

The value of cooperation and knowledge transfer to reduce raptor mortality due to power lines in the Western Mediterranean

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INTRODUCTION

Capacity building and knowledge transfer are key tools to engage and empower stakeholders and citizens in conservation. Since 2015, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has been working in collaboration with its Members and mainly the regional government of Andalusia and the Ministry of Environment (Spain) and competent other actors authorities and NGOs in Northwest African countries - to promote cooperation and knowledge transfer in identifying and minimising the impacts of power lines on birds.

METHODS

Several training and experience-sharing workshops on the identification, mitigation and prevention of the wildlife impacts of electricity infrastructure have been organised, involving the participation of authorities, grid operators and civil society in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, along with Spanish and other international experts.

Field work has been carried out in collaboration with local and national authorities and NGOs, to better understand raptor populations and their threats in these three countries, accompanied by training on monitoring programmes, censuses and protocols.

Technical and financial support has been provided to projects on monitoring (e.g. by GPS) and conservation of threatened raptors (e.g. through wildlife recovery centres) carried out by NGOs in Morocco.

Development of tools to better understand the interactions between wildlife and electricity grids, to disseminate the most effective solutions, and for standardised data collection, adapted to the North African context, in collaboration with experts on the topic as well as national stakeholders

Promotion and coordination of networks for data and knowledge exchange, in each country and at the regional level.



UICN

MAVA

BIRDS

Online training course "Birds and Power Lines

POWER

LINES

前次 Guidelines to prevent and mitigate wildlife mortality with power lines (English & French)

IUCN

MAVA

IUCN

Wildlife and power lines

Map: Location of monitored and characterised power lines in Morocco in 2019, included in the database of hazardous power lines. Red circles: main areas of electrocution. Table: Power line fatality data recorded in Morocco (during fieldwork carried out between 2016 and 2020). Source: Map: Premier dénombrement national des rapaces rupicoles diurnes du Maroc. UICN & DEF, 2020 (Available at: https://portals.iucn.org/library/). Table: IUCN Mortality Database (available on request).





IUCN Toolkit

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actical training session on identifying power lines ngerous for wildlife (Algeria, 2024)

Griffon vultur Osprey Golden eagle Bonelli's eagle Spanish imperial eagle Long-legged buzzard

Short-toed snake eagle Black kite Common kr

Peregrin falcor Pharaoh eagle Cattle egret White stork Common rave Brown-necked raver Common genet Actions











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OUTLOOK

Our work is an example of the importance of inter-institutional and transnational collaboration in preserving bird populations and enabling their coexistence with electricity infrastructure, as these species do not recognise borders, nor the areas of competence of the institutions involved in their conservation.

In the coming years, we hope to continue with training activities and the promotion of new cross-sector collaborations, in partnership with new actors, to help ensure that the best technologies are integrated into the deployment of new electricity grids associated with the fight against climate change in the Mediterranean region, especially in North Africa.

Please contact us if you are interested in collaborating.

Email: medspecies@iucn.org

MAIN RESULTS

ACTIONS

- The impact and distribution of threats is being monitored by an international network of 25+ organisations to support the development of preventative and mitigation measures.
- 200+ relevant actors from environmental authorities, electricity companies and NGOs, among others, have been trained on this subject thanks to the organisation of or participation in eight training workshops.
- First power line monitoring in Morocco: survey of 550+ km of power lines in different areas of Morocco, characterising dangerous power lines and identifying the first hotspots of bird mortality from this cause in North Africa.
- Creation of a database of power lines and wildlife fatalities, with nearly 3,000 characterised pylons and $\dot{420}$ mortality records of 18 species (mainly birds of prey in Morocco).

REPORTS

- Results of the first census of diurnal cliff-nesting raptors in Morocco (2019-
- 2020), with data on mortality due to power lines. Results of the analysis of hazardous power lines in the Guelmin area (western Morocco, 2016), where a very high mortality rate was detected on certain pylons.
- Action plan for remediating the most dangerous power lines and pylons in the Guelmin area
- Avian sensitivity mapping regarding electrocution and collision with power lines in Morocco.

TOOLS (available in various languages)

- · Guidelines to prevent and mitigate wildlife mortality associated with electricity grids
- Mobile app for the characterisation of power lines and recording of associated mortality, supported by a web platform for data management, visualisation and download.
- Online course (MOOC) on birds and power lines

Golden eagle electrocuted

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