



## Steering Committee Meeting – IBM 28 November 2021 face to face in Die, France

### Minutes

- IBM-partners and guests
  - **Present IBM-partners:**
    - Vautours en Baronnies (Julien Traversier)
    - PNR Vercors (Benoit Betton)
    - ZNAIp (Henning Werth)
    - LBV (Toni Wegscheider + 3 guests)
    - Asters (Etienne Marlé)
    - Alpi Cozie (Silvia Alberti & Giuseppe Roux Poignant)
    - Alpi Marittime (Fabiano Sartirana)
    - Stelvio NP (Enrico Bassi and Alessandro Mercogliano)
    - Maestrazgo (David Izquierdo)
    - Envergues Alpines (Christian Couloumy)
    - SPB (Franziska Lörcher)
    - VCF (Franziska Lörcher & Julien Terraube)
    - IBM (Katja Rauchenstein & Mirco Lauper)
  - **Guests (not IBM-partners)**
    - Val Grande NP (Cristina Movalli)
    - Sara Asu Schroer (Social anthropologist)
    - via Zoom: Naturpärke Österreich, Interreg Project (Eva-Maria Cattoen)
    - via Zoom: Aree protette dell'Ossola (Luca Martignoni & Radames Bionda)
- Discussion on representation of IBM partners in the IBM SC group:
  - Rule: Usually, 1 person per partner should be present in the IBM SC meeting
  - The VCF is a partner and the seat in the IBM SC group should be given to the EEP coordinator Alex Llopis Dell. SC-group agrees on this.
  - NP Hohe Tauern: Matthias Lehnert is new representative of NP Hohe Tauern from 2022 onwards.



- Function of the IBM-database
  - PHP-Update to Version 8 in 2021 is completed. This was a necessary update for the infrastructure of the database as version 7 was only supported until autumn 2021. The new version should be supported until at least 2024.
  - Furthermore, some minor adjustments in the database programming caused small costs.
  - The database is now fully functional again, however please report any bugs inconsistencies (always with screenshots & Intl-Codes e.g. O-xx-xxxxxx for observations etc.)
  - IBM-coordination clarifies the possibility of updating the locality tables in the database.
- Feedback from rings from 2021 and decision for rings 2022
  - Rings need to be ordered early 2022 (January) to make sure they arrive in time.
  - The group agrees to use the same ring-types as in 2021.
    - Rings from 2021 (odd years) **must not** be used in 2022 (even years) as there is a colour code for odd (red, orange, purple) and even (green, blue, black) rings on the right ring.
  - Feedback on orange rings: Codes are hard to read due to low contrast. The IBM will see if this can be improved with the manufacturer
  - The question was raised if GPS tags or rings will increase the danger of lightning strikes or electrifications on power lines for ringed and/or GPS tagged birds. This should be followed up with research. However, a first feedback by a physicist says: it is unlikely that aluminium rings and transmitters create an increased hazard. The injuries have less to do with electricity (no burns etc.), but rather with the sonic blast of a pressure wave in the close vicinity of lightning (ruptured eardrums, heart damage etc.).
- IOD 2022 and evaluation 2021
  - Discussion about focusing on a single date across the IBM-monitoring area or have different dates (alternative dates in case of unfavourable weather):
    - Group agrees to focus on a single date and partners decide according to local conditions if they plan IOD, skip it or have an alternative date.
    - If the weather conditions are mostly good, an Alpine-wide estimate can be made, otherwise only regional estimates are possible.
  - Evaluation & estimates:
    - For most partners, IOD is more important for raising awareness than for population size estimates. Nevertheless, estimation should be done conscientiously and according to IBM standards.
    - Estimation should also be based on observations, not on knowledge of the local population over the year: e.g. not observed GPS-tagged birds should not be included (will be added by IBM-coordination for the final estimate). See further details in the SC-Meeting-presentation.



- Discussion about date selection:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> October weekend is migration census by BirdLife and therefore already a lot of people are occupied.
  - 2022: focal day = 8.10.2022
  - The second Saturday in October should be used in the coming years.
- Financial report 2021 and budget 2022
  - What was spent:
    - Php Update to version 8 and minor programming costs
    - For more details see presentation SCM or financial report 2021.
  - Marking wild chicks (feedback of experience)
    - Markings in the wild
      - 18 birds marked since 2013
      - 14 North-Western Alps; 1 Eastern Alps; 3 Central Alps
    - Marking in the nest vs. after fledging
      - Experience shows marking in the nest is safer for the bird and success of the marking.
    - The VCF can provide around 6 tags for 2022.
      - This operation can only be done with exact knowledge of hatching date of the chick! So a more intense monitoring is important (Estimation of age from photos possible, but not very reliable!)
      - Partners are responsible for:
        - Monitoring pair
        - All permits
        - Access to the nest (climbers etc.)
      - Marking has to be done by an experienced person (Etienne, Mylene, Franziska, Mirco)
  - Research (ongoing and planned):
    - Mortality BV in Europe
      - collaboration with Antoni Margalida initiated
    - Nest cameras to identify food items
      - Pilot study, VCF to apply for funds from 2 foundations in France, might not cover all work.
      - IBM-partners to continue on this topic in a step-by-step approach (pilot study). VCF (Julien) is working on a project plan and funding for this.
    - GPS data – fundamental research
      - Daniel Hegglin, Julien Terraube and Franziska Lörcher to work on basic analysis of the GPS data collected in the last 17 years on released and wild-hatched birds – co-authors welcome!



- Demographic study – update with most recent data (to 2021)
  - Update and finalisation of study which was started in the LIFE GypHelp by Franziska and Michael Schaub (Vogelwarte Sempach Switzerland)
- Reproductive success in the Bearded Vulture in the Alps
  - Include factors like country, protected area, food availability, life history traits.
  - Student to work on this together with Julien and Franziska and Beatrice Arroyo as the university contact (start February 2022, 5-6 months)
- Change in pair composition, informing also impact on ringing (Analyse potential impacts of ringing / tagging of chicks on the pair) – initiated and led by Asters
- Habitat model from Sergio Vignali for the full Alps (and maybe even beyond?)
  - Planning with Sergio in December for funding
  - IBM-partners are generally interested and could help with environmental data.