

the return of the Neophron

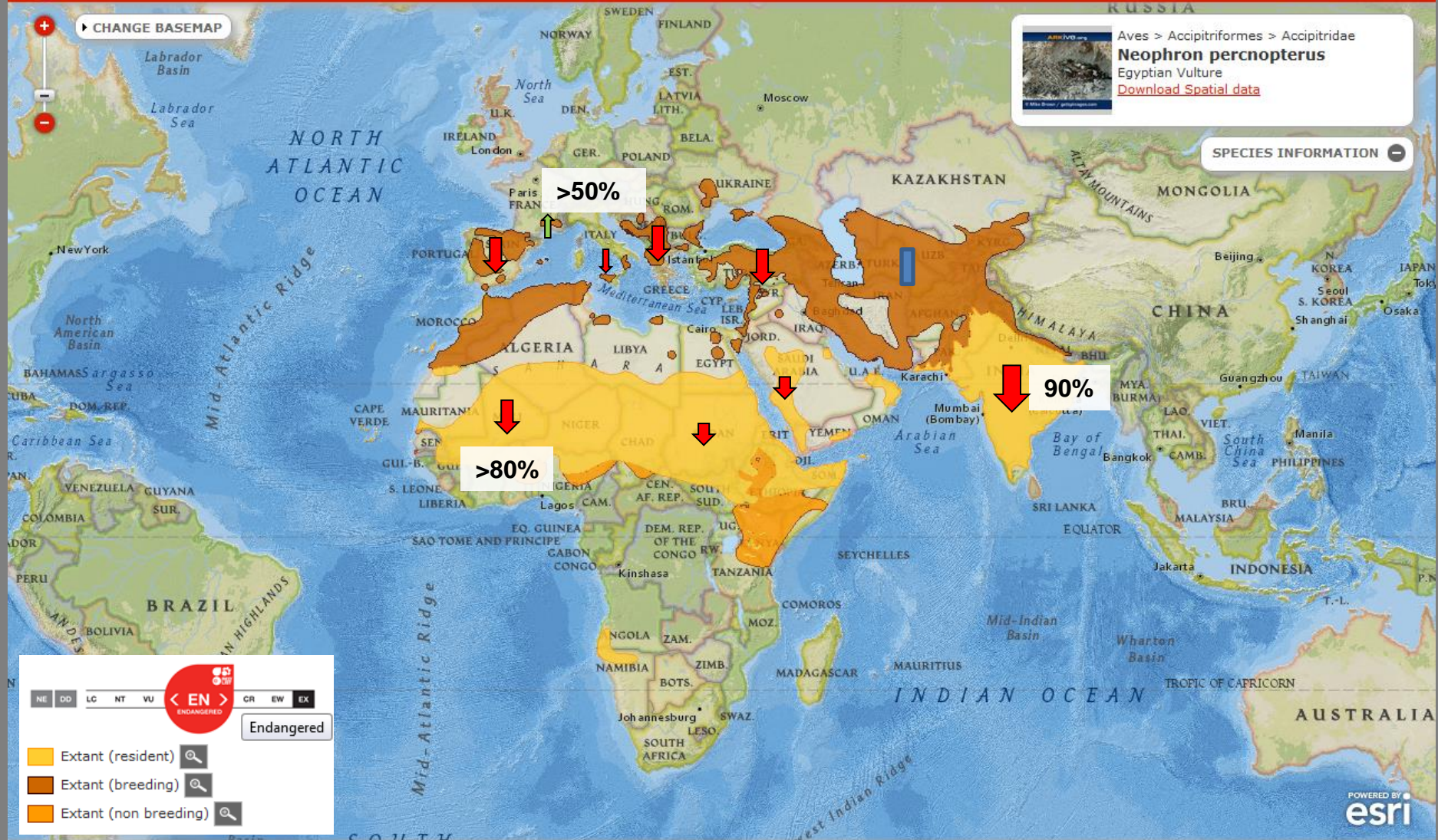


Reasons for the decline in the
Egyptian Vulture:
What do we know about its **threats**?

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HOS LIFE Project Coordinator

FAP Workshop , 5-8 July 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria

Population decline



Aves > Accipitriformes > Accipitridae

Neophron percnopterus

Egyptian Vulture

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SPECIES INFORMATION

NE DD LC NT VU **< EN >** CR EW EX

Endangered

Reduced survival, in particular of adult birds, is key for survival in a long-lived species such as EGVU



- ▶ Is there one cause e.g. Diclofenac? → Apparently not
- ▶ According to literature *“the causes of population decline are poorly understood”*, but
- ▶ Agreement that *“the causes are likely to be a combination of several known threats”* & that *“Egyptian vultures are threatened by multiple human factors”*



According to literature & questionnaires



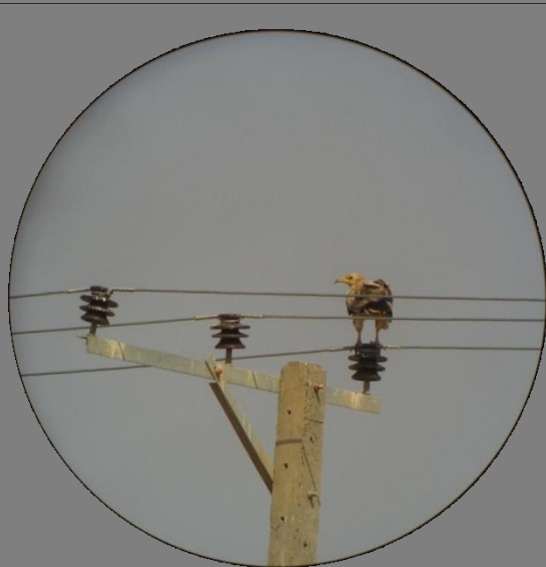
Classification according to impact on the species:

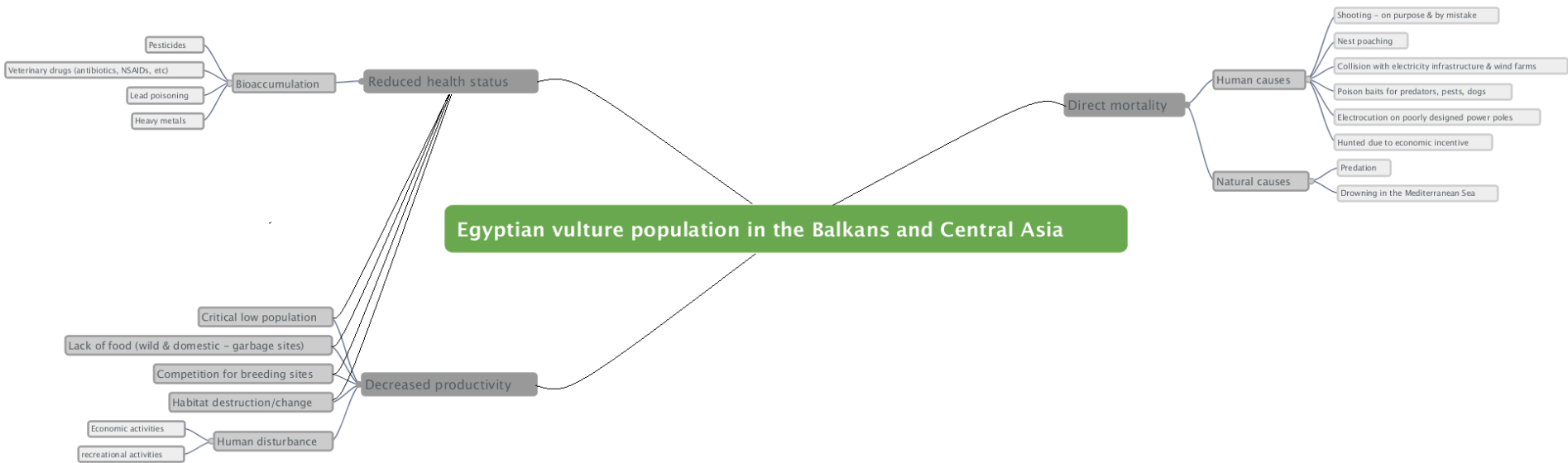
A) Direct mortality

- Human induced
- Natural causes

B) Decreased productivity

C) Reduced health status







Poisoning → EV rarely the target!

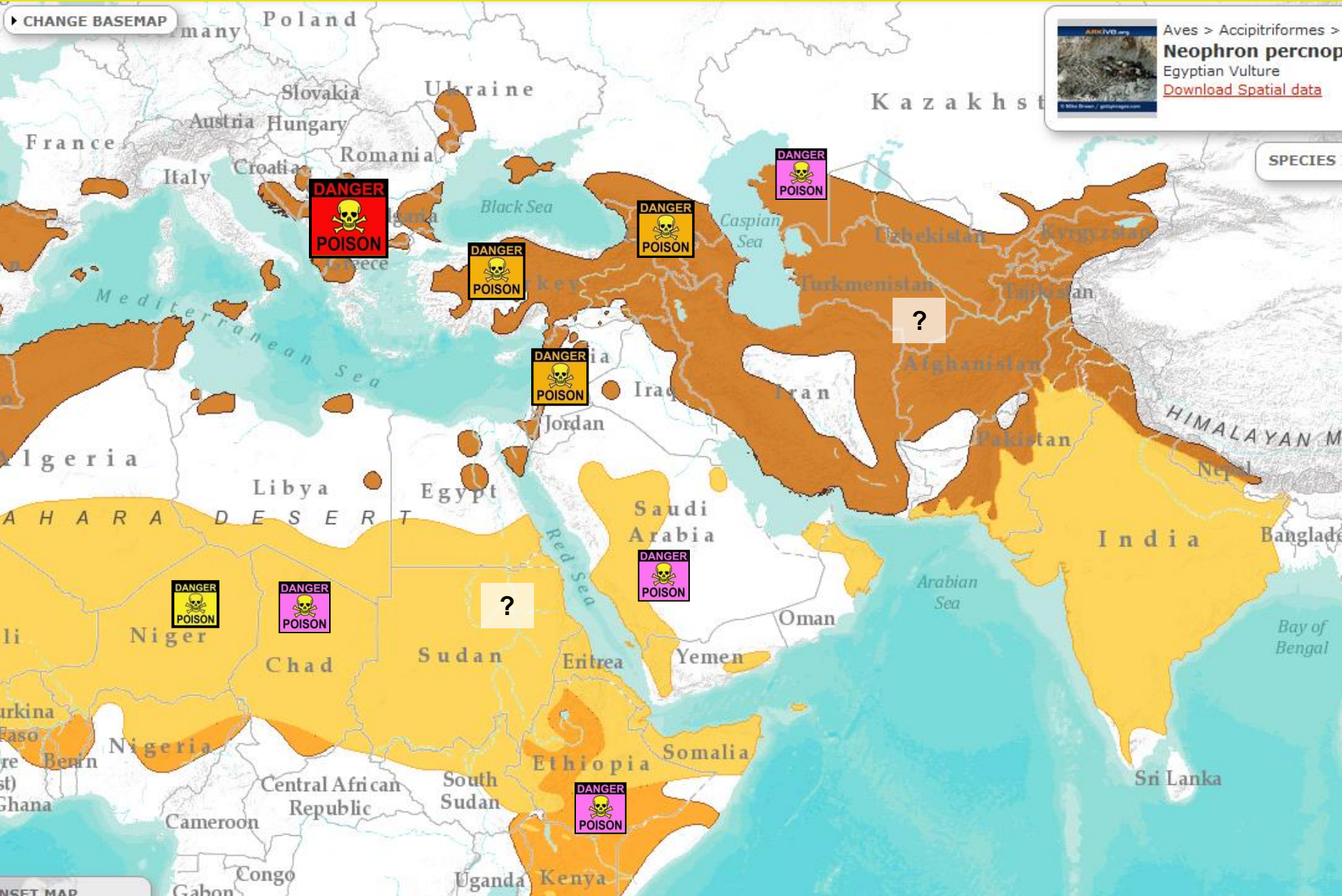
- Use of poison baits usually for predator control (legally/ illegally), but not only
- Pesticides used in agriculture
- Rodenticides
- Diclofenac & other NSAIDs
- Lead poisoning

Poison threat by region

CHANGE BASEMAP

Aves > Accipitriformes >
Neophron percnopterus
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SPECIES



INSET MAP

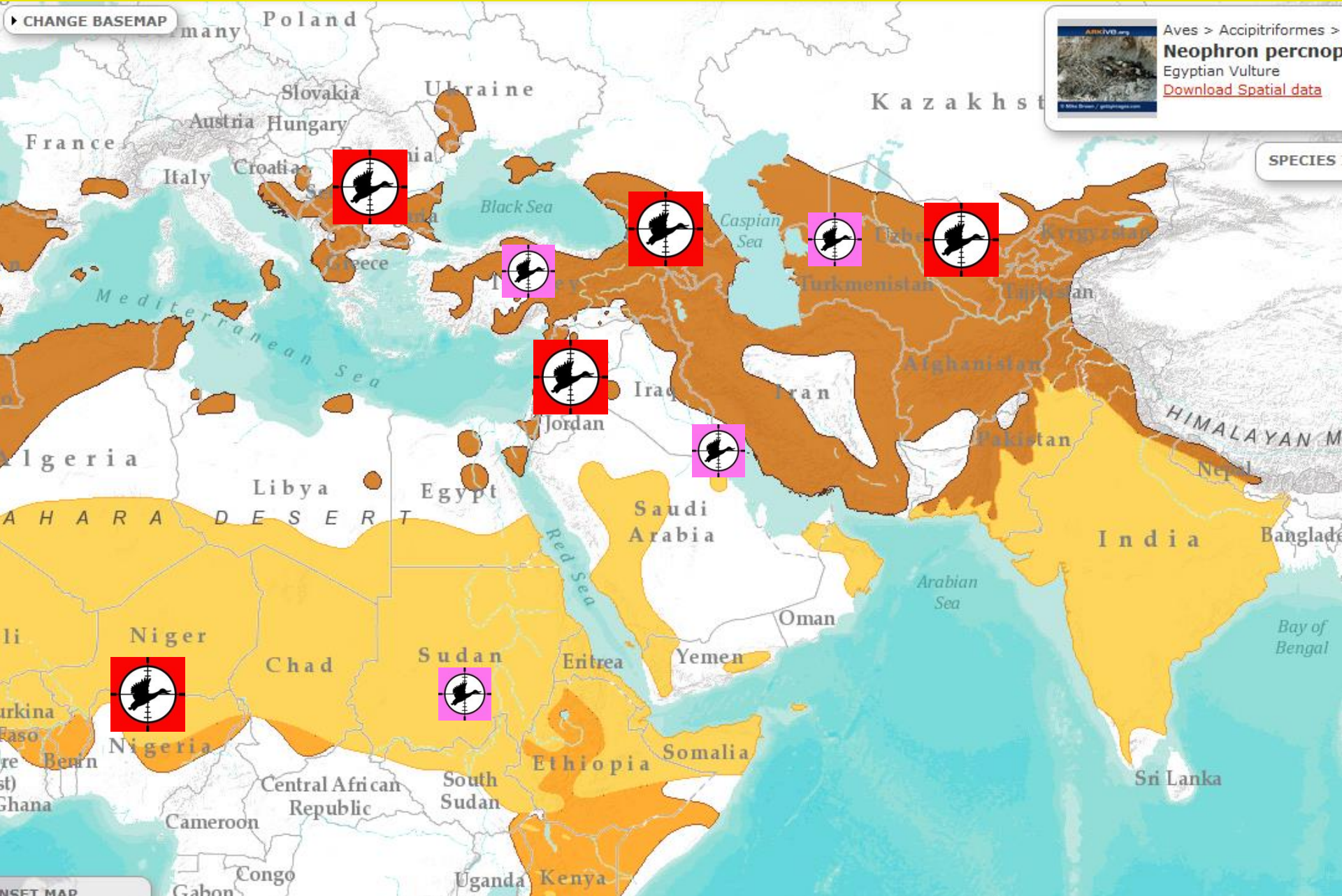
A) Direct mortality: Human induced

Direct persecution → Intentional

- Hunting for use in African traditional medicine
- Hunting for taxidermy & collectors + Nest robbing
- Livestock protection & others (e.g. Uzbekistan & Sudan)



Direct persecution threat by region



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INSET MAP

Electrocution & collision with windfarms

- Poorly designed electricity poles (e.g. Port Sudan)
- Wrongly located windfarms (e.g. South of Spain)



BULGARIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

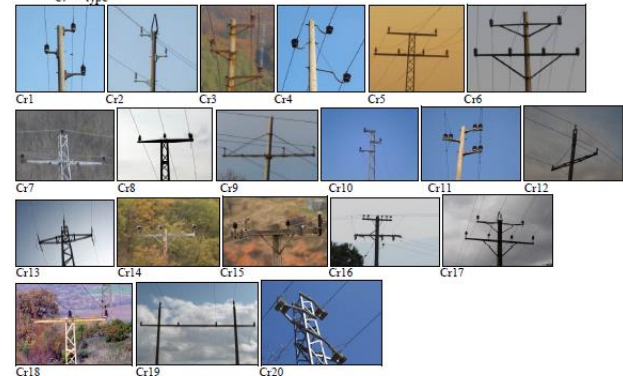
Bulgaria, Sofia 1111, Yavorov complex, block 71,
 entrance 4, floor T.U.C. 121244539;
 tel/fax: + 359 2 979 85 00, 979 85 01, www.bspb.org



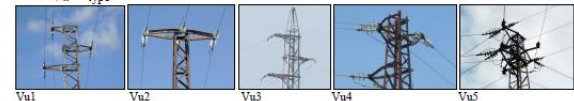
Help us protect the birds and nature of Bulgaria!

Annex II. Action A6 "Identify potentially dangerous electricity infrastructure" – codes for pylon types

Cr - type



Vu - type



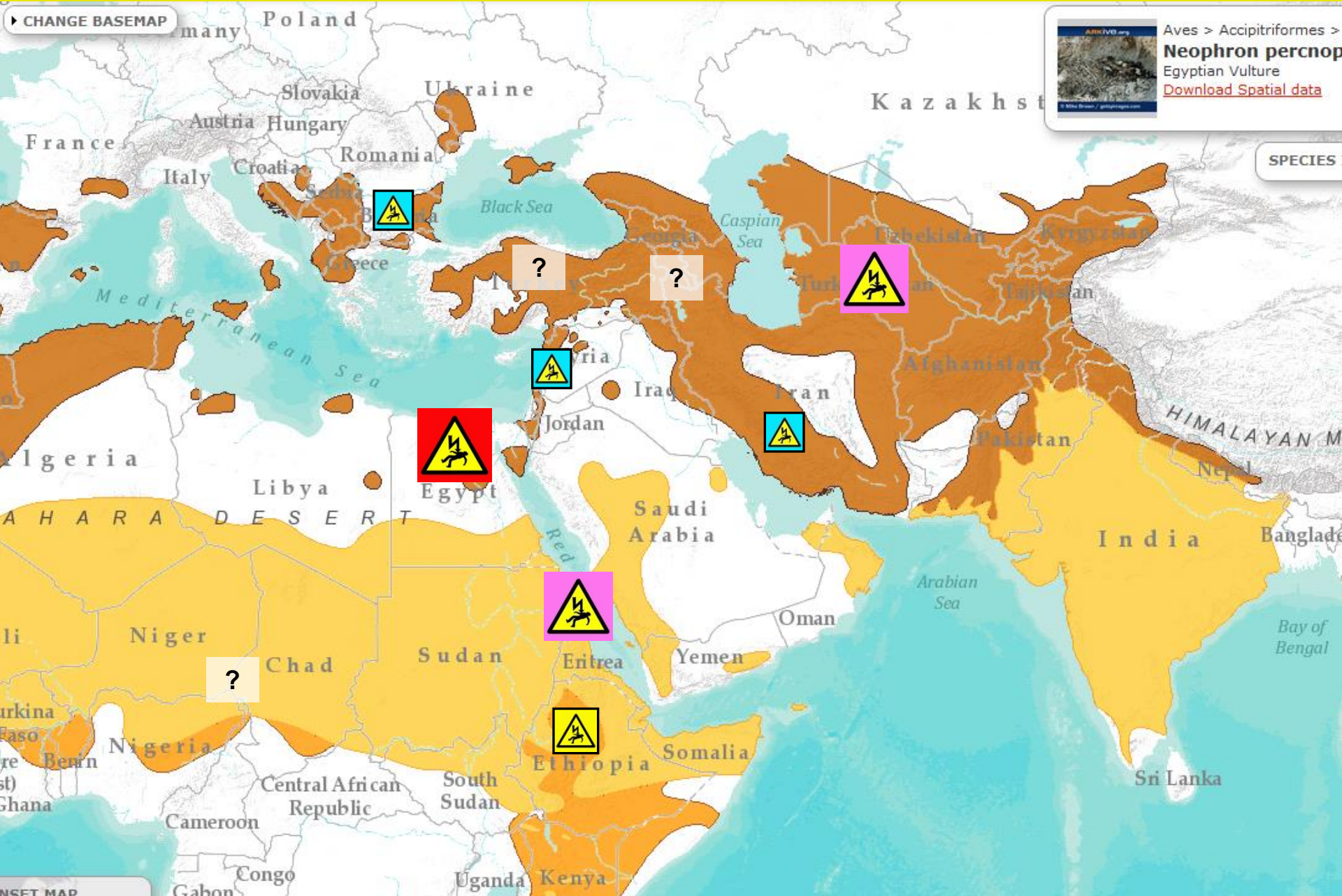
Project „Urgent measures to secure the survival of the Egyptian vulture (*Neophelis percnopterus*) in Bulgaria and Greece”
 LIFE10 NAT/BG/000152, funded by the LIFE+ program, EC
 Address for correspondence: BSPB, P.O. box 50, Yavorov complex,
 bl. 8, entr. 1, ap. 1, 11111 Sofia, Bulgaria; stoyan.nikolov@bspb.org

Electrocution threat by region

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INSET MAP

Windfarms threat by region



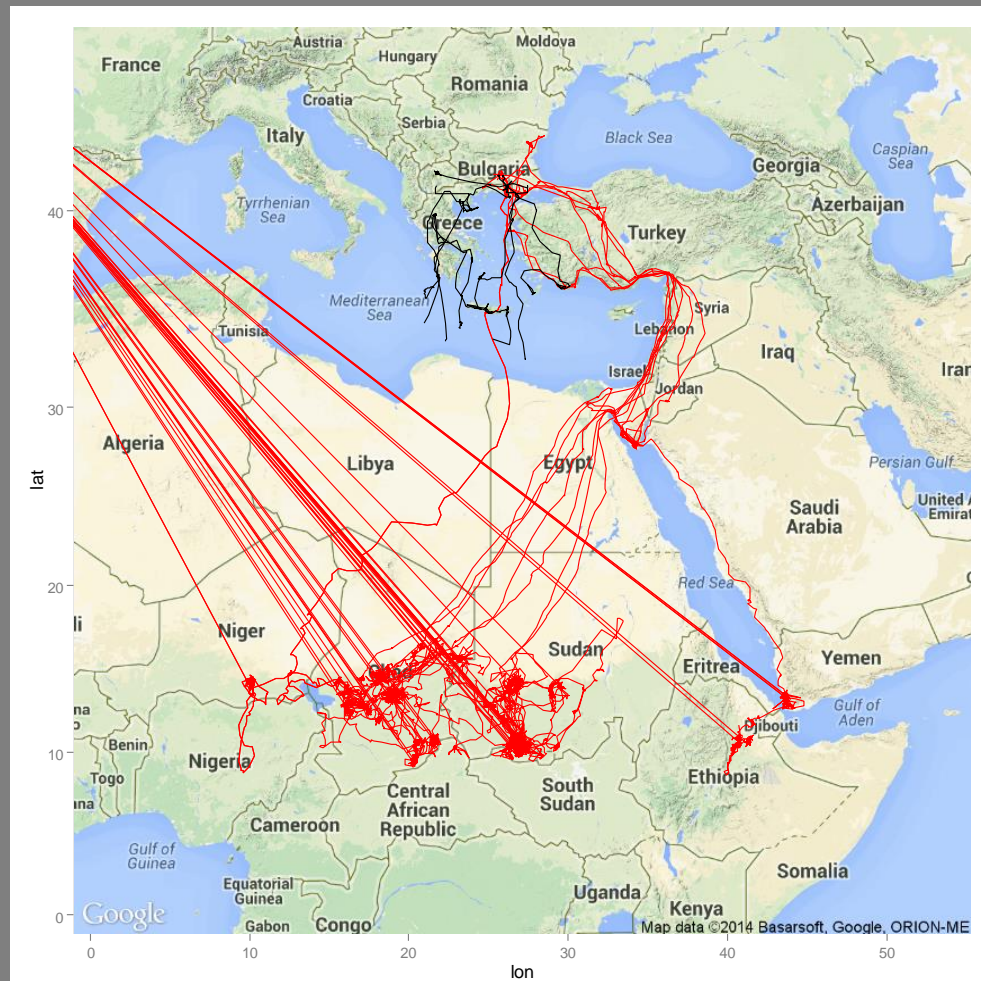
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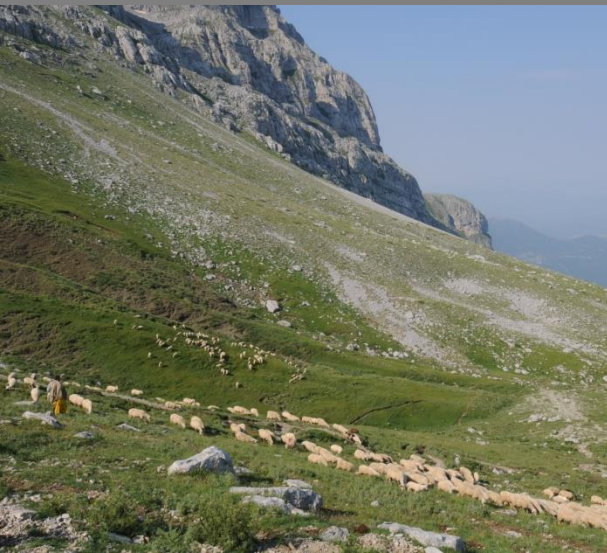
SPECIES

INSET MAP

Top 2 threats identified:

- 1) Predation in nest
- 2) Death during crossing of Mediterranean sea (mainly juveniles)





Habitat loss/degradation

- Abandonment of traditional livestock practices
- Agricultural intensification
- Development of infrastructure close to breeding sites (large scale or energy related)
- Desertification (localized problem such as in Iran or Georgia)

Habitat loss threat by region

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INSET MAP

Lack of food

- Reduction of livestock & wild animals (tortoises, ungulates)
- Better veterinary practices & stricter sanitary controls
- Closure of open-air rubbish dumps

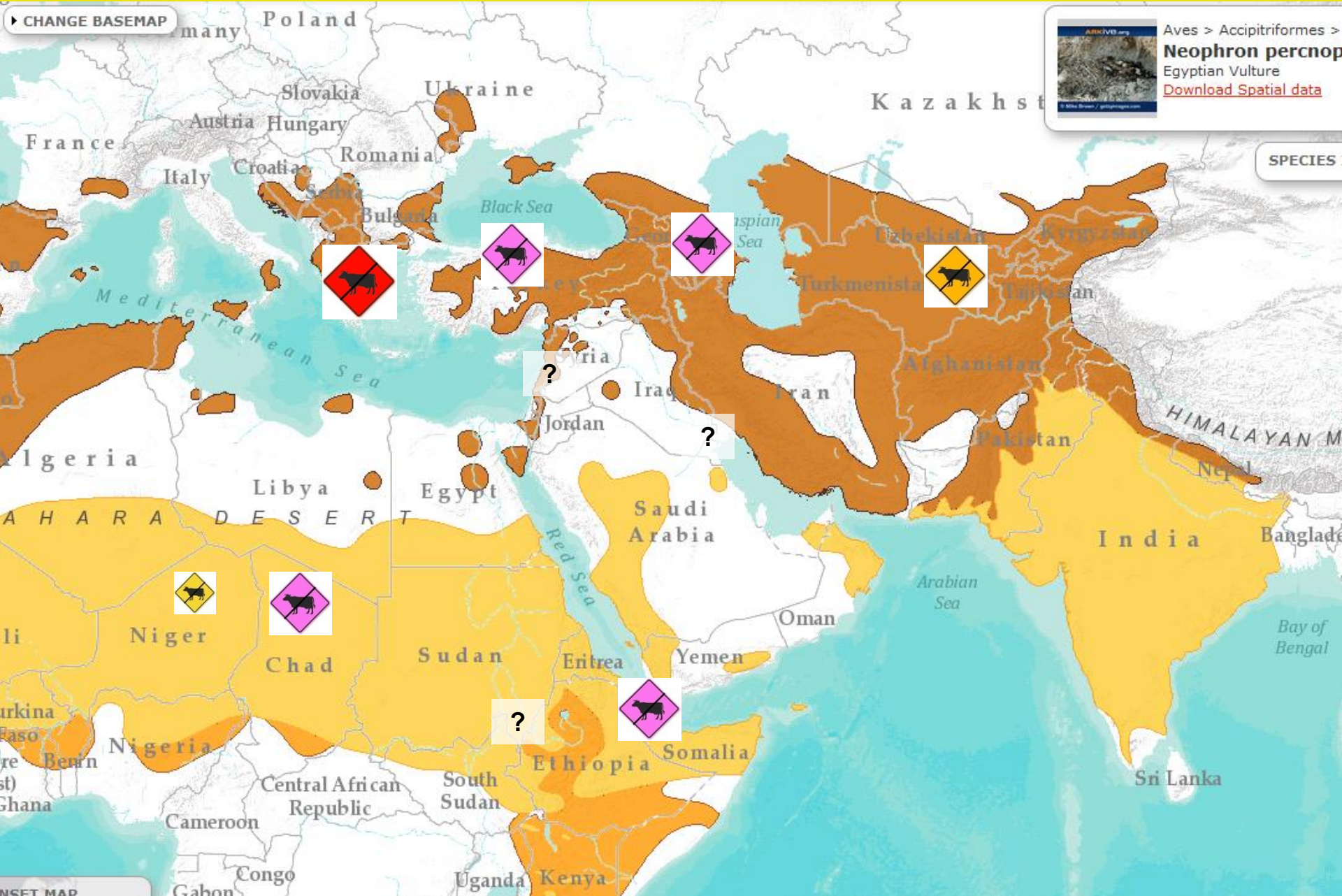


Lack of food threat by region

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INSET MAP

Human disturbance

- Development of infrastructure close to breeding sites
- Recreational activities close to breeding sites
- Quarrying & logging
- War & military practices
- Aircraft activity



Human disturbance threat by region

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INSET MAP

Top 2 threats identified:

- 1) **Bioaccumulation** (chemicals, heavy metals, vet drugs)
- 2) **Natural causes** (diseases or problems related to low population numbers)



Reduced health status threat by region



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INSET MAP

Missing or ineffective policies, laws and enforcement

- Insufficient level of protection of species/breeding sites
- Lack of Action Plan or other needed laws
- Lack of enforcement & surveillance

Lack of public awareness and human resources for conservation

- Lack of public awareness
- Lack of funding

*These issues need to be tackled first
if we are to solve any of the previous threats!*

Thank you for your attention!

