



LIFE SAFE FOR VULTURES

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“Overview of wildlife poisoning in whole Europe”

11. November 2021 9:00-16:30



One step back to 2015



LIFE14 NAT/IT/000484 - LIFE UNDER GRIFFON WINGS



life
SOTTO LE ALI DEL
GRIFFONE
under griffon wings

Target species: Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

1935-1945

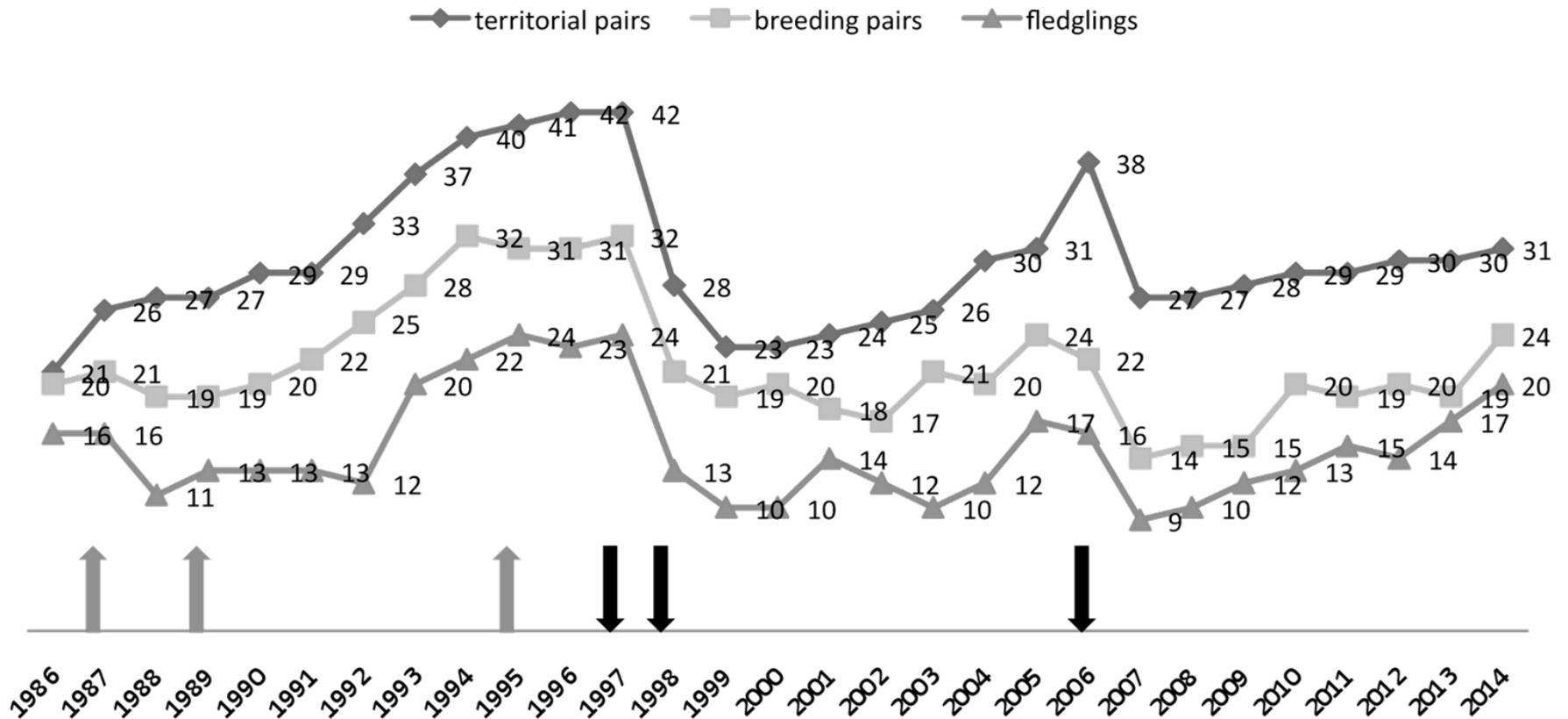


Population
estimated
at

800-1.200

individuals

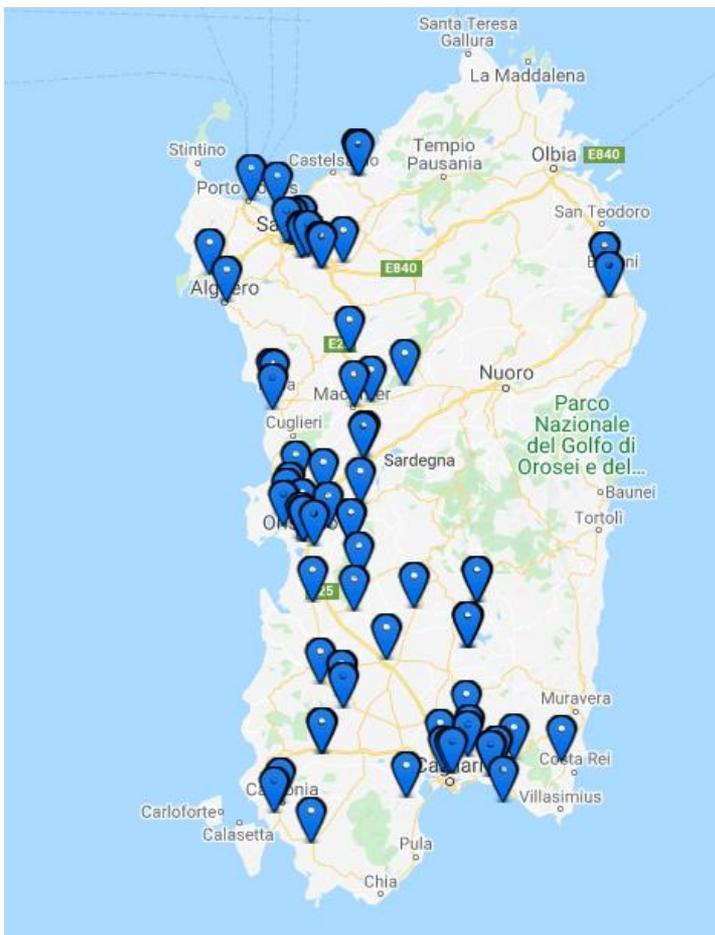
Griffon vulture population dynamic



Grey arrows indicate restocking with Griffon Vultures from Spain and France
 Black arrows indicate poisoning events



PORTALE NAZIONALE DEGLI AVVELENAMENTI DOLOSI DEGLI ANIMALI



Poisoning
– some
data

Province	n. of poisoned animals (2015-2018)
Sassari	97
Oristano	32
Olbia-Tempio	19
Ogliastra	9
Nuoro	45
Medio- Campidano	12
Carbonia- Iglesias	11
Cagliari	60
Total	285

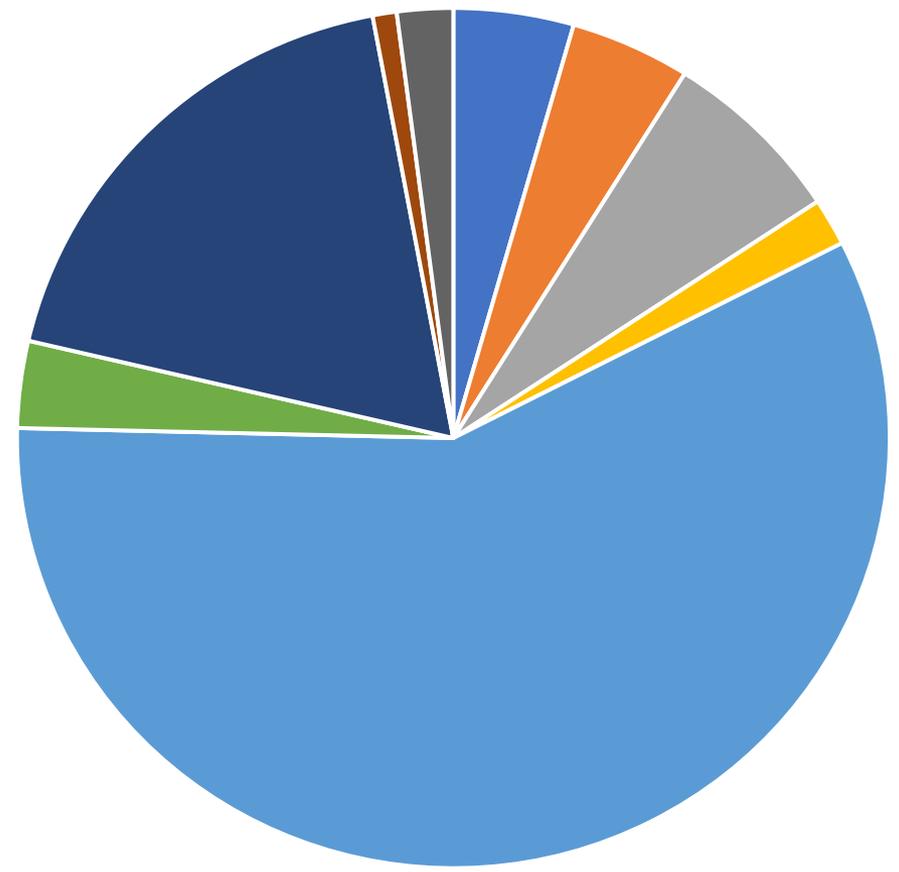
Data from the Istituto Zooprofilattico
della Sardegna

Only 11 of those were wild animals (wild boars, foxes, raven, marten, Griffon Vulture)



Poisoning
– some
data

Poisons used



- Phosphorus pesticides
- Chlorinated pesticides
- Carbamates pesticides
- Pyrethroids
- Metaldehyde
- Strychnine
- Antocoagulant rodenticides
- Zinc Phosphide
- Others



LIFE Under Griffon Wings (2015-2020)

Small population size



restocking

Food shortage



Feeding stations



The population grows

Anti-poison dog unit



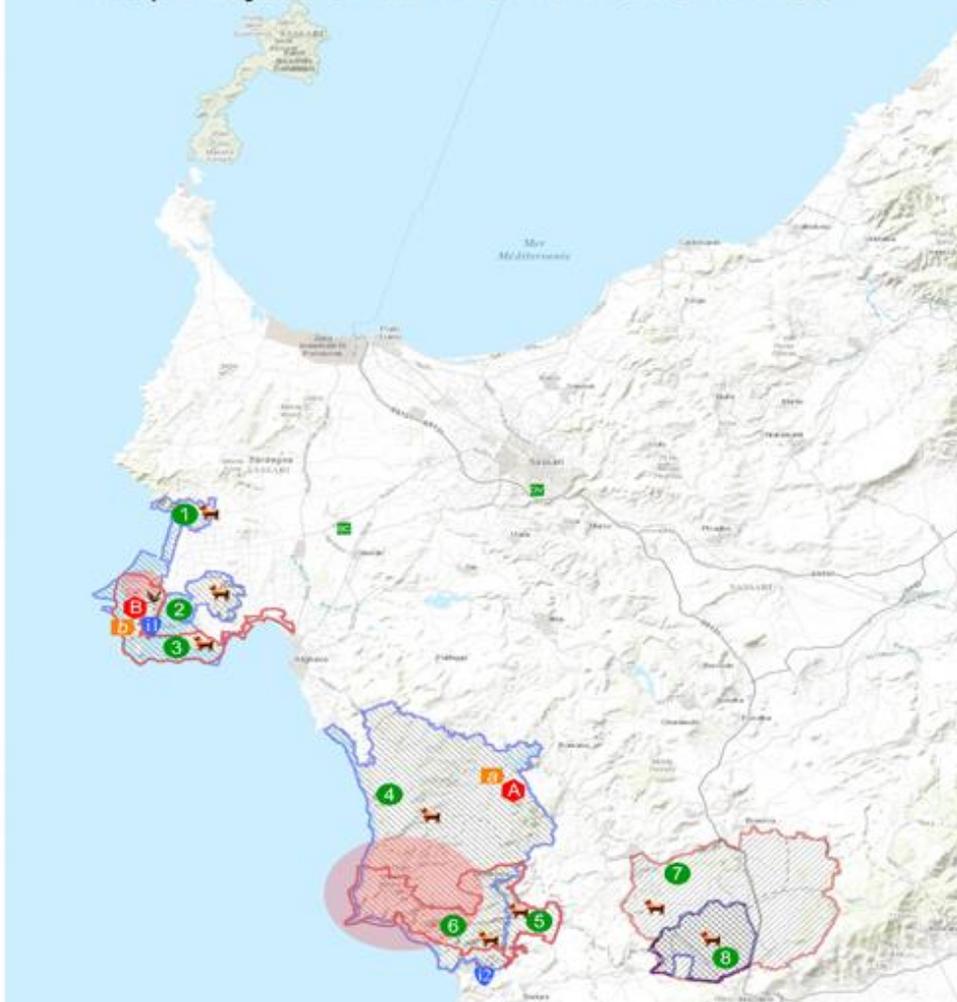
poisoning



Communication actions

Human disturbance at the nesting sites

Map Project UNDER GRIFFONS WINGS



● Breeding Site Griffon

- ITB011155 SCI Lago di Baratz - Porto Ferro
- ITB013042 SCI Capo Caccia (con le Isole Foradada e Piana) e Punta del Giglio
- ITB013044 SPA Capo Caccia
- ITB020041 SCI Entroterra e zona costiera tra Bosa, Capo Marargiu e Porto Tangone
- ITB020040 SCI Valle del Temo
- ITB023037 SPA Costa e Entroterra di Bosa, Suni e Montresta
- ITB023050 SPA Piana di Semestene, Bonorva, Macomer e Bortigali
- ITB021101 SCI Altopiano di Campeda

■ Departement of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sassari

■ Wildlife Rescue Centre Of Bonassai – Efs:

- Action A.1 And D3: Recovered Vultures Marked With Transmitters
- Action C.5: Specialization Of The Wildlife Rescue Centre – Construction Of The Aviaries For The Recovery, Rehabilitation, And Reproduction In Captivity Of Griffon Vultures;

- Action C.1: Increase In Food Availability - Activation Of Centralized Feeding Stations – Monte Minerva
- Action C.1: Increase In Food Availability - Activation Of Centralized Feeding Stations – Porto Conte
- ▼ Action C.2: Increase in Food Availability – Creation of farm feeding stations
- ▼ Action C.4: Restocking Program – Adaption Aviary In Porto Conte
- Action C.6: Mitigation Of Human Disturbance – Hiking Trails And In The Efs Territory Of Monte Minerva
- Action C.6: Mitigation Of Human Disturbance – Hiking Trails And In The Efs Territory Of Porto Conte
- Action E.5 - Infopoint C.E.A.M.A.T Porto Conte
- Action E.5 - Infopoint Bosa

Project area overlapped with the core area for Griffon Vultures – limited to north-western Sardinia



LIFE14 NAT/IT/000484 - LIFE UNDER GRIFFON WINGS

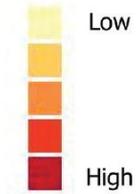




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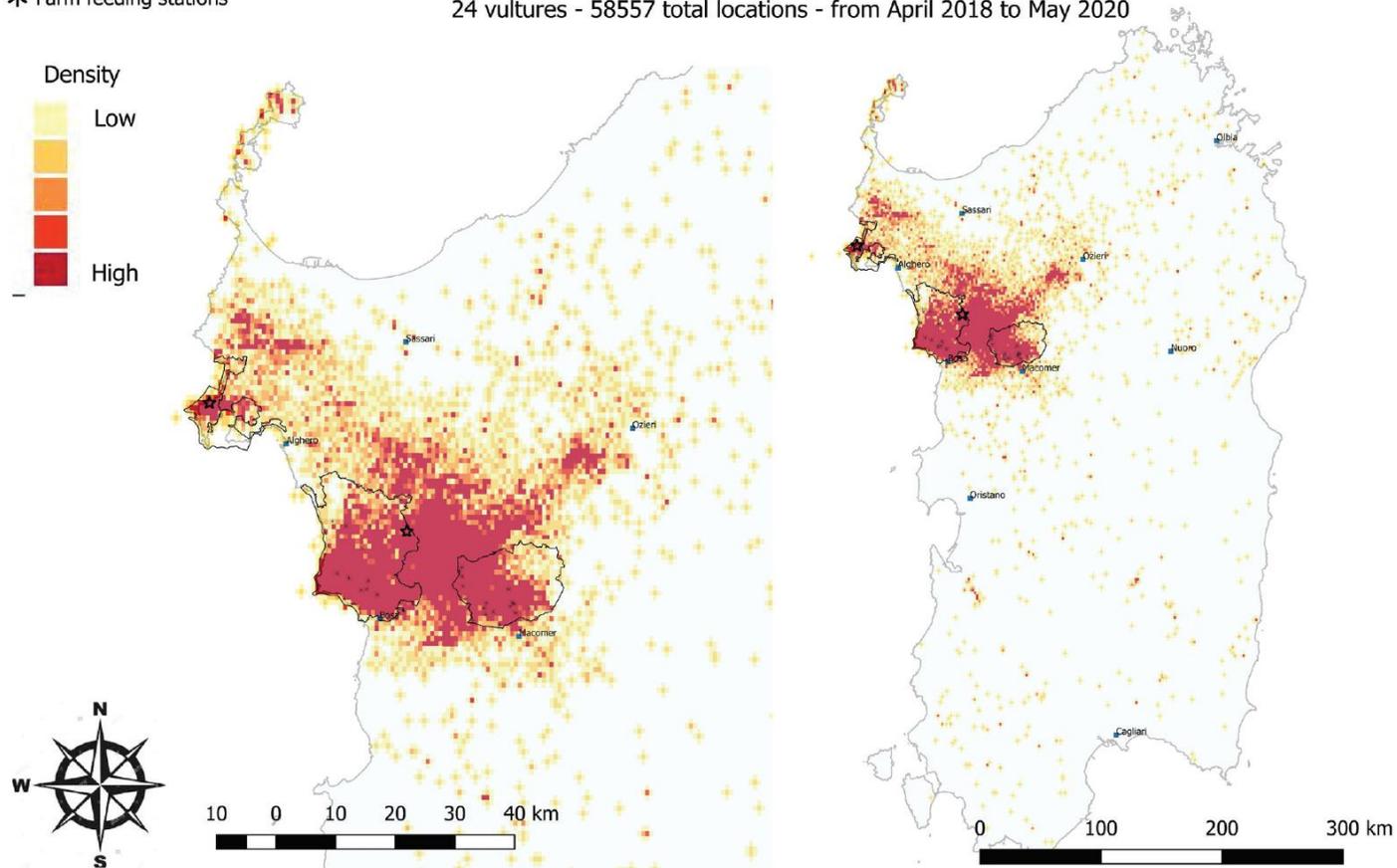
- Legend
- ★ Centralized Feeding stations
 - * Farm feeding stations

Density



ALL RESTOCKED VULTURES

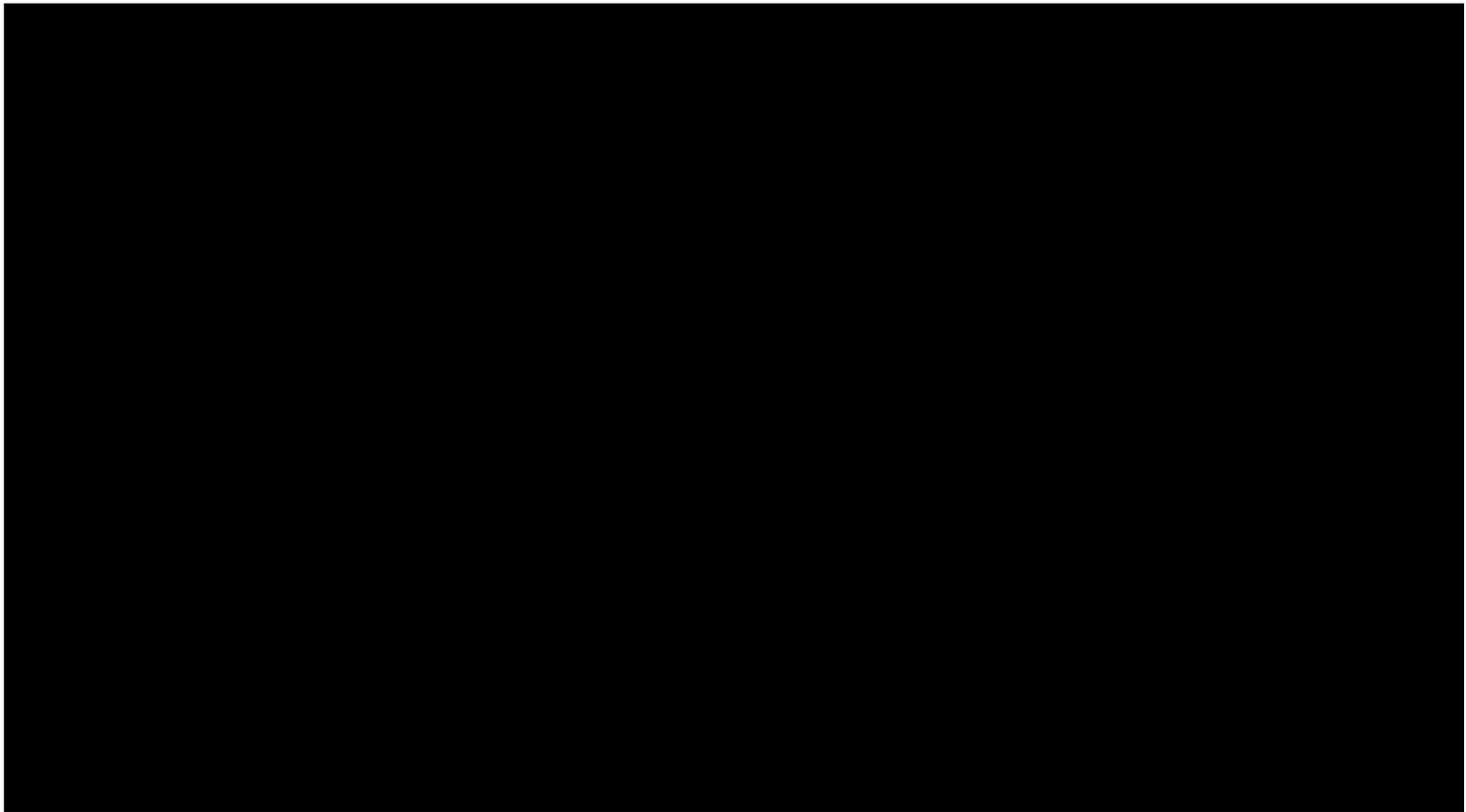
24 vultures - 58557 total locations - from April 2018 to May 2020





Actions against poisoning

Two centralized feeding stations





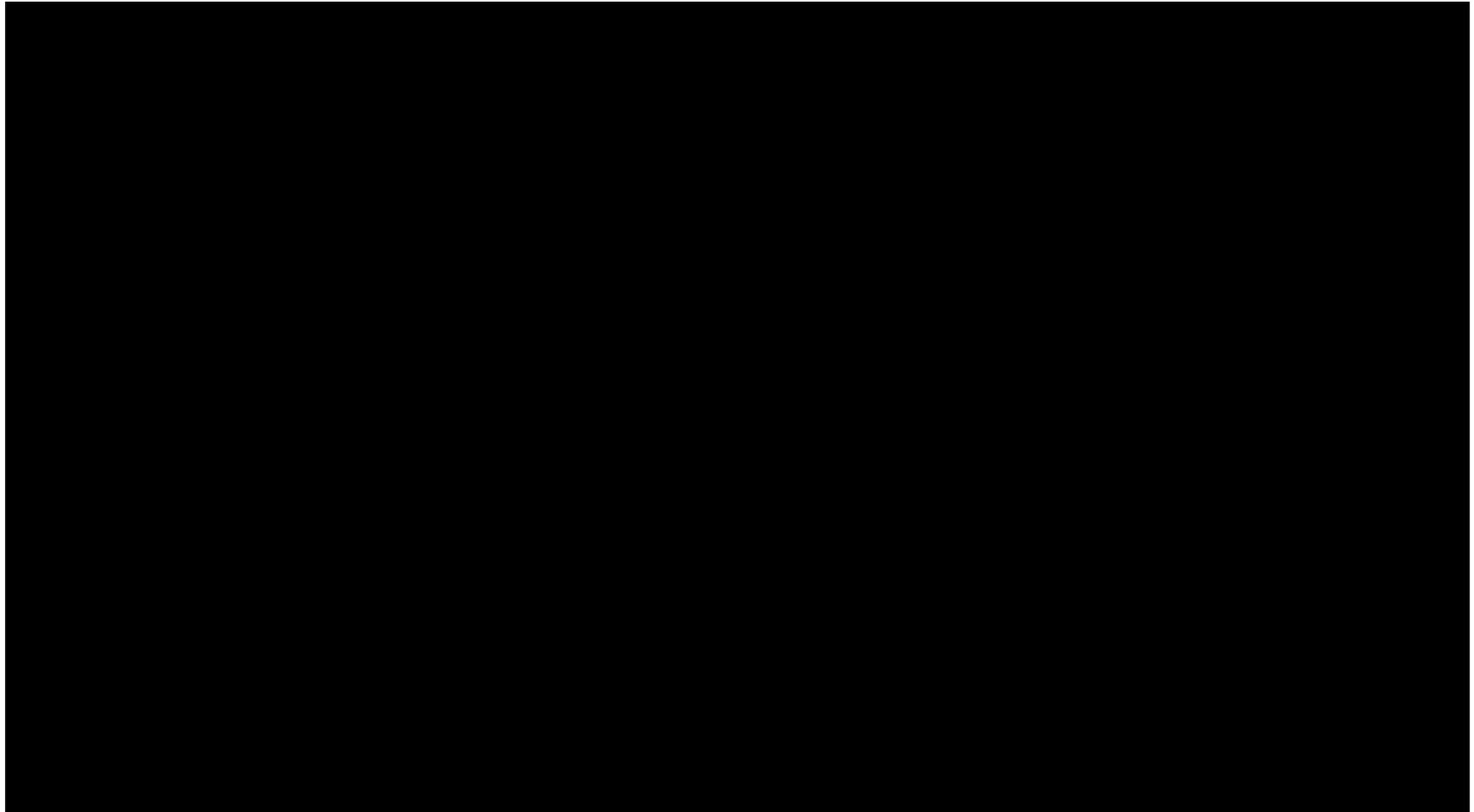
Actions against poisoning

A network of 37 farm feeding stations



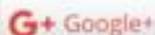


Anti-poison dog unit





Anti-poisoning dog unit from LIFE Grifone key to first ever judicial prosecution of a large-scale poisoning incident in Sardinia



Animali avvelenati allevatore a giudizio Primo caso nell'isola



Il nucleo cinofilo antiveleeno del Corpo forestale con il pastore tedesco King alla ricerca di tracce sui casi di animali morti a Lauro

di Antonello Palmas

LAURO

Sempre più diffusa la criminale abitudine di utilizzare veleni per uccidere animali potenzialmente dannosi per aziende agricole o allevamenti, o che comunque danno fastidio. Un metodo insano e che crea pericoli diretti anche per l'uomo. Ma la notizia che qualcuno finalmente potrebbe pagare per questi atti tiene viva la speranza che la tendenza possa finire. Arriva il primo caso in Sardegna di rinvio a giudizio conseguente all'impiego di sostanze tossiche dopo un'operazione del Corpo forestale. Il Gip di Sassari ha disposto che un allevatore di 60 anni di Lauro dovrà rispondere per i reati di uccisione e danneggiamento di animali altrui nonché per l'uccisione di animali selvatici particolarmente protetti.

I fatti risalgono all'autunno del 2016, a seguito di lunghe

ebbero notizie di avvelenamenti, i casi ripresero nel settembre 2016, vittime alcuni cani da caccia, con un crescendo di eventi che delineavano una vera e propria strage, sino alle fine alle prime settimane del 2017 in cui alcuni cani avvelenati furono salvati e diversi morirono. Stessa sorte per altri animali, ritrovati agonizzanti o morti.

Le analisi dell'Istituto neoprolattico su carcase e reperti rinvenuti grazie ai cani antiveleeno (in particolare King) ha consentito di individuare una serie di siti critici e di risalire all'indagato. Secondo le accuse, l'allevatore intendeva in questo modo liberare i terreni dalla fauna selvatica, specialmente da predatori quali volpi e martore, per renderli sicuri da attacchi agli agnelli appena nati. Così avrebbe disseminato esche avvelenate in tutti i suoi terreni, provocando la strage: almeno 14 cani dome-

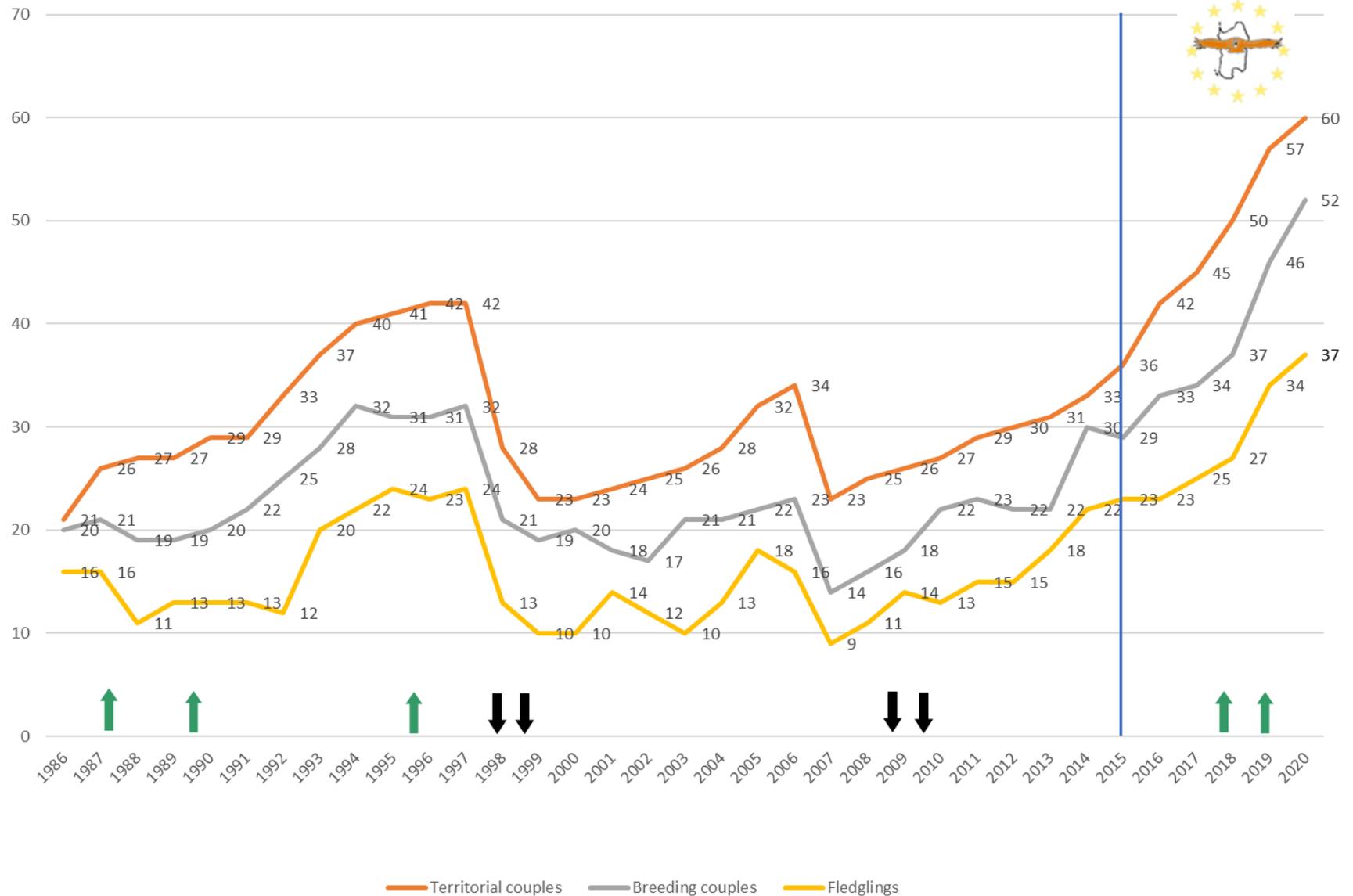


The Unit operates in the project area - Bosa, Campeda and Alghero - and, upon request of the **Public Prosecutor's Office**, on the whole regional territory (n. 41 times).

- Two investigations have led to the indictment of two breeders, accused of having poisoned dogs and other animals.
- In the course of the Unit's activities, poisonings have been found at least in 7 different municipalities in Sardinia.
- In 7 cases useful elements of investigation and formulation of hypothesis of crime resulting from the illegal use of poison have been collected.



The population is growing and enlarging its core area





LIFE SAFE FOR VULTURES



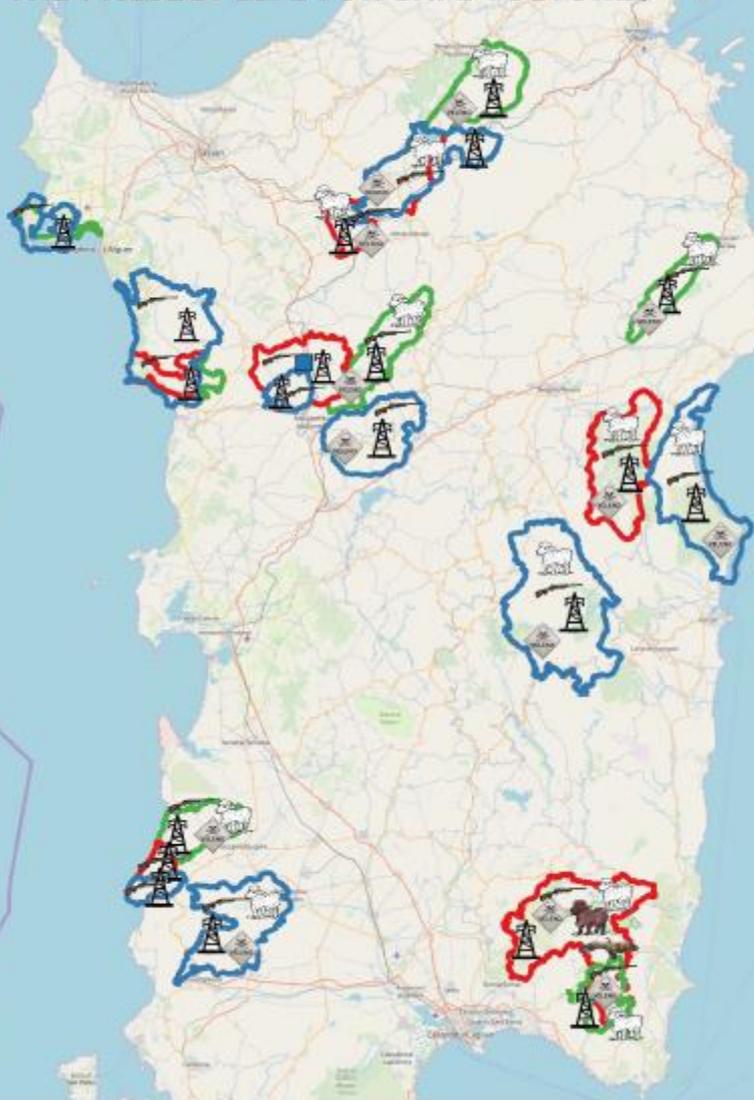
MAIN GOAL:

Secure the long-term survival of Griffon Vultures in Sardinia

- Specific objectives:
 - Enlarge the area of occupancy of Griffon vultures and increase its carrying capacity
 - Mitigate the risk of poisoning events
 - Encourage a transition versus lead-free ammunition
 - Reduce the risks of collision to energy infrastructures and electrocution
 - Increase public awareness



MAP OF THE PROJECT LIFE FOR SAFE VULTURES



0 5 10 km

THE NATURA 2000 AREAS OF THE PROJECT

- SCI ITB011109 Monte Limbara
- SPA ITB013048 Piana di Ozieri, Mores, Ardara, Tula e Oschiri
- SCI ITB011113 Campo di Ozieri e Pianure Compresse tra Tula e Oschiri
- SCI ITB021107 Monte Albo
- SPA ITB022212 Supramonte di Oliena, Orgosolo e Urzulei - Su Sercone
- SCI and SPA ITB020014 Golfo di Orosei
- SCI and SPA ITB021103 Monti del Gennargentu
- SPA ITB043055 Monte dei Sette Fratelli
- SCI ITB041106 Monte dei Sette Fratelli e Sarraus
- SCI ITB041111 Monte Linas - Marganai
- SCI ITB040031 Monte Arcuentu e Rio Piscinas
- SCI ITB011102 Catena del Marghine e del Goceano
- SPA ITB023050 Piana di Semestene, Bonorva, Macomer e Bortigali
- SPA ITB023037 Costa e Entroterra di Bosa, Suni e Montresta
- SCI ITB020040 Valle del Temo
- SPA ITB013044 Capo Caccia
- SCI ITB010042 Capo Caccia (con le Isole Foradada e Piana) e Punta del Giglio
- SCI ITB020041 Entroterra e zona costiera tra Bosa, Capo Marargiu e Porto Tangone
- SCI ITB021101 Altopiano di Campeda
- SCI ITB040071 Da piscinas Rio S'ivvu
- SCI ITB040030 Capo Pecora
- SPA ITB023051 Altopiano di Abbasanta

LEGENDA

-  Restocking
-  Farm feeding station
-  Centralized feeding station
-  Pilot test with lead free ammunition
-  Conflict map with energy infrastructures
-  Anti-poison dog unit
-  Expansion of SPA zoning

Actions against poisoning

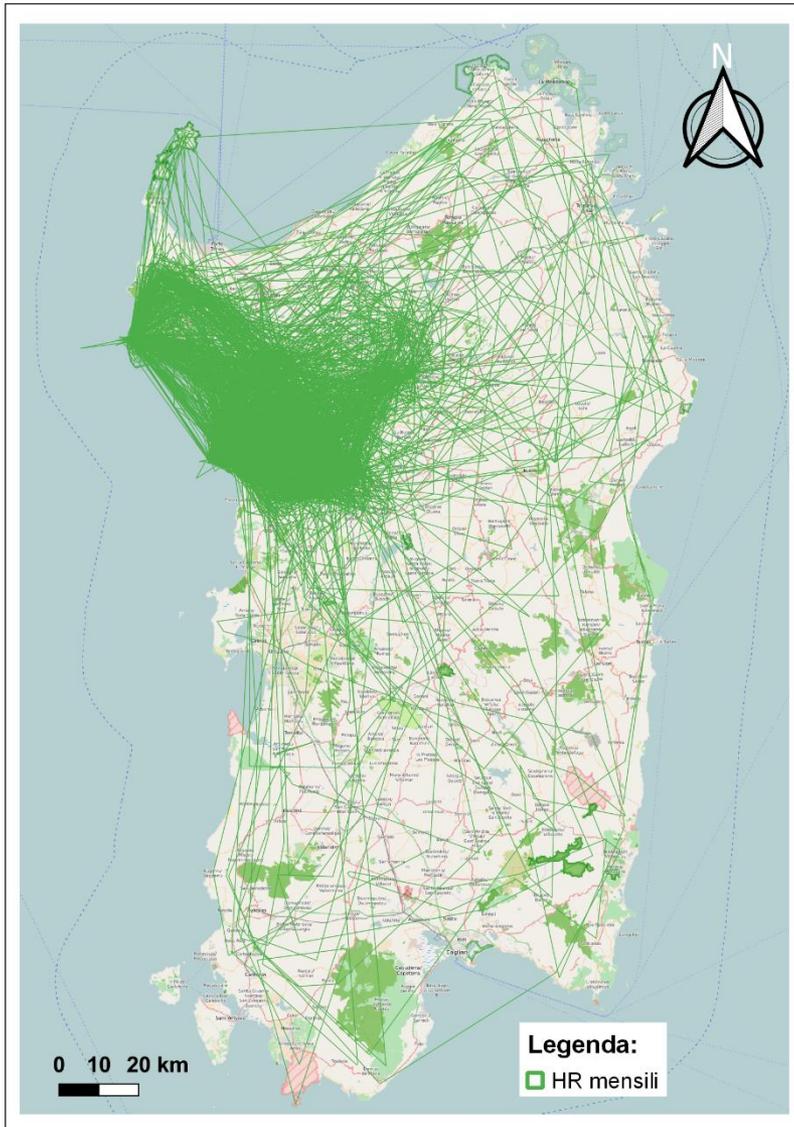


Enlargement of the area in which farm feeding stations (FFS) can be activated from from approximately 51,163 ha to 315,000 ha (264,000 ha more) and subsequently creating a minimum of **30 farm feeding stations** in pasturelands located in Natura 2000 sites in central, eastern and southern Sardinia to attract vultures



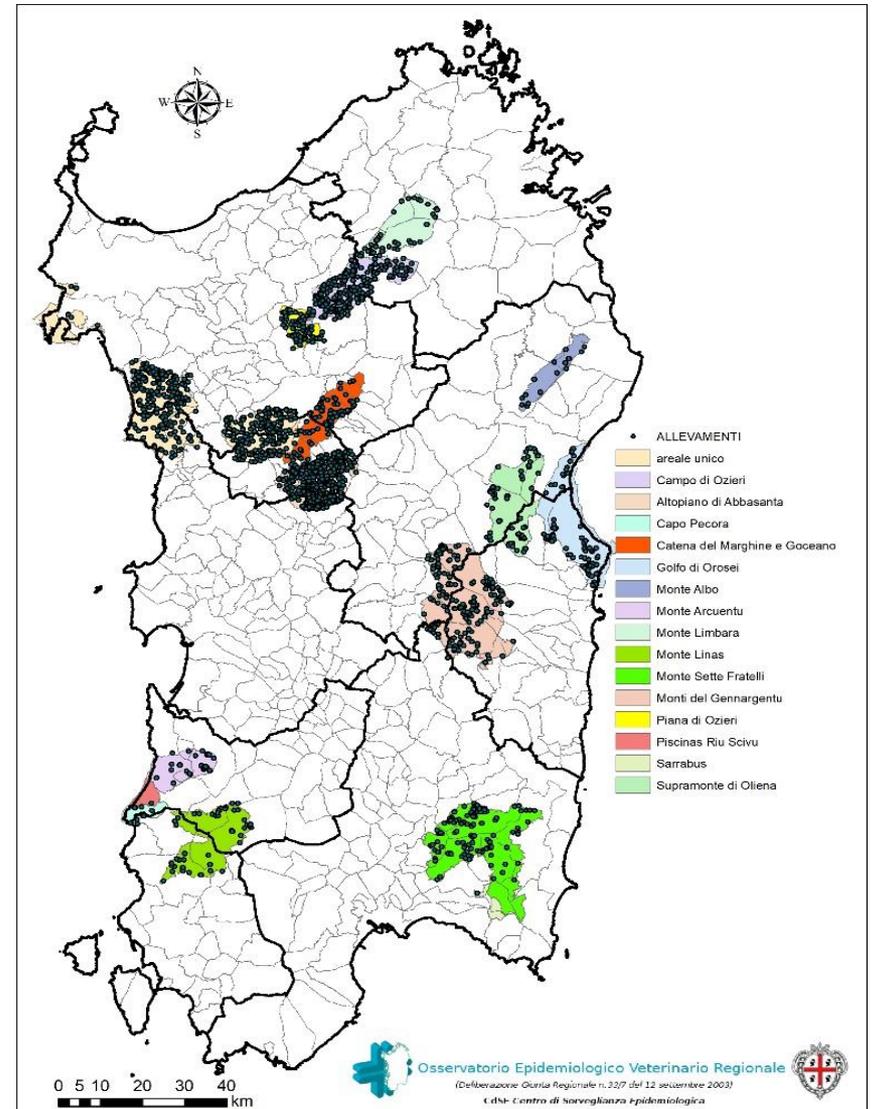
Griffon Vulture core area

151,324 GPS fixes – 41 GV's - 467 monthly Home Range



Vulture feeding zone

Approved by the Regional Department of Health



Actions against poisoning - Study of the drivers for the illegal use of poisons

LIFE
SAFE FOR
VULTURES

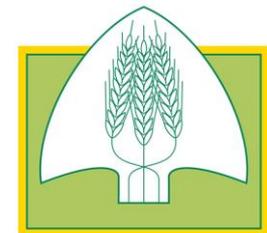


To understand the phenomenon of poisoning and the channels and causes of the use of poisoned baits to maximize the effectiveness of the anti-poison dog unit interventions and to better focus awareness actions.

The study involves the development of specific questionnaires based on the characteristics of each stakeholder group: farmers, herders and drug stores.

The administration of the questionnaires was conducted by the Coldiretti association which has a widespread distribution in the territory and trust relationships with these stakeholder.

Coldiretti distributed the questionnaires throughout the region with the possibility of filling in paper form and by google form.



COLDIRETTI

Actions against poisoning - Training and activities of the anti-poison dog units



The project LIFE Safe for Vultures activated 4 other anti-poison dog units that will inspect the areas of interest throughout the island.

The rangers were identified and prepared through a theoretical and practical training course. Dogs were trained to search for poisoned baits and the call for the recruitment of dog handlers is ongoing.

The anti poisoning dog unit has already started the inspection activities that will continue throughout the project

A training course on environmental crimes directed to vets, rangers and technicians will be organized.



A workshop directed to lawyers and judges will raise awareness on the importance of these threats and recall the legal framework. During the workshop, we will present the proposal of the Regional Law against the illegal use of poisons to be revised before its submission to the Regional Government for approval.

