p>Fiammetta Berlinguer LIFE Safe for Vultures – implementation of conservation actions and population status</p>

15 Nov.

Auditorium

Sala Europa

Sala García Matos

Andrea Santangeli

Project SURVIVALIST:
SURVIVAL in Space and
Time: Identifying mortality
bottlenecks along the annual
cycle of vultures

David Delgado

Management of food
availability as a conservation
tool for the Cinereous Vulture
population (*Aegypius monachus*)
in the Portuguese-Spanish
bordering area

Nikola Novović

Vulture status and
perspective in Montenegro -
Insights and Challenges

Questions & Discussion

12:40

Eneko Arrondo

Interspecific relationships
during Griffon Vulture
overwintering in Africa

Richard Zink

Of vultures and drones:
Assessing the potential of
Unmanned Aircraft Systems
for European vultures research

Sylvia Zakkak

Wildfire effects on Cinereous
Vulture breeding and habitat
use in the Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli
Forest National Park

Chandra David

Release Strategies for the
California Condor Recovery
Program

Carlota Viada Sauleda

First photographic census
of Black Vultures and
Griffon Vultures in Mallorca

Eduardo Santos

Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius
monachus*) recolonization
of Herdade da Contenda
(Southeastern Portugal):
characterisation, evolution
and conservation

Estelle Sandhaus

Patterns of parental
investment in nesting
California Condors

Yohan Sassi

Vultures' foraging network:
a century-old hypothesis
investigated with radar

Pedro Ribeiro

The discovery of a new
colony of Cinereous Vultures
in Malcata Nature Reserve:
population status and prospects

Questions & Discussion

13:30

Lunch

15:00

Poster-Session

15 Nov.

Auditorium

Sala Europa

Sala García Matos

Speed talks

15:45

Irene Estellés-Domingo

Wind farms and raptors: unveiling the challenges and solutions for vulture conservation

Toni Wegscheider

The Bearded Vulture in Germany – results from the first three releases (2021-2023)

Hristo Peshev

GPS tracking data relates vulture mortality due to acute intoxication at a considerable distance from the site of poisoned bait consumption

Nicolò Borgianni

Monitoring Eurasian Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) collision with wind turbines in the central Apennines (Italy)

Sachin Ranade

The Vulture Reintroduction Program in Assam, India

Stoycho Stoychev

Antipoisoning activities in Bulgaria to enforce vultures conservation in the country

Dariusz Gorecki

To fly or not to fly in the rotor sweep zone? Detection-reaction systems can protect Griffon Vultures against collision on wind farm

Clément Daboné

Hooded Vultures, (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) are still declining in West Africa: nearly fifty-year assessment study (1969 - 2019)

Hanna Oosterhoff

Soaring through the central Apennines. Where (not) to go

Questions & Discussion

Speed talks

16:10

Apostolis Kaltsis

Current status of Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in Greece: population monitoring results and identification of critical habitats

Candy Marleen Fahrenholz

Assessing vulture nesting site selection in Namibia: The influence of microscale landscape structures using drone-based methods. Survey of two endangered vulture species at Kuzikus Wildlife Reserve

Anne K. Scharf

Vulture Research Consortium (VRC)

Dobromir Dobrev

Long-term Griffon Vulture population development in the Eastern Rhodopes, Bulgaria

Campbell Murn

Heading south, but to where? A shifting distribution of breeding Lappet-faced Vultures (*Torgos tracheliotos*) is impacted by fire and elephants in Kruger National Park, South Africa

Martina Scacco

The Drylands project

15 Nov.

Auditorium

Sala Europa

Sala García Matos

Speed talks

Alyona Kptyonkina

Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)
in Kazakhstan

Sandro López-Ramírez

Is southern Europe
environmentally favourable for
the long-term establishment
of Rüppell's Vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*)?

Tom Riffel

Tagging vultures in Zambia –
movement dynamics in
extensive wilderness areas

Mohammed Shobrak

Vulture conservation
status in Saudi Arabia

Michelle Marcano-Delgado

Spatio-temporal movements
and home range of Rüppell
Vultures in Europe

Irene Breda

Long distance movements in
a social obligate scavenger:
exploring the role of age, sex
and season

Alejandro Onrubia

Magnitude and trends of
vultures passage through
the Strait of Gibraltar

Questions & Discussion

16:40

Coffee Break

17:10

Roundtable 1

The IUCN SSC Vulture
Specialist Group (VSG)

Roundtable 2

Tackling vultures-livestock
incidents

Short Workshop

Positive communication
for vulture conservation

André Botha & Chris Bowden

An overview of the IUCN SSC
Vulture Specialist Group –
2012-2023

Fátima Domínguez Gigante

Multi-source data for dealing
with conflicts between
livestock farmers and vultures:
preliminary results from the
project LIFE Aegyptius Return

LIFE GypAct

Conflicts between livestock
farmers and vultures in France

18:10

Cultural Visit to Cáceres

16 Nov.	Auditorium
09:00	<p>Darcy Ogada Drivers of vulture poisoning are not created equal: disproportionate effects and their likely impacts on African and migratory European population</p> <p>Questions & Discussion</p> <p>Jose Rafael Garrido López Conservation Focus: Rüppell's Vulture along the Western Flyway</p> <p>Keith Bildstein Future potential advances in vulture conservation</p> <p>Questions & Discussion</p>

	Auditorium	Sala Europa	Sala García Matos
10:15	<p>Mary Davies The SAVE consortium: Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction</p> <p>Mary Malasa The Vulture Safe Zone Initiative - creating safe havens for endangered vultures; successes and lessons learnt in Zambia</p> <p>Radhika Jha Impact of climate change on the habitat suitability of three critically endangered vultures in northern India</p> <p>Questions & Discussion</p>	<p>Cecilia Gimeno Castellano The natal dispersal of Canarian Egyptian Vultures: extrinsic and intrinsic drivers</p> <p>Krishna Prasad Bhusal Testing of methods to evaluate population numbers of the Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>) in Nepal</p> <p>Joan Real Key factors behind the dynamic stability of the Egyptian Vulture breeding pairs census in continental Spain</p>	<p>Jon Etxebarria Factors affecting collision risk in wide-ranging species: implications for large-scale wind energy development</p> <p>Jacopo Cerri Fast wind energy development in Sardinia and its overlap with movements of Griffon Vultures (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>)</p> <p>Elena Bravo-Chaparro Movement ecology to inform environmental planning of renewable energies: an example with Griffon Vultures and wind farms</p>

16 Nov.

Auditorium

Sala Europa

Sala García Matos

11:05

Coffee Break

11:35

Gideon Vaadia

Accelerometer-based remote classification of Griffon Vulture behavior as a conservation tool

Jenny Weston

Mid-term Implementation Review of the Flyway Action Plan for the conservation of the Balkan and Central Asian populations of the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)

Constance Blary

Visual perception of wind turbines by birds: focus on vultures and raptors

Marta Acácio

Ageing in nature: lifelong changes in the movement and social behaviour of Griffon Vultures

Vladimir Dobrev

Egyptian Vulture conservation at a flyway scale: Challenges and opportunities

Anastasios Bounas

Population Viability Analysis for the Cinereous Vulture in Greece: Extinction Risk assessment under the future impact of windfarms

Eleanor Flatt

Vulture movements and health in a human dominated landscape in South Pacific Costa Rica

Vladimir Dobrev

Where do Egyptian Vultures from Central Asia spend the winter?

Elzbieta Kret

When green energy jeopardizes the conservation of threatened species: Cumulative effects of industrial wind farm development on the Cinereous and Griffon Vulture in Thrace, NE Greece.

Questions & Discussion

12:30

JB Mihoub

Long-distance post-release movements challenge the metapopulation restoration of Bearded Vultures

Vladimir Dobrev

Reinforcement program for Egyptian Vultures leads to successful supplementation of the breeding population in the Balkans

Alvaro Camina

A review of camera detection systems in Spain to minimize wind energy impacts on vultures and other raptors

Julien Terraube

Identifying the main drivers of young Bearded Vulture movements in three European subpopulations

Vladimir Dobrev

Recent stabilization of the Egyptian Vulture population in the Balkans

Alazar Daka

Impact to vultures of wind energy in Ethiopia, an emerging threat

Dorian Santos-Cottin

Back to the Alps: Trends in population size and drivers of breeding success in a reintroduced Bearded Vulture population

Alessandro Andreotti

LIFE Egyptian Vulture project – main results of actions carried out in Italy

Agustín Riopérez

DTBird tool for vulture protection and collision control at wind farms

16 Nov.

Auditorium

Sala Europa

Sala García Matos

13:20

Lunch

14:50

Pascal Orabi

LIFE GYP'ACT - Strengthening the reintroduction program to restore the *Gypaetus barbatus* metapopulation between the Alps and the Pyrenees

Antonio-Román Muñoz

From the first observations to the recent establishment: the paradox of a sub-Saharan species colonizing the western Palearctic

Brian McGowan

Global perspective on Insulation and Protection strategy to reduce risk of electrocution on distribution power line infrastructure

Anthony Andarelli

LIFE program GypRescue - Rescue of the Bearded Vultures' population of Corsica

Alejandro Onrubia

Rüppell's Vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*): A new vulture species for Europe?

Liam Innis

RGI's Bird Portal - Working with grid operators and civil society or bird protection around the grid

Juan Jiménez

Reintroduction of Bearded Vulture in the Maestrazgo (E Spain). Are we achieving the expected results?

Juan Ramírez

First confirmed data of Rüppell's Vulture breeding in Senegal: phenology and population estimation

Manon Quetstroey

LIFE SafeLines4Birds. Reducing bird mortality caused by power lines

Enrique Avila Lopez

Bearded Vulture Reintroduction Project in Andalusia: Results and population estimates through the use of camera traps located on cliffs

Maarten Vis

Breeding Rüppell's Vultures in European zoos

Rubén Moreno-Opo

Future prospects to reduce negative impacts of power lines

Questions & Discussion

16:05

Coffee Break

Auditorium

16:35

Franziska Loercher

An overview on Bearded Vulture conservation in Europe

Luis T. Costa

MAVA and vultures – a personal view on funding vulture conservation and the overall result

Questions & Discussion

17:05

Closing Session



Meet the Scientific Committee

Patricia Mateo Tomas

Assistant Professor in Ecology and Conservation Biology. Instituto Mixto de Investigación en Biodiversidad. University of Oviedo, Spain.

Olivier Duriez

Assistant Professor in Ecology and Conservation Biology. University of Montpellier. Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive (CEFE-CNRS), France. Advisory board of the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

Alvaro Camia Cardenal

Senior Environmental Specialist. IFC-International Finance Corporation. Advisory board of the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

Raphaël Néouze

Former Vultures Project Manager at the Grands Causses. Psychothérapeute. Management board of the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

Fiammetta Berlinguer

Associate Professor in Animal Physiology at the Department of Veterinary Medicine. University of Sassari, Italy.

Enrico Bassi

Research consultant in Wildlife Ecology. Bergamo, Italy. Advisory board of the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

Daniel Hegglin

Researcher at SWILD, Zürich, Switzerland. Management board of the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

Franziska Lörcher

Scientific coordinator at the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

Julien Terraube

Research Officer at the Vulture Conservation Foundation.



Slobodan Davidović^{1,2}; Saša Marinković²; Irena Hribšek^{1,2}; Vuk Popić²; Pavle Erić¹;
Aleksandra Patenković¹; Marija Tanasković⁵

1 - Department of Genetics of Populations and Ecogenotoxicology, Institute for Biological Research “Siniša Stanković” – National Institute of the Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade, Bulevar Despota Stefana 142, 11060 Belgrade, Serbia; 2 - Birds of Prey Protection Foundation, Bulevar Despota Stefana 142, 11060 Belgrade, Serbia

Using genetics for creating proper conservation strategies for protected species – the case of Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

Genetic diversity is highlighted by IUCN as one of the three pillars of biodiversity that need to be protected together with species and ecosystem diversity. Thus, before any conservation measures of reintroduction/restocking are undertaken, especially in the regions where autochthonous populations exist, it is necessary to evaluate the genetic diversity of both the autochthonous and introducing populations. If there are no autochthonous populations, the nearest neighbouring populations are used as donors and only if neighbouring populations are non-existent distant populations could be used. In this way, the local adaptations and genetic variation specific to the region will be preserved.

In the Balkan Peninsula, the stable and autochthonous population of Griffon Vulture persists and it should be protected as such. The genetic data based on microsatellites demonstrated the existence of two genetic clusters one of which is specific for the Balkan and Iberian Peninsula. The study of mitochondrial DNA diversity demonstrated the existence of private haplotypes unique for both peninsulas. Long-time monitoring of named populations demonstrated different migration patterns. Birds from the Balkans migrate almost exclusively to the Middle East while the Iberian birds migrate to northwest Africa, which is the reason why they rarely come into contact. Natal philopatric behaviour specific to the species dictates that the unique genetic fingerprint will remain fixed in the region of their origin. Thus, in nature, gene flow between named populations is low, or insignificant. In addition, somewhat different climate conditions between Iberian and Balkan peninsula could also drive genetic differentiation due to the local adaptations.

The detected level of genetic differentiation between these regions suggests that different conservation approaches are needed to preserve specific and unique genetic diversity and that the current program of restocking the vulture population of the Balkan Peninsula with the birds from the Iberian Peninsula needs to be re-evaluated.

Keywords: genetic diversity, *Gyps fulvus*, reintroduction, restocking, Balkan Peninsula, conservation strategy