

Conservation efforts for the Egyptian Vulture: in the West Palearctic breeding range



- Implementation Review of the EU Species Action Plan for the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) -

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Introduction



Review of the European Union (EU) Species Action Plan (SPA) of the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) adopted in 2008, with a view to incorporating this information into an Egyptian Vulture FAP.

- The Coordinating Unit of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)
- Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF)

Methodology

The methodology of this Species Action Plan review is based on the scoring system developed by BirdLife (Gallo-Orsi, 2001), later on also used by Barov & Derhé, 2010

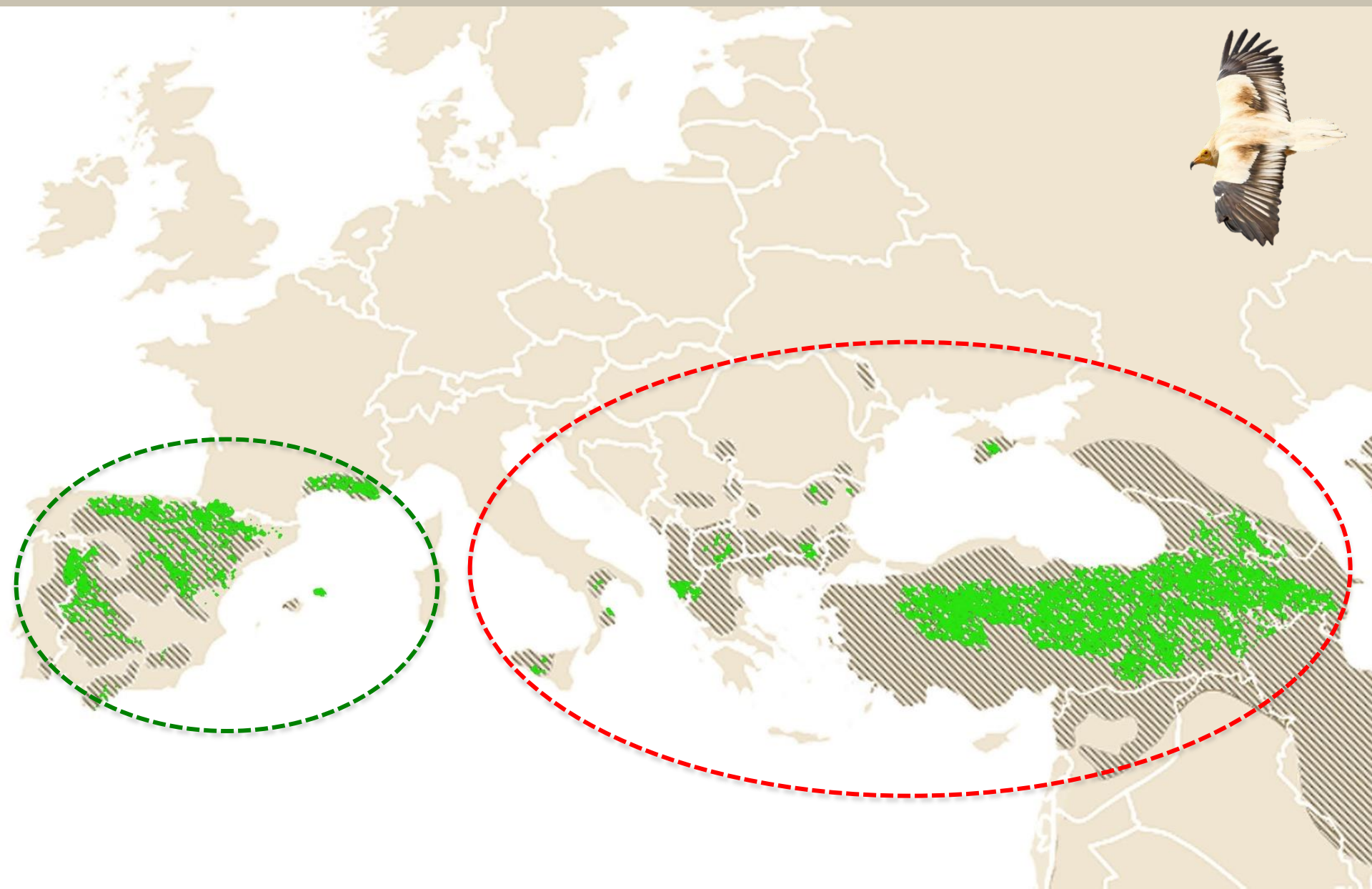


Range states

Range states	From the SAP		Current data	
	Breeding	Wintering	Breeding	Wintering
Albania	yes	Not presented	yes	no
Armenia	yes	no	yes	no
Austria	yes	no	extinct	no
Azerbaijan	yes	no	yes	no
Bosnia and Herzegovina	possibly	no	extinct	no
Bulgaria	yes	no	yes	no
Croatia	yes	no	extinct	no
Cyprus	yes	no	no	no
France	yes	no	yes	no
Georgia	yes	no	yes	no
Greece	yes	occasionally	yes	occasionally
Italy	yes	occasionally	yes	occasionally
Macedonia, FYR	yes	no	yes	no
Moldova	yes	no	extinct	no
Montenegro	possibly	no	extinct	no
Portugal	yes	no	yes	no
Romania	extinct	no	yes	no
Russia (European)	yes	no	yes	no
Serbia	possibly	no	possibly	no
Spain	yes	occasionally	yes	yes*
Turkey	yes	no	yes	no
Ukraine	yes	no	yes	no



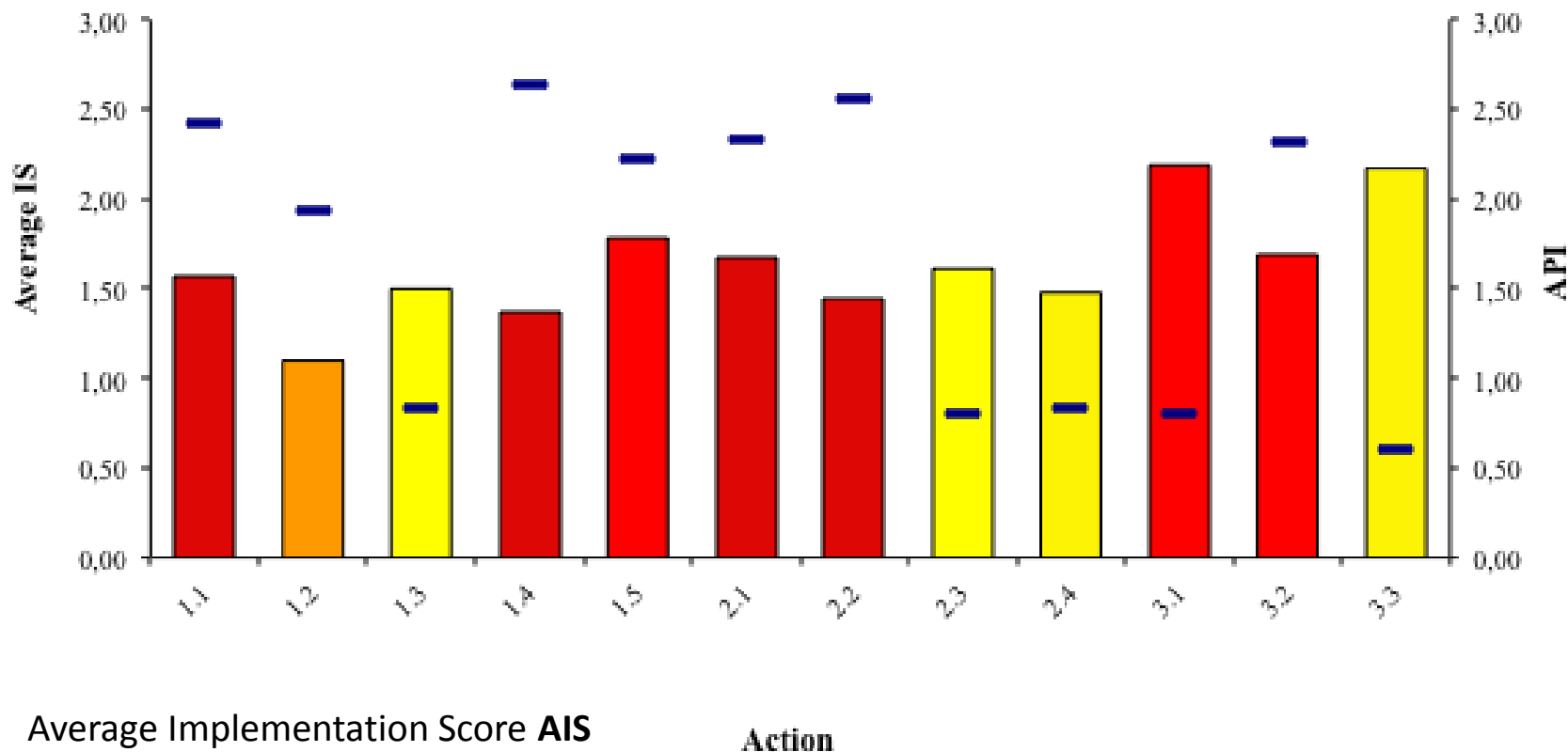
Distribution range and status





General overview of the SAP

AIS = 1,64



- Average Implementation Score **AIS**
- Average Priority Index **API**

Action



Breeding populations estimates



Country	SAP data					Current data				
	Breeding pairs	Q	Year(s) of estimate	Breeding Population trend in the last 10 years	Q	Breeding pairs	Q	Year(s) of estimate	Breeding Population trend in the last 10 years	Q
Albania	14	M	2007	Large decline	M	10	G	2014	Large decline	G
Armenia	30-40	M	2002-2007	Large decline	M	35-60	M	2013	Stable	M
Austria	0		2007	Extinct		0	G		Extinct	M
Azerbaijan	50-100	M	2006-2008	Large decline	M	80	G	2011	Stable	M
Bosnia and	0		2007	Extinct		0	M		Extinct	M
Bulgaria	40-45	G	2007	Large decline	G	24	G	2014	Large decline	G
Croatia	0			Extinct		0	G		Extinct	G
France	87	G	2007	Large increase	M	88	G	2014	Stable	G
Georgia	30-50	M	2006	Unknown		50-60	G	2014	Large decline	M
Greece	30-50	M	2008	Large decline	G	9	G	2014	Large decline	G
Italy	8-oct	G	2006-2007	Large decline	M	6-9	G	2014	Large decline	G
Macedonia, FYR	30-35	G	2008	Large decline	M	20-21	G	2014	Large decline	G
Moldova	0-2	P	2004	Possibly extinct	P	0	M		Extinct	M
Montenegro	0	M	2007	Extinct		0	M		Extinct	M
Portugal	90	G	1995-2008	Stable	M	90	G	2008	Stable	M
Romania	0	M	2007	Extinct		0	M		Extinct	M
Russia (European)	70-120	M	2004	Unknown		70-120	M	2004	Unknown	
Serbia	0	M	2007	Extinct	M	0-1	G	2014	Large decline	G
Spain	1,270-1,350	G	2008	Stable	G	1556	G	2008	Stable	G
Canary Islands	42	G	2008	Increasing	G	51	G	2008	Increasing	G
Turkey	1,500-3,000	P	1995-2005	Large decline	M	1500	M	2014	Decline	M
Ukraine	20	M	2008	Unknown	M	20	M	2008	Unknown	M
Total	3,300-5,050	M		Decreasing		3609-3699	G		(Large) decline	



Spain – by Autonomous regions

Autonomous Regions	Breeding pairs	Q	Year(s) of estimate	Breeding Population trend in the last 10 years	Q
<u>Castilla y León</u>	422	G	2008	Stable/Increase	G
Aragon	267	G	2008	Decline	M
Extremadura	170	G	2014	Stable	G
<u>Castilla-La Mancha</u>	163	G	2008	Stable/Increase	G
Navarra	127	G	2008	/	G
Cataluña	85	G	2009	Large Increase	G
Asturias	66	G	2008	Stable	G
Cantabria	51	G	2008	Stable	G
Islas Baleares (Menorca)	51	G	2008	Increase	G
<u>Basque Country</u>	48	G	2008	Stable	G
Canarias	42	G	2008	Increase	G
Andalusia	23	G	2015	Large decline	G
La Rioja	20	G	2008	Stable/Increase	G
Valencia	14	G	2008	Large Increase	G
Galicia	3	G	2014	Increase	G
Total	1 552	G		Stable	G



SAP Objective



To achieve the down listing of the European population to Vulnerable at European level by 2018 following a population increase after 2015.

Indicators

1. The trend of the breeding population size stabilizes or becomes positive by 2015 as evidenced by national and regional monitoring programmes.
2. Population growth rates of key national populations, as evidenced by local and national monitoring programmes, are positive and above the mean annual rate of 3% at least in the following countries: Portugal, Spain, France, Bulgaria, Greece and FYR of Macedonia.

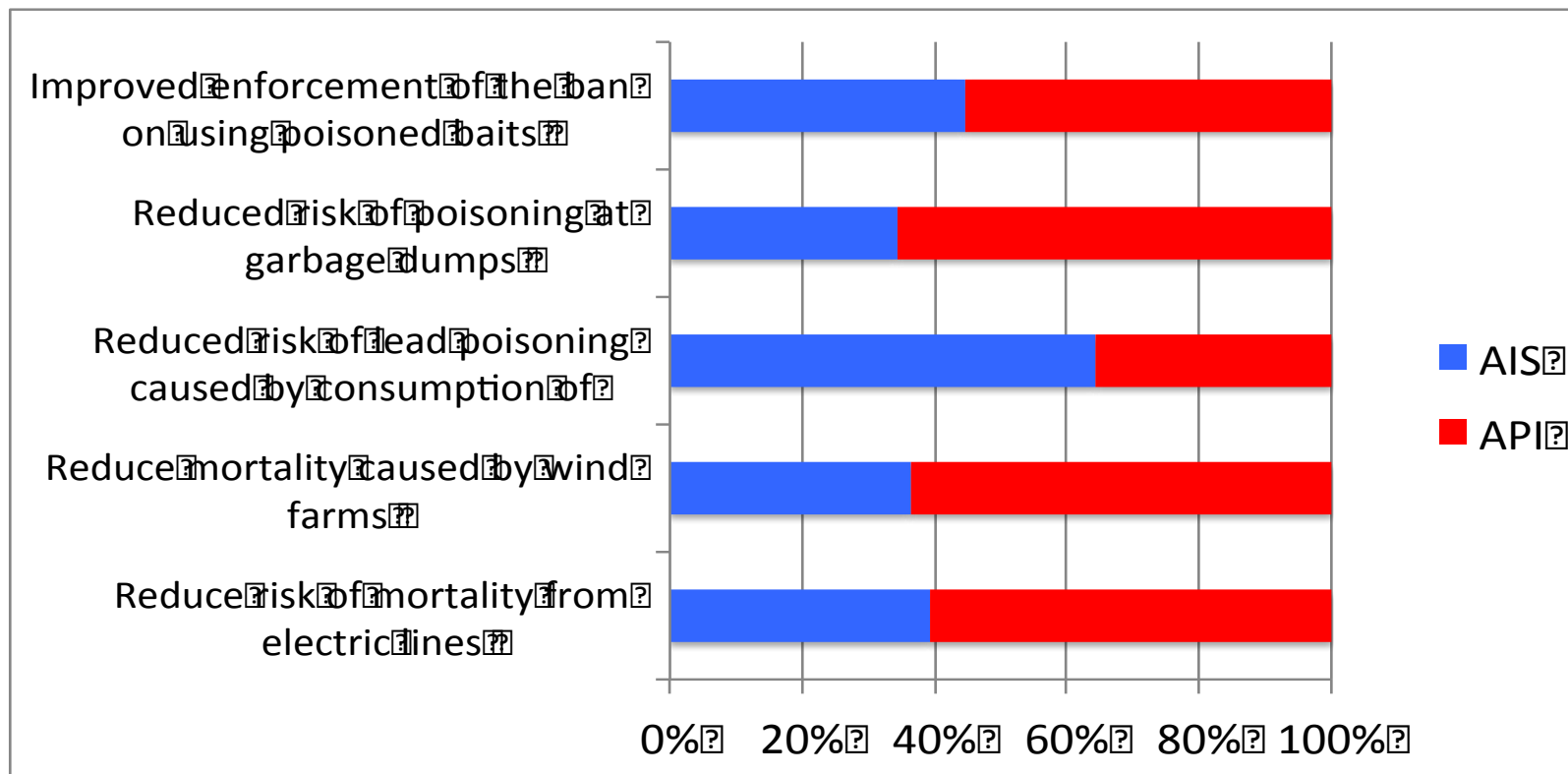
Outcome

1. Better monitoring but no increase
 - The trend is still negative
 - Population increased in some Spanish regions (Galicia, Cataluña, Valencia and Canary Is.)
2. Spain (increase in some regions only) national population stable
 - France and Portugal – stable
 - The populations in Bulgaria, Greece and FYR of Macedonia are definitely not growing (these population have decreased from 30-60% after the SAP)



Actions implementation

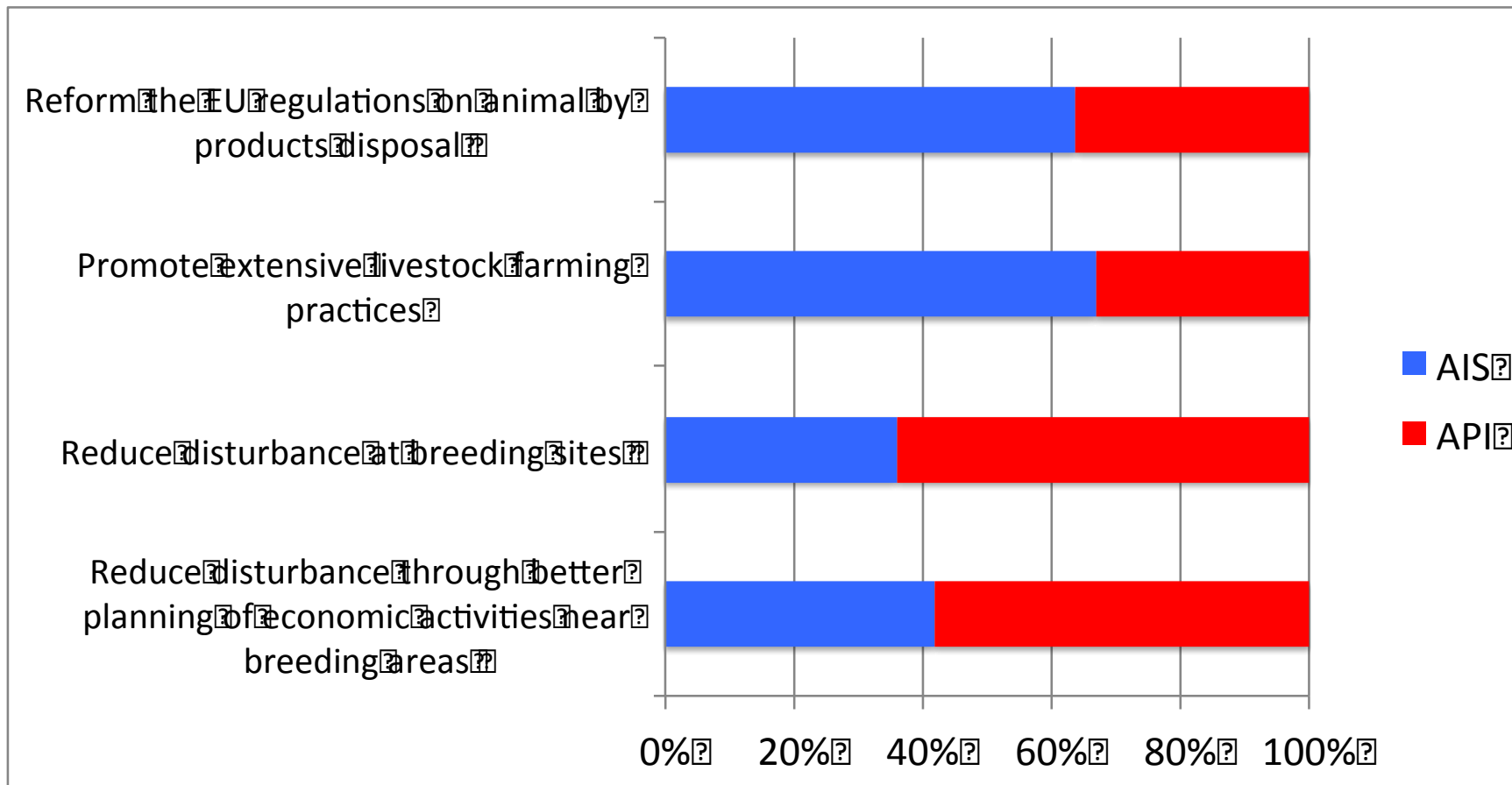
Result: Reduced Egyptian Vulture mortality in Europe to levels that will allow population growth





Actions implementation

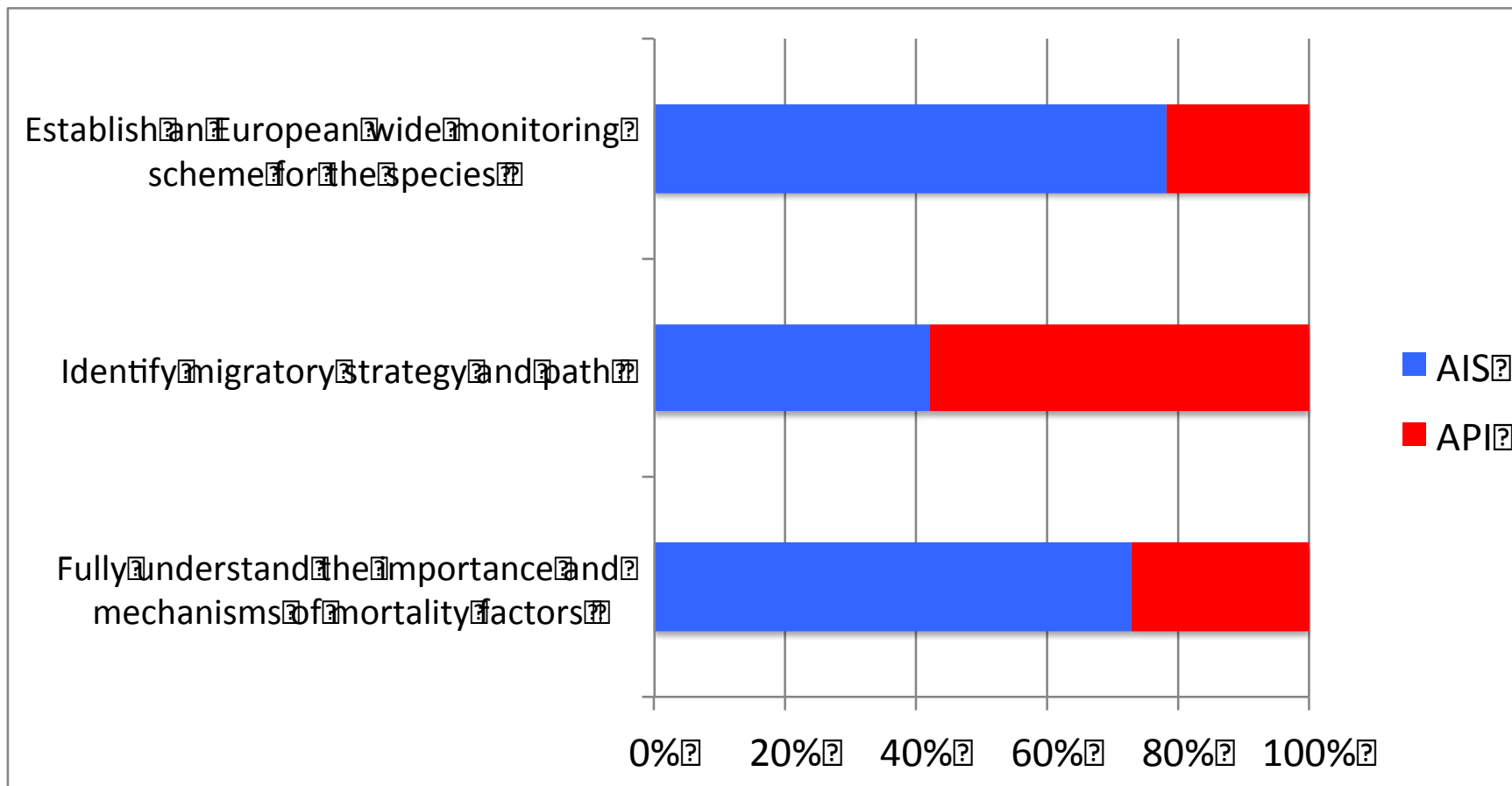
Result: Improved food availability and habitat quality for the species in its European range.





Actions implementation

Result: Up to date and precise knowledge about the population numbers and trends are available from all countries with breeding populations in Europe.





Evaluation of the threats

Threats	Albania	Armenia	Bulgaria	France	Georgia	Greece	Italy	Macedonia	Serbia	Portugal	Turkey	Spain
Poisoning	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??
Decline of extensively livestock farming	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??
Habitat loss/Degradation	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??
Stricter sanitary and veterinary regulations	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??
Collisions with wind turbines	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??
Disturbance from human activities	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??

- Deliberate killing is not considered as an important threat in most of the countries, except Georgia and Turkey
- Poisoning low estimated threat in AL, AR, FR, SR, TR



Conservation effort



Legal protection

National Species Action Plan

LIFE projects

Project N°	Year Of Finance	Country
LIFE13 NAT/ES/001130	2013	Spain
LIFE13 NAT/IT/000311	2013	Italia
LIFE12 NAT/ES/000595	2012	Spain
LIFE12 NAT/FR/000107	2012	France
LIFE11 NAT/BG/000363	2011	Bulgaria
LIFE11 NAT/FR/000734	2011	France
LIFE10 NAT/BG/000152	2010	Bulgaria
LIFE09 NAT/ES/000533	2009	Spain
LIFE08 NAT/E/000062	2008	Spain
LIFE07 NAT/IT/000436	2007	Italia
LIFE06 NAT/IT/000026	2006	Italia
LIFE05 NAT/IT/000009	2005	Italia
LIFE04 NAT/ES/000067	2004	Spain

- About 25 millions invested in projects involving the Egyptian Vulture
- Anti-poison actions – 9 millions
- Specific projects for Egyptian Vulture 4 millions

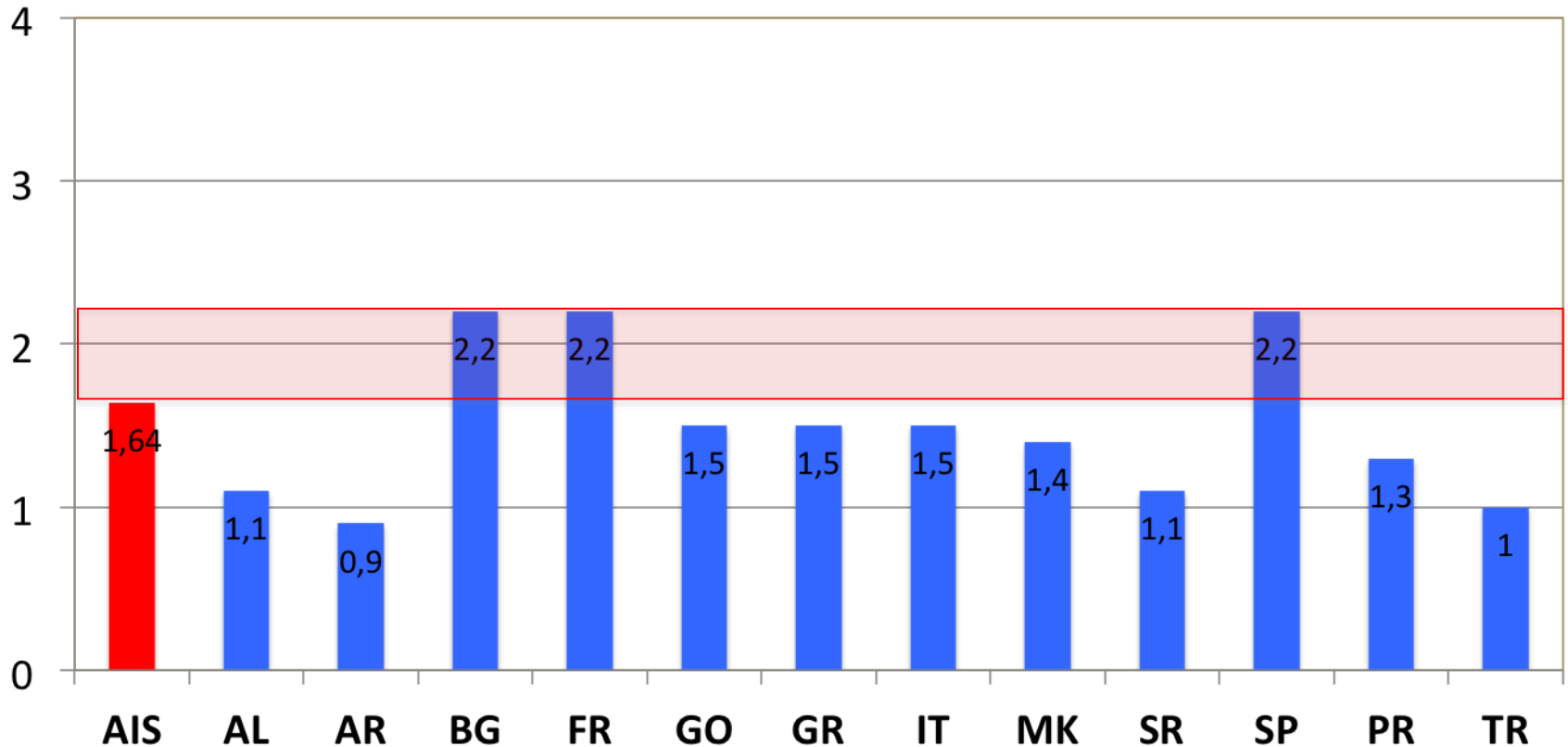
Other projects

- Less then half million



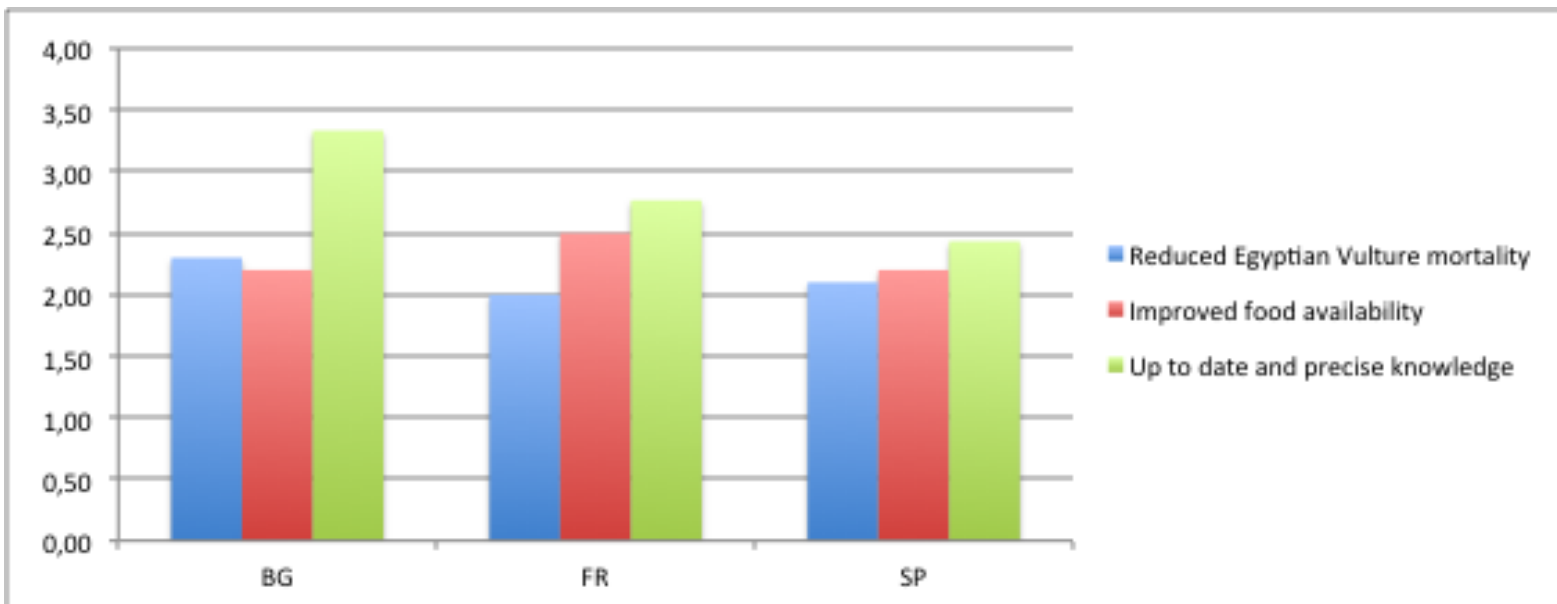
National implementation of the SAP

National Implementation Score





Best National Implementation of the SAP



large decline

stable

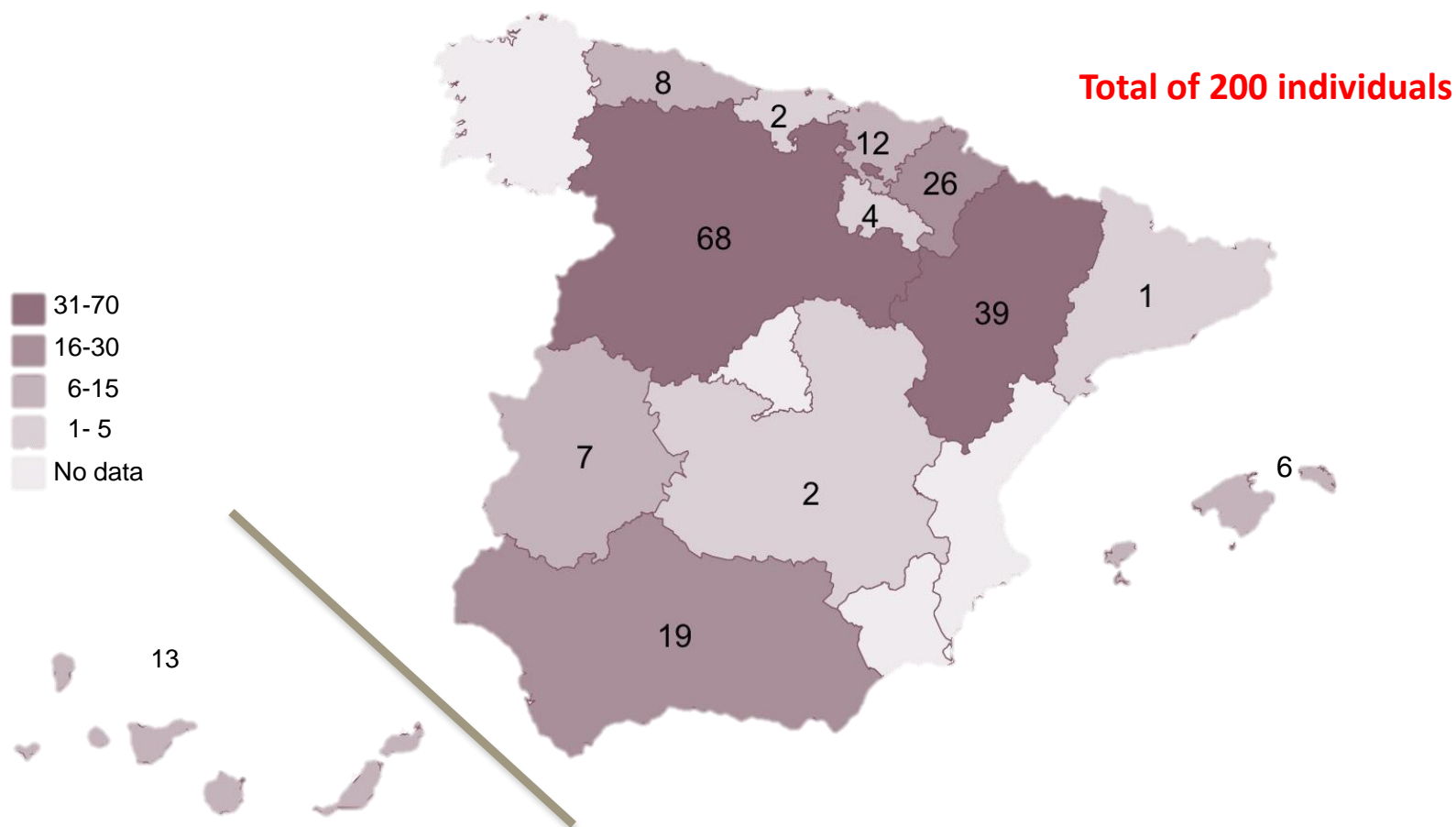
stable

Reduced Egyptian Vulture mortality	BG	FR	SP
Improved enforcement of the ban on using poisoned baits	1,7	2,0	2,7
Reduced risk of poisoning at garbage dumps	0,0	1,5	1,0
Reduced risk of lead poisoning caused by consumption of contaminated carcasses	0,0	1,5	2,0
Reduced mortality caused by wind farms	3,0	1,0	1,3



Poisoning in Spain

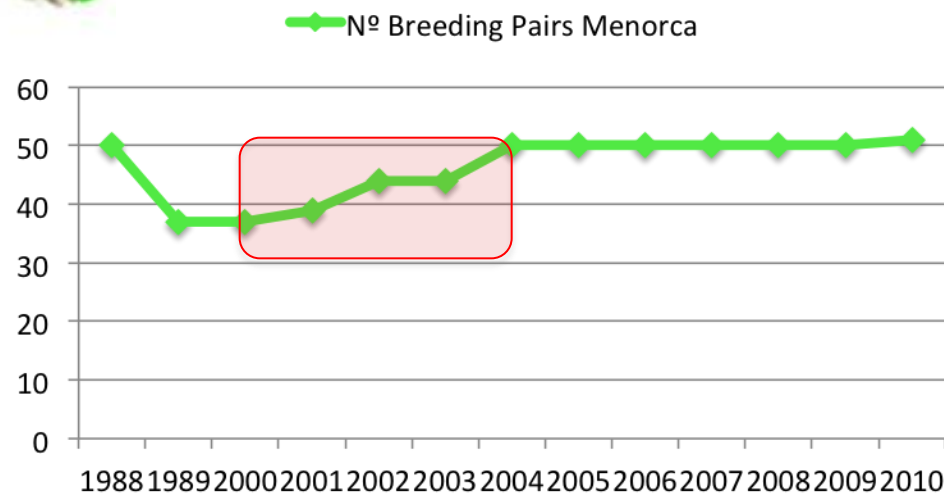
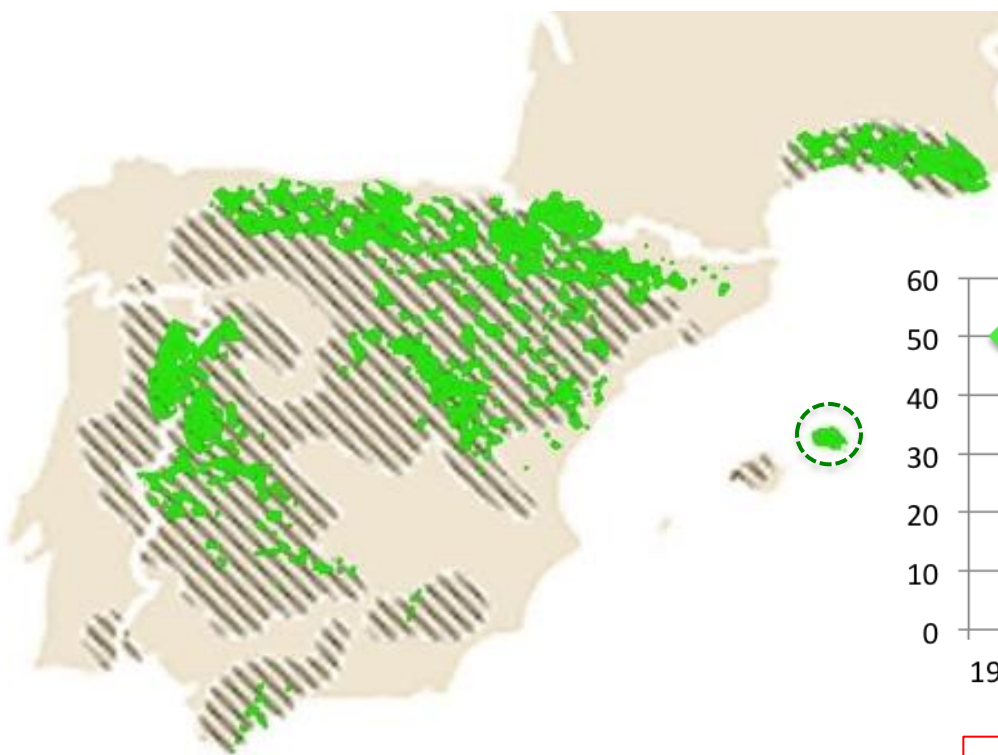
Confirmed cases of Egyptian vulture poisoning in Spain (1990-2010)





Positive experience

Menorca



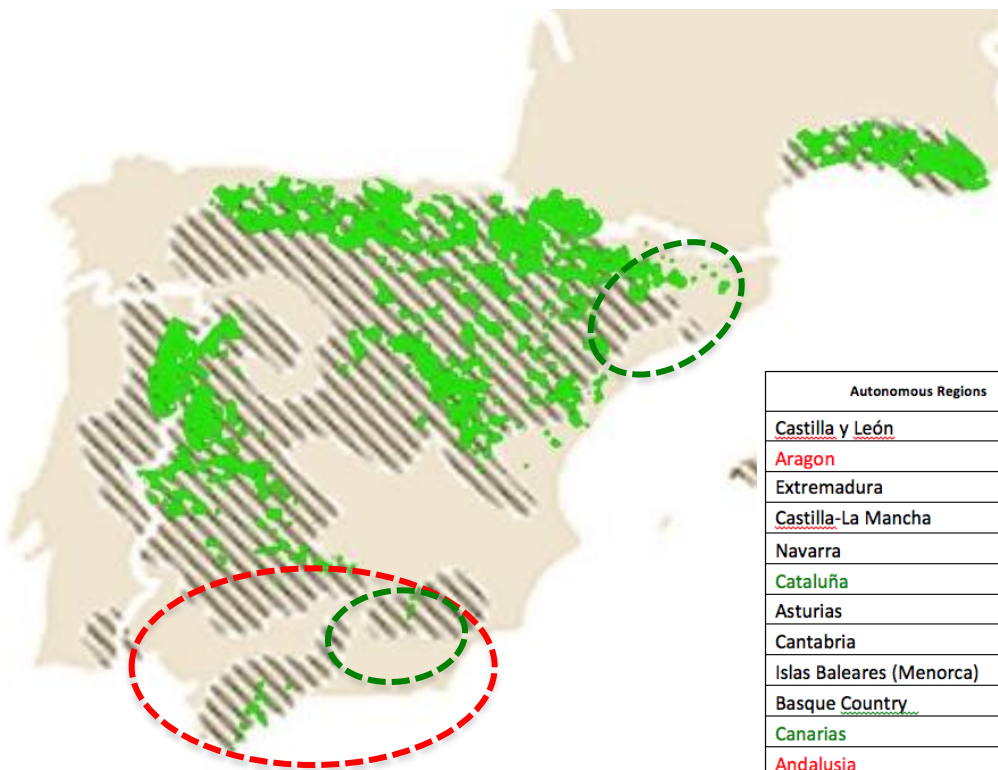
Intensive anti-poison work by the authorities

- *6 Egyptian Vulture poisoned*
- *Total of 25 poisoned birds*



Positive experience

Anti-poison actions implementation vs population trends



- Andalusia
- Cataluña
- Canarias
- Valencia
- Galicia

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Conclusions



- The species continue to decline in Europe
- Overall, the SAP implementation was not good.
- By countries – good implementation in BG, FR and ES.
- Where SAP implemented – have been effective.
 - ✓ Poison, Food availability and disturbance
- Significantly better implementation in countries where EU funding is available
- No differences in the threats and their priority



THANK YOU



*Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan - FAP – Workshop
Sofia, 06-09/07/2015*