



Steering Committee Meeting – IBM – 14 April 2022 remote 14:00 – 16:00

Minutes

Present partners:

Etienne Marlé - Asters
Silvia Alberti – Alpi Cozie
Christian Couloumy – Envergures Alpines
Toni Wegscheider & David Schuhwerk - LBV
Daniel Hegglin – Stiftung Pro Bartgeier
Marie Canut – Mercantour NP
Hennig Werth - ZNAlp
Léa Giraud – LPO Grands Causses
Anthony Andarelli - PN Corse
Fabiano Sartirana – Marittime NP
Enrico Bassi – Stelvio NP
David Izquierdo - Maestrazgo
Matthias Lehnert – Nationalpark Hohe Tauern
Katja Rauchenstein – IBM
Franziska Lörcher – VCF

Absent Partners:

Gran Paradiso NP
Vanoise NP
Vautours en Baronnies
PN Vercors
Junta de Andalusia



- In order to assure that the information reaches the full IBM team, please don't use the email address mico.lauper@swild.ch anymore! Only use ibm@gyp-monitoring.com
- Update current breeding and release season
 - Wild chicks: 33 chicks are already hedged and still alive
 - Captive breeding: 27 chicks alive in the breeding network – this year the focus is on the EEP, to ensure the continuation of the captive breeding network, new pairs need to be formed.
 - Transport, marking and rings are organised for the release partners. Please confirm to Mirco once you received the rings.
 - Marking wild chicks: it is planned to mark one chick in Italy, 7 chicks in France
 - If a pair is probably not breeding this year (e.g. pair of subadult and adult) but maybe in the next season, enter the pair in the database as a “potential breeding unit” (tick the box)
 - Please avoid special characters (ü,ö,é etc.) in territory names since it can mess up the data when it's exported
- New partner in France - GPFSA (Groupe pour la Préservation de la Faune Sud-Alpine, association loi 1901, France)
 - Small organisation which is not able to pay the IBM fee but would be happy to share the data and be part of the network
 - One solution would be to add them as associated partners like others
 - It is important to differentiate between “associated partner” and “full partner”
 - Full partners pay the IBM fee and have additional benefits (Right of data request, show contribution on website, possibility to vote)
 - Associated partner can upload data. Have to be linked to a full partner that is responsible to coordinate with the IBM. The fee is lower for 3 years but then they have to become full partners.
 - Since inability to pay excluded many partners in history, they can be informed about the new system.
 - The levels of membership will be written down and sent via e-mail to all partners.
- Information from the database
 - Update list of places and postal codes since the codes are not up to date anymore. An actual list would simplify the import of data.
 - One person per country should keep the codes up to date.
Spain: David Izquierdo
France: Etienne Marlé
Italy: Fabiano Sartirana
Austria: Matthias Lehnert
Germany: Toni, Henning or David
Switzerland: Mirco or Katja



- Maybe France should be divided into Mainland and Corsica, Etienne to coordinate this
- If possible, the countries “Netherland”, “Belgium”, “Slovenia” and “Bulgaria” should be included as well if it is easy and not a lot of work
- Mirco will send to all partners a document what is exactly needed. There will be a small amount for the IT to then include the data (around 500 Euros)

- Research update
 - Demographic study: Data are currently with the researcher – results expected in Summer
 - Master thesis “reproductive success”– difficult to get some environmental layers (food availability etc.), but otherwise in progress
 - Mortality study presented in the French Group Vautour and in the European Bird Numbers 2022 conference.
Energy infrastructure, shooting and poisoning are still important mortality factors. Publication and presentation at the next annual meeting.
 - Food study:
 - Collect pellets in and below the nest
 - Collect food items in and below the nest
 - Whenever someone is climbing to the nest (marking chicks), pellets or food items can be removed to get a better idea what bearded vultures are eating during the breeding season.
Nestcameras: Julien applied for funding, number of cameras will be reduced. Difficulty: Standardised data is very difficult. Enrico, Julien and Franziska will discuss the approach and options.
 - Colouring sites: If partners have pictures or examples of natural colouring sites (camera trap pictures), Daniel Hegglin would be interested on a small project to evaluate who and how often these sites are visited. **Please contact Dani and Franziska if you have camera trap images from colouring sites.**

- Marking of chicks in the wild
 - Birds are tagged systematically in Italy and France. Tagged birds in other countries (Switzerland, Austria) needed to gain more insight and better understanding
 - Tagging birds in the first successful breeding year can be discussed: No issues tagging such birds in Spain based on the current experience. The so far gained experience on how the parents react to the tagging will be collected and presented in the fall meeting. E.g. Birds in Zebbru built a new nest after using the same nest for many years. Maybe reaction of disturbance based on marking the chicks. For this pair it’s better to stop the marking of the chicks to reduce stress. Also, the behaviour of the birds during the marking was more nervous than the Livigno pair. This might not be related to the origin of the pair (captive bred vs. wildhatched) but individual based.
 - Early loss of GPS tags:
 - Penti2020 opened the weak point already after 1.5 years. This is very unfortunate.



- Telemark and BelArosa: The reason for the loss is not clear, maybe tag shifted in a fight or got destroyed by the birds. But the system was the same as for birds which have the tag for 9 years. So maybe just bad luck.
- RFID Rings – options and potential use
 - RFID rings would allow to read the information from the bird with a receiver (which needs lot of power), and get information on how often, how long a bird is present in a certain site (e.g. feeding site).
 - The reader needs to be quite close to the ring. This system had been used e.g. by owls in breeding boxes, but the limit on the distance between reader and ring is quite small (system might have improved in recent years).
 - Potential limit with the aluminium rings, which might have an influence on the readability.
 - Released birds already carry a chip – but this might not be readable as its in the breast muscle.
 - The main interest is for the Corsican partners who might be able to set up a system on their feeding sites. But, more information and safety of rings need to be tested before it can be used.
- Genetic Monitoring
 - VCF continues to support the monitoring and can assume some costs, but each partner should cover at least part of the feathers from its region.
- Sharing gps data with other partners
- Franziska can share the data of the wildlife monitor. But the partners have to be ok with it. If a bird is flying in a new region, the partner who equipped the bird is responsible that other partners (where the bird is flying at the moment) have access to the gps data of this bird. Therefore, inform Franziska if you see that one of your birds is flying in another country/region.
- Varia and next meeting: Next meeting will be in September and the IBM Team will share a doodle to find a date and time.