



## Steering Committee Meeting – IBM – 16 November 2020 Minutes

**Present partners:** PRN Corsica (Anthony), Vautours en Baronnies (Julien), LBV (Toni), Envergures Alpines (Christian & Cathy), NP Alpi Marittime (Fabiano), Junta de Andalusia (Enrique), Alpi Cozie (Giuseppe & Silvia), Asters (Etienne), NP Hohe Tauern (Feri), NP Vanoise (Jérôme), NP Mercantour (Monique), SPB (Franziska), Grand Paradiso NP (Ramona), NP Stelvio (Enrico), VCF-EEP (Alex)  
IBM (Katja, Mirco, Franziska)

**Excused:** ZNALP, Maestrazgo, PNR Vercors

- IOD 2020
  - Feedback from first results
    - 360 observation sites
    - 600+ observers
    - 400+ Observations of Bearded Vultures
    - Information from 5 partners still missing
  - Request to the IBM to send a first summary of the results to all partners shortly (within 2-3 weeks) to the participants to share with media
  - The IBM coordinators can only do this if **all partners** are sending their data within 1-2 weeks to the IBM
- IOD 2021
  - Discussion on format (1 focus day, 1 focus day and alternate day, observation period).
  - **Focus day on Saturday, 2.10.2021. Observation week (2. – 9.10.2021) with a alternative focus day on 9.10.2021(postponement date in case of bad weather).**
  - Decision if the first focus day will be selected by **Wednesday** before Saturday by IBM partners.
  - The estimation on the population can and will solely be based on one single focus day. Neither the observation period, nor data collected by some partners on other days can and will be included!
- **Rings from 2021 onwards**
  - A combination of colours and alphanumeric codes are desired to get more options to identify a single bird.
  - We used most of the very good codes in the last years (~30 remaining)
  - Spanish Company [Anillas Talismán, S.L.](#) produces anodised rings in 6 different colours (blue, red, green, violet, orange and black) with custom size and engraving
  - First tests show that these rings might be suitable, but further information are needed. We received contact from the ring manufacturer from different areas which should be contacted to get more information about the longevity of the rings.

- Franziska will send the contacts to IBM partners which might be in contact with the projects which use these rings already.
  - Potential options to ring birds (in all options a 2 digit alphanumeric code will be included):
    - Two rings of the same colour, change colour each year
    - Combination of two colours and use a colour for country or population or year.
  - The IBM management will develop a ringing scheme and share the proposal with the IBM SC by 31.12.2020
- Identification potential new territories – feedback and further needs
    - Map with observation of adult birds was included in the IBM which is visible only when you are logged in:



- This map includes territories and cannot be shared outside of the IBM group. GPS data of adult birds will be included. The map will be updated in September (to inform potential observation sites for the IOD) and in February.
  - It is planned to also add historical nest sites. However, they are not yet included in the IBM database. **All IBM partners: please share information about historical nest sites with the IBM management (Mirco and Franziska).**
  - We will come up with a unified way to enter the nest sites and then add them to the IBM ourselves.
- Budget 2020 and forecast budget 2021
    - In 2020 we welcome two new partners: ZNALP (D) and Grand Paradiso NP (I)
    - Additional funds from external sources reduced to 10'000 Euros per year (2020-2022) from MAVA. The LIFE AlpsLeadFree project which included additional funds for the IBM, was not successful.
    - Provisional calculations of expenses and income show that in 2020 we will use about half of the savings (~10'000 Euros)
    - The outlook for 2021 show that with no additional funds we will have a negative balance.
    - The VCF will continue to find additional funds (LIFE AlpsLeadFree project will be deposited in February 2021 again), but all IBM partners are asked to help find additional money. Only with additional funds the partner fees can be kept at the current level.
  - LIFE project results which involve Bearded Vultures and IBM partners:
    - LIFE AlpsLeadFree: Concept note accepted, full proposal to be prepared by February 2021
    - LIFE GypRescue (Corse): Concept note accepted, full proposal to be prepared
    - LIFE GypAct (France) and LIFE Bulgaria (Cinereous Vultures and preparation for Bearded Vulture): did not pass this first stage.



- Observation of “special” birds
  - A bird with deformed beak was observed in Switzerland in September and October. It is an unmarked bird, fledged this year in the wild. This bird might have reduced survival chances as feeding might be hindered with the beak. Please keep the eye open if this bird is observed (to know if it survived). Please stay vigilant for any weakened bird.
  - Please don't forget to check carefully for observation of Vigo to inform everyone about her safe return to the Alps.
  
- GPS tagging and tags
  - Around 10 GPS tags which are still active work only with 2G network. In Switzerland, 2 out of 3 companies will shut down the 2G network by the end of 2020. The same might happen in other countries. Please inform Franziska should you hear of shutdowns of 2G networks in your country. All new tags are using the 3G network.
  - Publication on bald ibis about the issue of corneal opacity which might be caused by GPS tags: <https://avianres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40657-020-00223-8>
    - Please advise all vets and rescue centres to check the eyes of found vultures (and all birds) with a GPS tag (dead or alive).
    - We do not expect this to happen in vultures as we mainly use leg loop harness and vultures behave differently in how they sleep (not always with the head under their wing).
  - The IUCN vulture specialist group published a harnessing guide recently. You can have a look here: <https://www.iucnvs.org/about-4>
    - Please remember that this harnessing guide is not replacing experience and proper teaching
    - It is planned to do next a study on the potential impact of wingtags.
  
- Technical information from the IBM database
  - Please use the certain identification of a bird only if one of the following identification methods could be used: ring, bleached feathers, GPS tag AND data, or clear unique feather pattern. In all other cases (like location, breeding behaviour, identification as breeding bird the previous season) please add only eventuality.
  - We keep working to link the IBM to other databases like ornitho.
  
- Areas with monitoring gaps are not neglected. This concerns mainly the two areas below and discussions are ongoing bilaterally.
  - South Tyrol
  - Austria (outside NP Hohe Tauern)
  
- Varia and next meetings
  - The next SC meeting will be as usual in March online. A doodle and invitation will follow in spring 2021
  - The IBM database will be jointly management by Katja and Mirco – please use only the following email address: [ibm@gyp-monitoring.com](mailto:ibm@gyp-monitoring.com)