



Manuel de La Riva



e-distribuzione
per la biodiversità

Progetto LIFE Egyptian Vulture

Convegno finale

THE RELEASE IN ITALY OF CAPTIVE-BRED INDIVIDUALS
behaviour, survival and threats

Alessandro Andreotti

ACTION C.6 - RELEASE OF CAPTIVE-BRED EGYPTIAN VULTURES



AIMS

- Increase the wild population
- Increase the genetic diversity
- Prevent the extinction vortex
- Implement a national restocking programme

<https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/pubblicazioni/quaderni/conservazione-della-natura/piano-d2019azione-nazionale-per-il-capovaccaio>



Convegno finale del progetto LIFE Egyptian vulture, Matera 19-21 settembre 2023



ORIGIN OF CAPTIVE-BRED INDIVIDUALS



All individuals were born and bred at CERM - Endangered Raptors Centre



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THE RELEASES: released individuals

28 captive-bred Egyptian vultures
released in 6 years (2018-2023)



1st calendar year
16 individuals



2nd calendar year
6 individuals



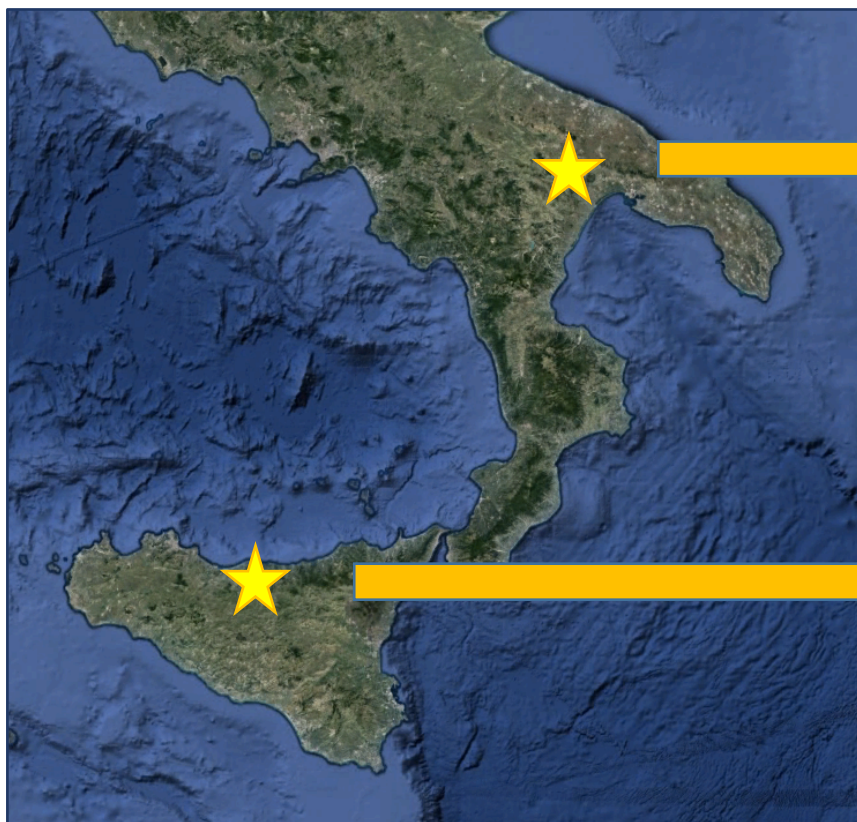
3rd calendar year
6 individuals



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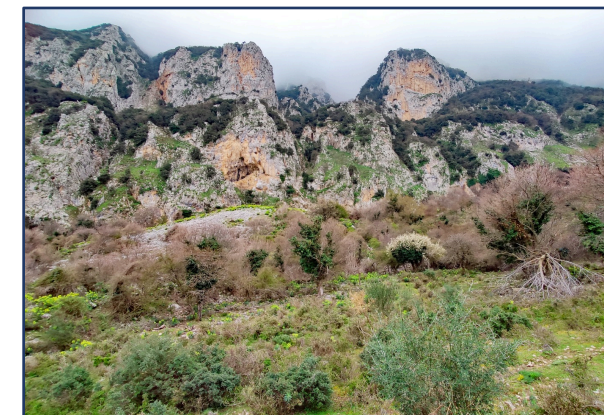
THE RELEASES: release sites



9 releases
27 individuals



1 release
1 individual



THE RELEASES: release sites

2 release sites in the Murgia Materana Regional Park



5 releases
19 individuals



4 releases
8 individuals

THE RELEASES: release techniques



- 3-6 days of acclimatisation in a wooden box
- constant monitoring by webcam, telemetry and visual sightings



Biodiversità sas

RELEASE OUTCOME: behaviour of released individuals



1st calendar year – HACKING

Released individuals : 16

Migrating individuals: 14

Time between release and migration onset: 14 days (min: 6, max: 25)

Age at the migration onset: 95 days (min: 84, max: 106)

Migration onset: September 2 (August 24 - September 9)

Individuals crossing the Mediterranean sea: 13

Individuals overwintering in Italy: 0



RELEASE OUTCOME: behaviour of released individuals



2nd and 3rd calendar year – DELAYED RELEASE

Released individuals : 12

Migrating individuals: 7

Time between release and migration onset: 52 days
(min: 14, max: 104)

Migration onset: September 24 (August 12 - October 4)

Individuals crossing the Mediterranean sea: 2

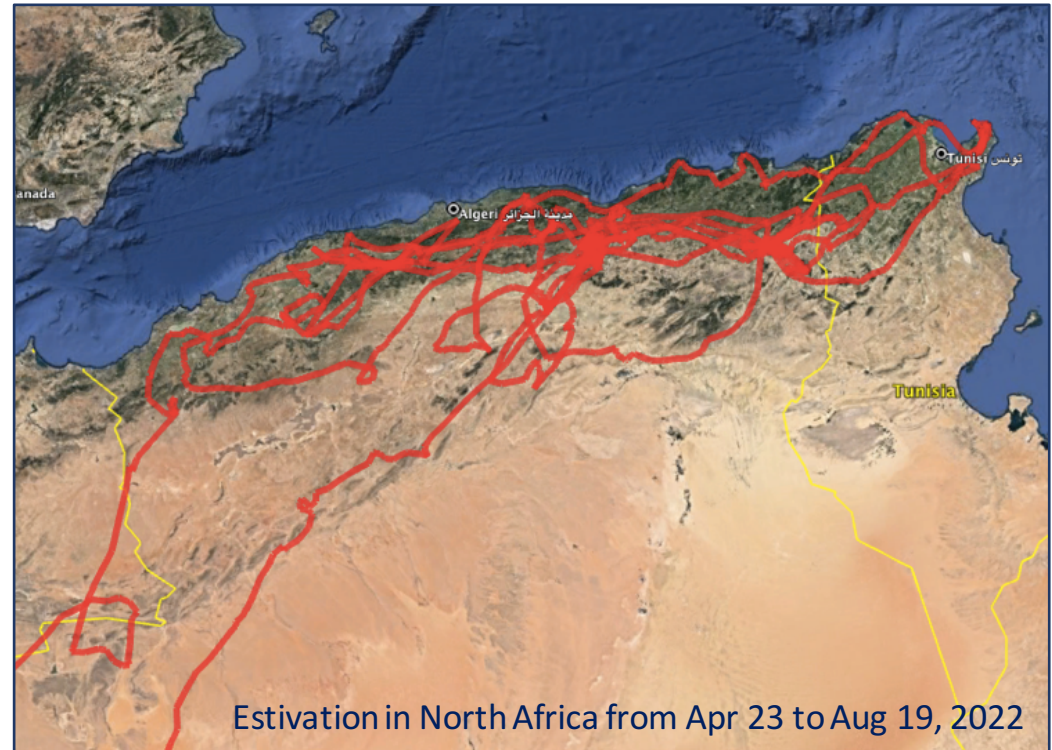
Individuals overwintering in Italy: 4



RELEASE OUTCOME: migration behaviour of released individuals



Birba, released in 2020 (1st calendar year)



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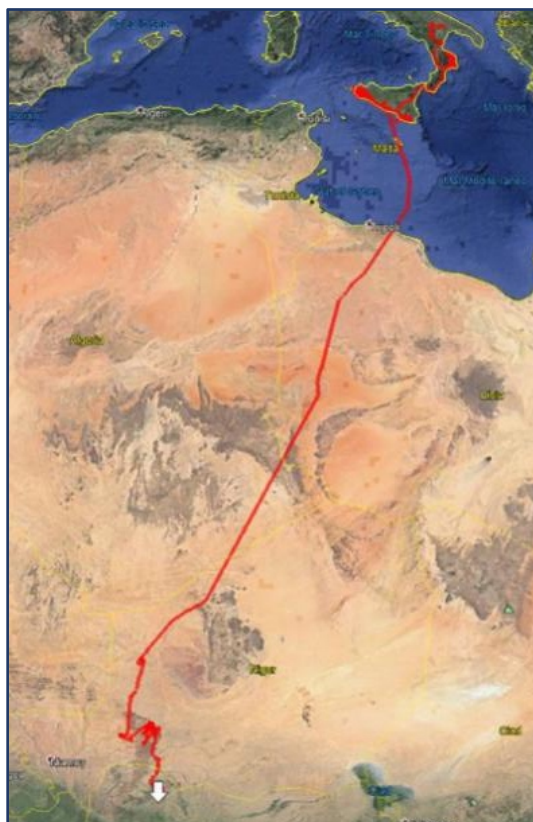
RELEASE OUTCOME: migration behaviour of released individuals



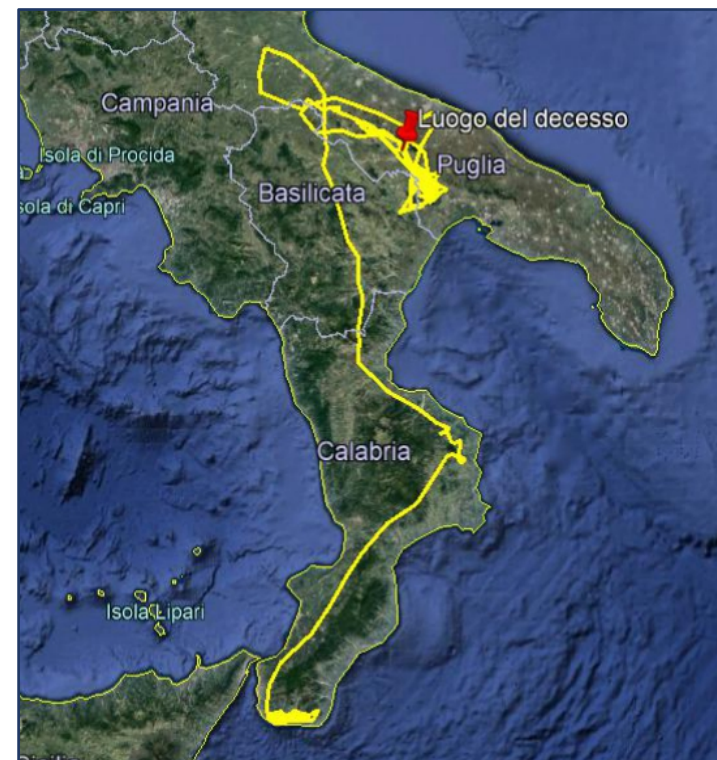
2nd and 3rd calendar year

- Not uniform behaviour
- Both long and short-distance migration
- Wintering both in Africa (Sahel) and Italy
- Prevalence of short distance migration and wintering in Italy

Jane, 2nd calendar year



Lucrezia, 3rd calendar year



RELEASE OUTCOME: migration behaviour of released individuals



Diego, released in 2019
(2nd calendar year)

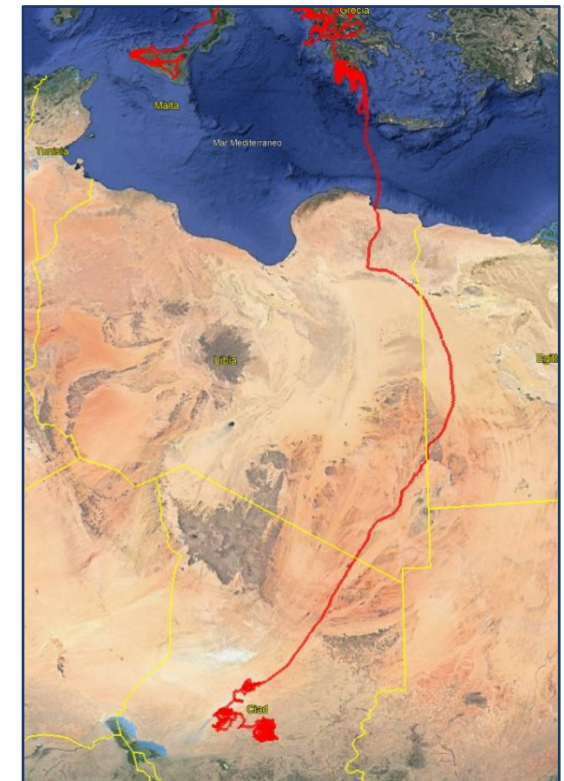
May 2020 – Nov 2020



Dec 2020 – Sep 2021



Sep 2021 – Nov 2021



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RELEASE OUTCOME: migration behaviour of released individuals



Diego, released in 2019
(2nd calendar year)

Apr 2022 – May 2022



May 2022 – Aug 2022



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RELEASE OUTCOME: migration behaviour of released individuals

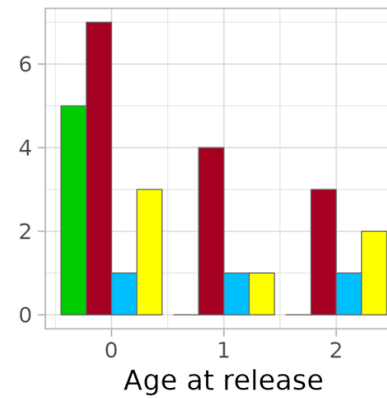
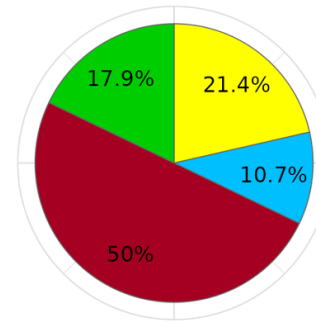
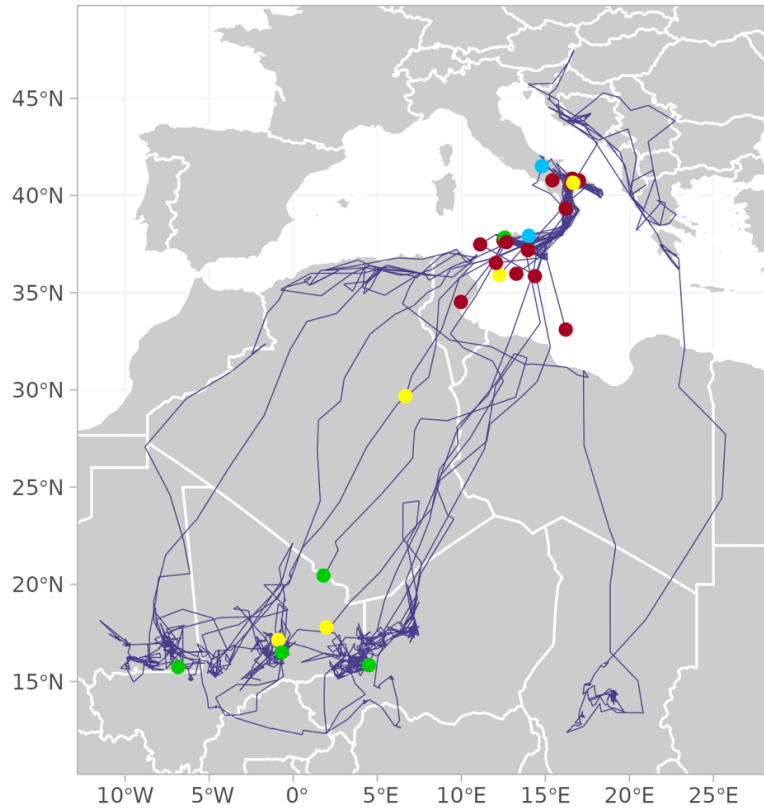


Diego, released in 2019
(2nd calendar year)

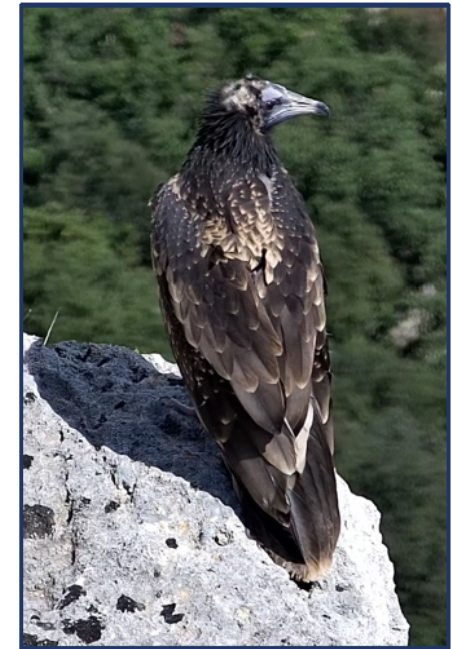
dead on September 4, 2000, from electrocution



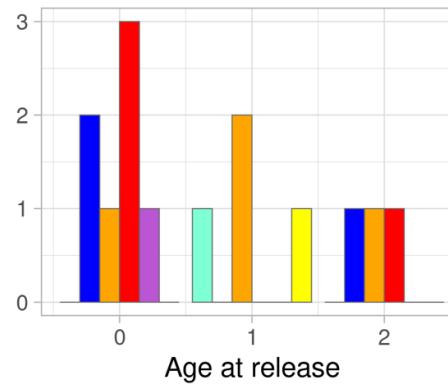
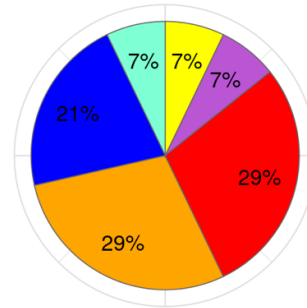
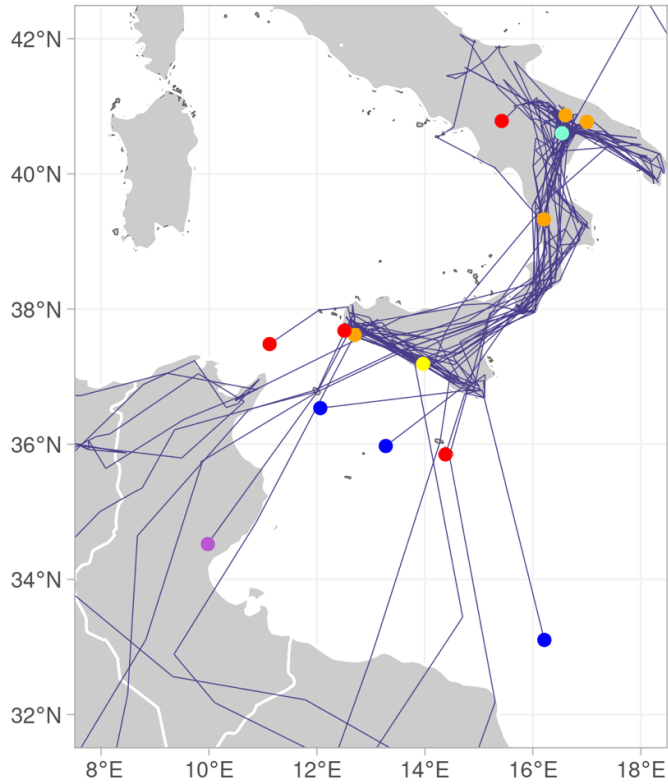
RELEASE OUTCOME: survival



● Alive ● Deceased ● Rescued ● Unknown



RELEASE OUTCOME: threats



● Collision ● Drowning ● Electrocutation ● Poaching ● Poisoned ● Unknown



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TO BRING HOME



- Captive bred-individuals can be released successfully
- 1st calendar year juveniles show a behaviour similar to wild fledglings
- 2nd and 3rd calendar year birds are less prone to migrating and tend to spend the first winter after release in Italy, where suffer a higher mortality
- Released individuals allow us to gather a huge amount of information relevant for conservation
- A restocking programme based on the release of 1st calendar year juveniles is a key measure to assure the future of the Egyptian vulture in Italy



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Thank you for
your attention

<https://www.lifegyptianvulture.it>

www.isprambiente.gov.it/it

