



## **Steering Committee Meeting – IBM – 23 September 2021 remote 09:00 – 10:40**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Etienne Marlé (ASTERS)  
Enrico Bassi (Stelvio NP)  
Léa Giraud (LPO)  
Toni Wegscheider (LBV)  
David Schuhwerk (LBV)  
Daniel Hegglin (SPB)  
Hennig Werth (ZNAIp)  
José Tavarez (VCF)  
Silvia Alberti (Alpi Cozie)  
Fabiano Sartirana (Alpi Marittime)  
Franziska Lörcher (VCF, IBM)  
David Izquierdo (Maestrazgo)  
Anthony Andarelli (Corsica)  
Julien Traversier (Vatours en Baronnies)

#### **Absent**

Marie Canut (Mercantour NP)  
Mirco Lauper (IBM)  
Jerome Cavailhes (Vanoise NP)  
Jean-François Seguin (Corsica)  
Benoit Betton (Vercors)  
Alex Llopis Dell (EEP Bearded Vulture)  
Cathy Ribot (Envergues Alpines)  
Ramona Viterbi (Gran Paradiso NP)  
Enrique Lopez Avila (Junta de Andalusia)  
Christian Couloumy (Envergues Alpines)  
Kristina Bauch (Hohe Tauern NP)  
Ruben Moreno-Opo Díaz-Meco (Maestrazgo)

- **IBM update** – final number of fledglings for the Alps was shared with everyone mid-September in the update. The production of the update was time consuming, mainly also because data was missing in the IBM. It was necessary to ask for information several times and re-do the extraction from the database also more than once. To help the process of updates, summaries and analysis:
  - Please enter data for the reproduction as soon as possible after the observations in the field
  - Please respect deadlines set by Mirco and Katja and please reply to their emails when they ask for data
- **Summary wild reproduction:**
  - 44 wild fledglings – the new record is a great boost for the population
    - 3 chicks marked in the wild – Bargy, Livigno, Zebbru
- **Summary release season**
  - 2 Germany, 2 Switzerland, 2 Vercors – all fledged successfully
  - 2 Corsica – 1 died, 1 recaptured due to a fracture – remains in EEP
  - 5 Massif Central – 2 died in the first week after they arrived, 3 fledged successfully
    - Cause of death was liver failure, origin of this still ongoing
  - 3 Maestrazgo – 1 died, 2 fledged successfully
    - No poisoning detectable, suspicion of a golden eagle attack. A second necropsy will hopefully clarify the cause of death.
  - 8 Andalusia – all fledged successfully
    - But two birds originating from Tallinn are attached to humans and may have to be recaptured.
- **Information from the database**
  - PHP update 8.0 done
  - Bigger effort than expected as one PHP version was skipped, but like this, it will last till 2023.
  - **If you find anything that is not working, please report to Mirco.**
- **IOD 2021 and IOD date 2022**
  - **Mirco will share the coordinator form** few days before IOD but there will be no big changes to the last year
  - Decision on the actual date on Wednesday, 29.09 by the IBM SC.
    - **Please send your impression on local weather to Franziska and Mirco on Wednesday, 29.09.2021**
  - This year we will stick to the decision to have one focus day for all regions.
  - Enrico addresses the problem of motivating volunteers in bad weather situations and that some volunteers are considering in not participating anymore. For other partners it is difficult to change the date short noticed a few days before the IOD
  - There are two possible approaches for conducting the IOD in the future:
    1. Conduction of the IOD on one day in all regions to get an Alpine census.
    2. Conduction of the IOD on different days depending on the best weather

situation per region to get the highest numbers of individual surveillance and recognition of individuals.

- Franziska, Mirco and Enrico will discuss the advantages of the two approaches and which method will provide the more useful data. The approach for next year's IOD will be discussed at the Annual Bearded Vulture meeting in November.
  - Different situation in the parc naturel regional de Corse: they need a special permission to work on weekends. Therefore, Corsica will conduct the IOD on a weekday before or after the official focus day. The participation in the IOD is important for the sensitization of the population and since it is an island, it will not affect the counts on the mainland.
  - David will handle communications with the Maestrazgo National Park. Mirco will include David in all communication channels for Maestrazgo.
  - Strong arguments for second and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in October, rather than 1<sup>st</sup> one. The discussion about which and how many Saturdays should be reserved for IOD will be included in the Annual Bearded Vulture meeting in November.
- **Financial situation of the IBM**
    - No redeposition of the LIFE AlpsLeadFree project and hence no additional funds from that LIFE project available.
    - Donation from LBV, Parco Natura Viva & ARCA for 2021 – thank you!
    - VCF secured funds from a Swiss Foundation:
      - 2021: 10 000 Euros (+10 000 from MAVA)
      - 2022: 10 000 Euros (+10 000 from MAVA)
      - 2023: 20 000 Euros
    - These donations and funds will enable a balanced budget at the end of the year and the maintenance of the IBM until at least 2023.
    - Partner fees will remain the same for this year and till 2023.
    - But please include the IBM into the budget of requests, if you develop new projects and search for donations. It is important to keep the IBM running.
  - **Covering costs for tagging and genetic monitoring**
    - ~6 GPS tags per year for 2022 and 2023
    - The VCF can provide the tag, including VHF and harness. Please inform Franziska if you are in need of a GPS tag
    - The local partner is responsible for all permits and organising access to the nest. As well for the operation itself. Please be aware to check with Asters, Vanoise or the IBM team for the expert for marking the chicks.
    - New territories or territories with recent bird change should not be targeted.
    - Asters currently is investigating on any effect of the ringing/markings of wildhatched birds to nest or territory changes.
    - Please inform Mirco in December about the number of rings that should be ordered for 2022. If you have the possibility to mark two or three birds, always communicate Mirco the higher (best case) number. Better to have rings in stock than to have too few.



- Genetic monitoring of feathers
  - The VCF can cover the costs for the lab costs for certain feathers for 2021-023
  - The same rules apply as for the last years (see SC meeting 13. November 2017 minutes).
- **Annual Bearded Vulture Meeting**
  - The Annual Bearded Vulture Meeting, together the LIFE GypConnect seminar and face to face IBM SC meetings are planned in person from the 24.-29. November in Die, France.
  - Annual Bearded Vulture Meeting and Gyp Connect Seminar will be translated to English and French.
  - If you would like to make a presentation, please inform Franziska by next week (30.09.2021)
  - Please try to participate in the Annual meeting and in the IBM meeting. The IBM meeting will start on Sunday afternoon, and finish on Monday morning. Please plan to only leave on Monday that there will be enough time for all discussions. We will try to set up a remote participation.
  - Registration for the annual Bearded Vulture Meeting will open in the next days, please register!

## Varia

- **InfoGipteo** will be produced this year as well. Enrico will contact you for contributions.
- **Lead ban in EU**
  - Enrico: It is very important that each institution we are representing could send today a very short comment why lead should be banned. The struggle is long lasting and now we have the opinion to change it on European level.
  - **Please add comments to the special section in your language until 24.09.2021.**  
[https://comments.echa.europa.eu/comments\\_cms/AnnexXVRestrictionDossier.aspx?RObjctId=0b0236e185d702d6](https://comments.echa.europa.eu/comments_cms/AnnexXVRestrictionDossier.aspx?RObjctId=0b0236e185d702d6)
  - The VCF prepared two paper-contributions that the VCF and the IUCN Vulture Specialist Group will submit today. José sent an email with three documents with some ready to use arguments and a paper they have prepared:
    - PublicConsulation\_Lead
    - How to submit a response the the ECHA public consultation
    - Partner consultation response – main arguments for full lead banPlease don't use the same words as in the paper but write it in your own words.
  - <https://echa.europa.eu/restrictions-under-consideration/-/substance-rev/61901/term>
  - Additionally, please sign the following petition: <http://chng.it/vxYRyXxwVv>



- **LIFE Projects**
  - LIFE GypRescue has been improved and it will start on 01.10.2021. We are looking forward to work more with our Corsican colleagues.
  - Submitting LIFE GypAct (follow up from GypConnect): connection of Alps and Pyrenees
  - Bulgaria: Follow up LIFE project for Cinereous reintroduction and preparation for the Bearded Vulture
- **Possible new partners:**
  - Invitation of new partners to the Steering Committee- and Annual Bearded Vulture meeting:
    - LPO Pyrenees, Val Grande, Bolzano Province, South Tirol: Enrico and Fabiano contact Italian partners, Franziska LPO Pyrenees
    - **Please inform Franziska about contact possibilities to new partners.**