

LIFE
SAFE FOR
VULTURES



Report on Griffon Vulture monitoring by satellite telemetry workshop

ACTION D2 – LIFE Safe For Vultures (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732)

Harness and tagging workshop 25.3-28.3.2024
Tagging report 2024



Associated BeneficiariesCommunity



Forestas



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First step to the restoration of the vulture guild in Sardinia

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Tagging workshop



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Primo passo verso il ripristino della gilda dei vulturidi in Sardegna

For three days, Franziska LÖRCHER, Vulture Conservation Foundation, GPS tagging expert taught harness production, GPS tag preparation and data settings and interpretation to the team of the University of Sassari. The following persons participated in the training workshop:

Ilaria Fozzi (University of Sassari)
Davide De Rosa (University of Sassari)
Jacopo Cerri (University of Sassari)
Dhyan Anaja Banic (Erasmus student – University of Primorska, Slovenia)
Luce Pavin (Erasmus student – University of Zagreb, Croatia)
Joel Echeverria (Erasmus student - University of Valencia, Spain)
Tullio Benini (University of Sassari)
Francesca Ceoldo (University of Sassari)
Alice Vedovelli (University of Sassari)
Margherita Albanese (University of Sassari)

When tagging birds, it is crucial to use the right attaching method of the GPS tag, this is the harness. Harnesses cannot be purchased ready-made and need to be produced by the tagger themselves. In order to use the least amount of time during the tagging process, the GPS tag and harness need to be pre-prepared. All steps from the right material to the production of the harness and attaching the harness to the GPS tag was included in the tagging workshop in the LIFE Safe For Vultures project (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732).

The tagging workshop included detailed instructions on the following tasks:

- Harness production: fusing one silicon string and two Teflon bands together, including adding and fixing the right amount of elasticity (see Figure 1).
- Production of breaking points to add the harness to the GPS tags. The production of breaking points is crucial as they ensure that the GPS tag will drop off from the bird after a set amount of time.
- Attaching the harness via the breaking points to the harness.
- Adjusting size and symmetry prior deployment to the bird (see Figure 2).

All steps of the production of the harness, breaking points, attachment and GPS-tag preparation were shown by Franziska Lörcher and followed by the students of the workshop.

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Figure 1

Preparation step of the harnesses

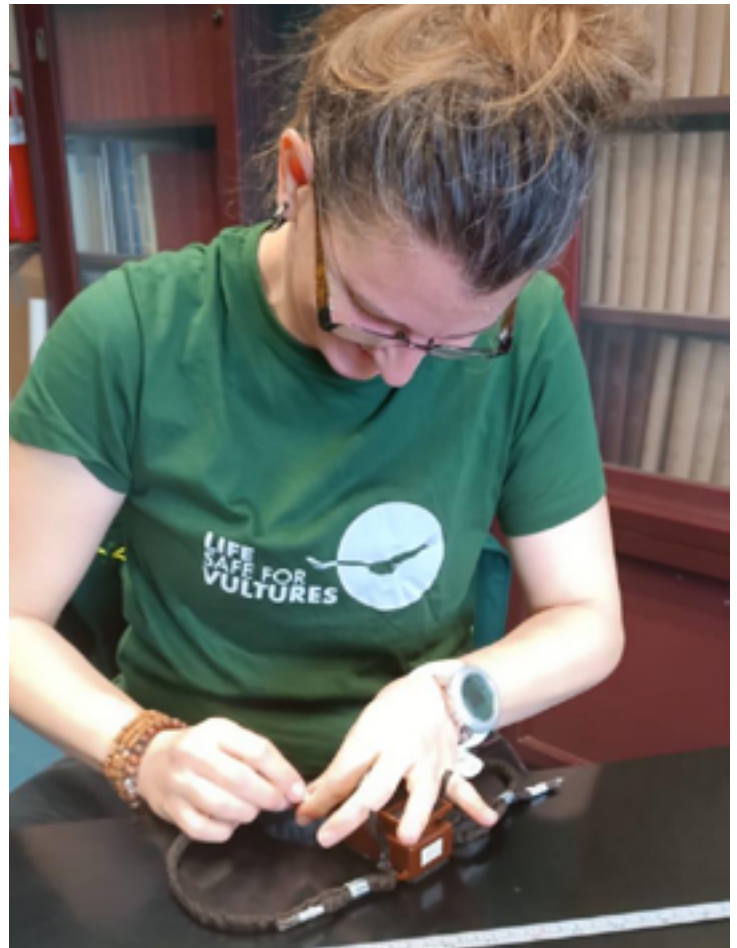


Figure 2

Franziska Lörcher making finishing touches to one of the tags and instructing the participants of the workshop.

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Figure 3

Finished tags to be deployed on the translocated Griffon Vultures.



Figure 4

Working Group for the Preparation of the Tags.

During the harness preparation workshop, we held a seminar for the students of University of Sassari, Forestas and CFVA with the following program.

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Workshop on Griffon Vulture monitoring by Satellite Telemetry



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15:00

Wildlife Monitor to track animals and detect mortality events (Franziska Lörcher, Vulture Conservation Foundation)

15:20

Where do Griffons go in Sardinia (and beyond)? Insights from GPS telemetry (Jacopo Cerri, University of Sassari)

15:40

Identification of feeding events from accelerometer data (Ilaria Fozzi, University of Sassari)

16:00

Main causes of Griffon Vulture mortality in Sardinia (Marco Muzzeddu, Forestas)

16:20

The role of CFVA in the mitigation of Griffon Vulture mortality causes (Elena Mura, CFVA)

16:40

Discussion and conclusion

During this seminar, we also discussed how to monitor and interpret the GPS data. This interpretation is crucial to detect birds in difficulties, mortalities or lost tags as soon as possible.

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Movement data



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49 Griffon Vultures transmitted GPS data during 2024. 40 birds were tagged in 2024, and nine birds which were tagged in previous years still sent data in 2024. Figure 4 shows the movement of all tagged birds in Sardinia. There are clearly two mainly used areas: the north-western part and south-eastern part of Sardinia. This is due to the current core population in the north-western part, which includes the breeding colony. The use of the south-eastern area of Sardinia is mainly from the translocated birds which were released in Villasalto in April and October 2024.

Table 1

Overview of all GPS tagged vultures on Sardinia in 2024. Included are all birds, regardless of if they were tagged in the current project or before.

Animal	Tag Type	Project	Deployment start	Deployment end	Deployment End reason
Arcilloni	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Armungia*	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024		active
Arriceli	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024	26.04.2024	death
Artis3	Ornitela	outside LIFE project	24.06.2019		active
Artis6	Ornitela	outside LIFE project	30.11.2022	26.03.2024	Tag loss
Artis7	Ornitela	outside LIFE project	30.11.2022		active
Ballao	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024		active
Brecca	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Burcei	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024	03.09.2024	Tag loss
Calassone	Ecotone	outside LIFE project	10.05.2023	19.02.2024	death
Caniga	Ecotone	outside LIFE project	17.10.2019		active
Cardiga	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Castiadas	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Cearomana	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024	29.04.2024	death
Ciuffo	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	22.02.2024		active
Colostrai	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Cordiolu	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Cristallo	Ecotone	outside LIFE project	14.04.2018		active
Doglia	Ornitela	outside LIFE project	17.10.2019		active
Dolianova	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Dresda1	Ecotone	outside LIFE project	08.11.2021		active
Enzo	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Fraigada	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Gerrei	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024		active
Ghirrau	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Gregorio	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Grupa	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active

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Animal	Tag Type	Project	Deployment start	Deployment end	Deployment End reason
Liuru	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Maracalagonis	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Marzana	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Meriagus	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Muravera	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024		active
Pabelanasa	Ecotone	outside LIFE project	11.12.2018		active
Pedrarba	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024	15.11.2024	death
Perdas	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Quirra	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024		active
Sanandrea	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024		active
Sannicolo	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024	20.10.2024	Tag loss
SanPriamo	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	04.11.2024		active
Sarrabus	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024	23.04.2024	death
Senni	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Silius	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024		active
Sinnai	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024	14.07.2024	Tag loss
Troccia	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Villaputzu	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active
Villasalto	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	01.03.2024		active
Villasimius	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.04.2024		active
Zinnicas	Ornitela	LIFE Safe For Vultures	09.10.2024		active

*This bird was recaptured (11.06.2024) and tagged and released (04.11.2024) a second time with the same GPS tag.

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