



Vulture
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CONSERVATION OF IBERIAN VULTURES

*Overarching Workshop to
Develop a Multi-species Action
Plan to Conserve African-
Eurasian Vultures*

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Toledo (Spain). 16-19 Feb 2017





- Griffon vulture 94%
- Cinereous vulture 98%
- Egyptian vulture 82%
- Bearded vulture 66%



Proportion of European population in Spain

SP.	SP.	BIRDS DIRECT	CEEA y LSPE	Spanish Red List	UICN Red List	BERN Conv.	BONN Conv.
Egyptian vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	I	VU	EN	EN	II	I, II
Griffon vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	I	LSPE	--	LC	II	II
Cinereous vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	I	VU	VU	LC	II	II
Bearded vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	I	EN	EN	VU	II	II



Egyptian vulture *Neophron pernopterus*

1.500 breeding pairs (2008)

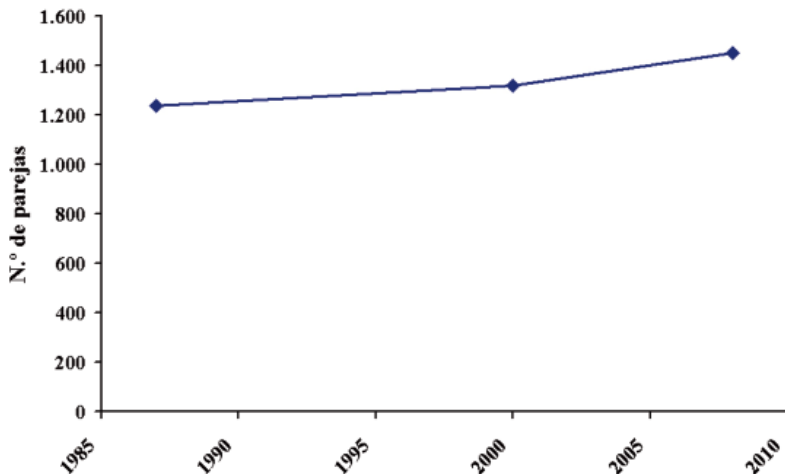
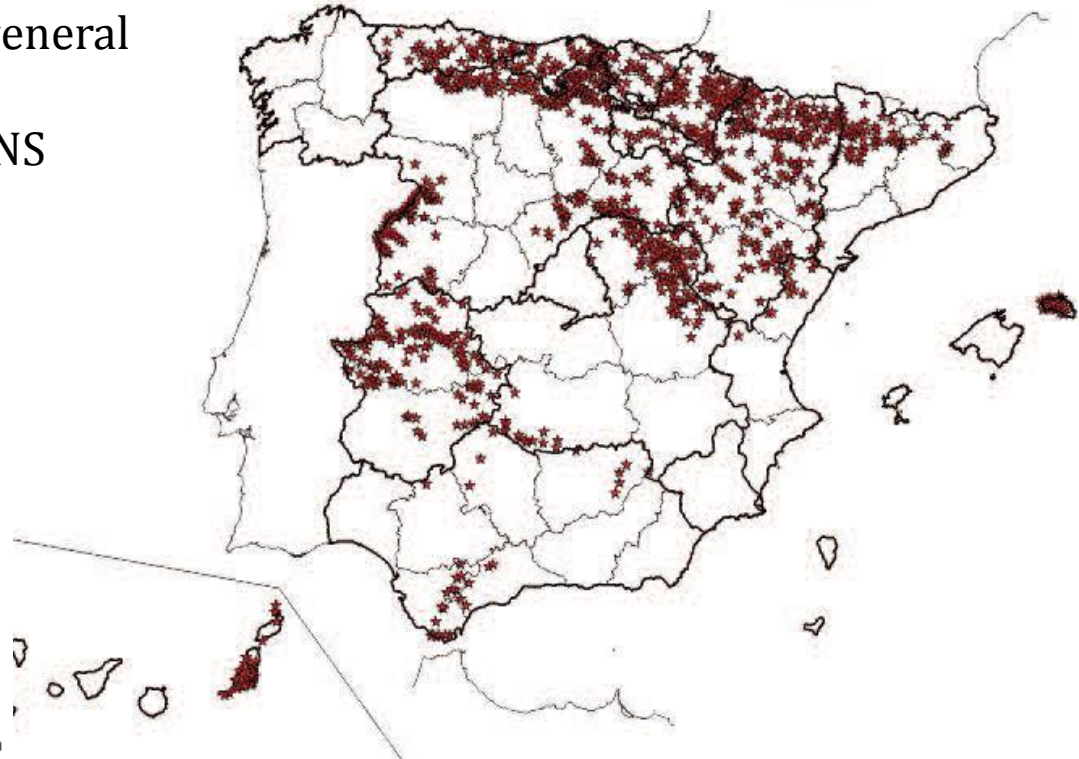
Very negative population evolution in Spain
between 1990 and 2000.

30% DECLINE

Between 1987-2000 there was a general
decline in population.

EXTINCTION IN SOME REGIONS

**MAIN CAUSES OF MORTALITY:
POISON & ELECTROCUTIONS**





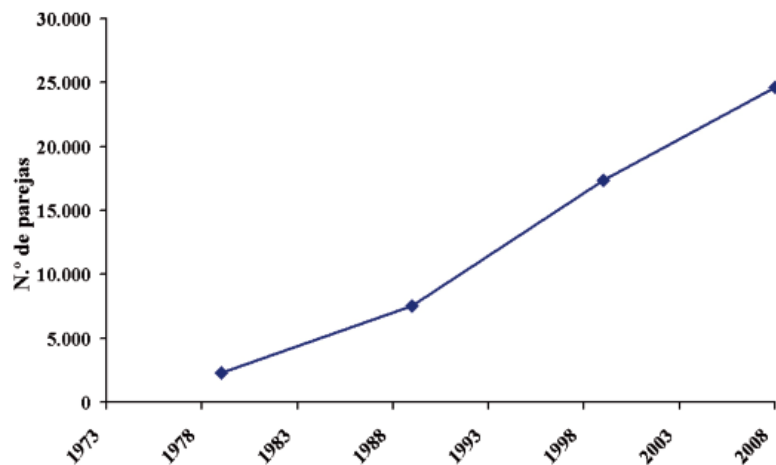
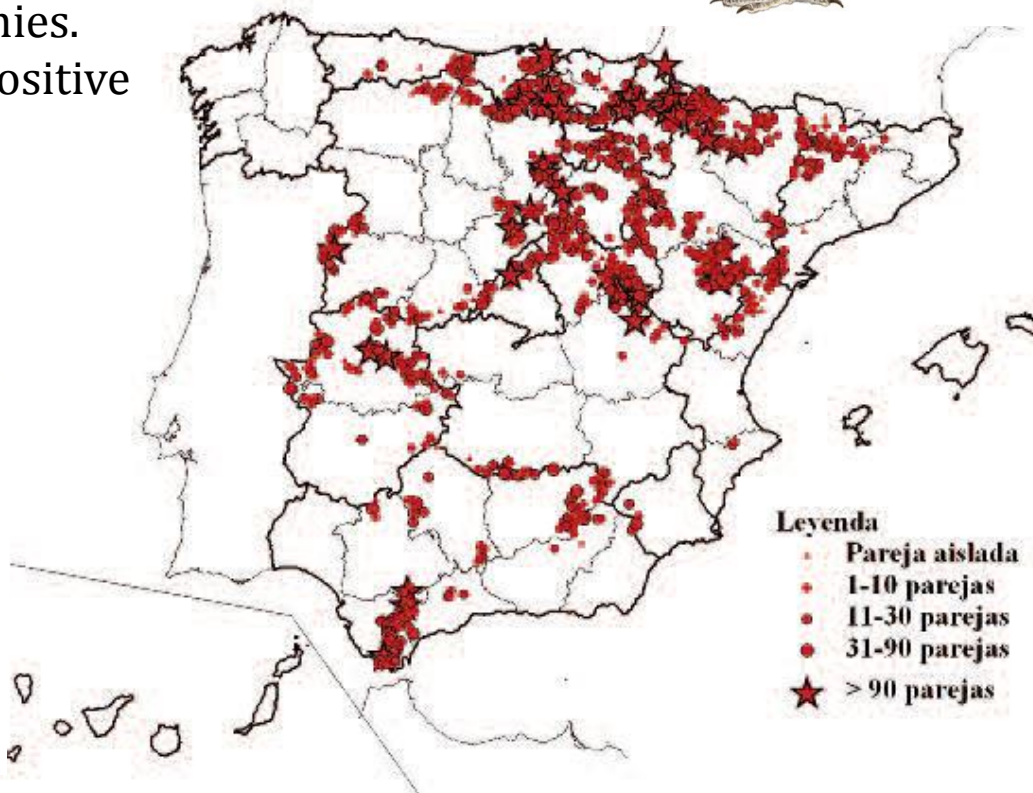
Griffon vulture *Gyps fulvus*

24.609 breeding pairs (2008)

76.288-79.177 individuals

Increase of distribution Area from 2008, lacking only in three regions and being detected in more than 1,600 colonies. From 1979-2008 there was a very positive evolution of the population

**MAIN CAUSES OF MORTALITY:
POISON & ELECTROCUTIONS**





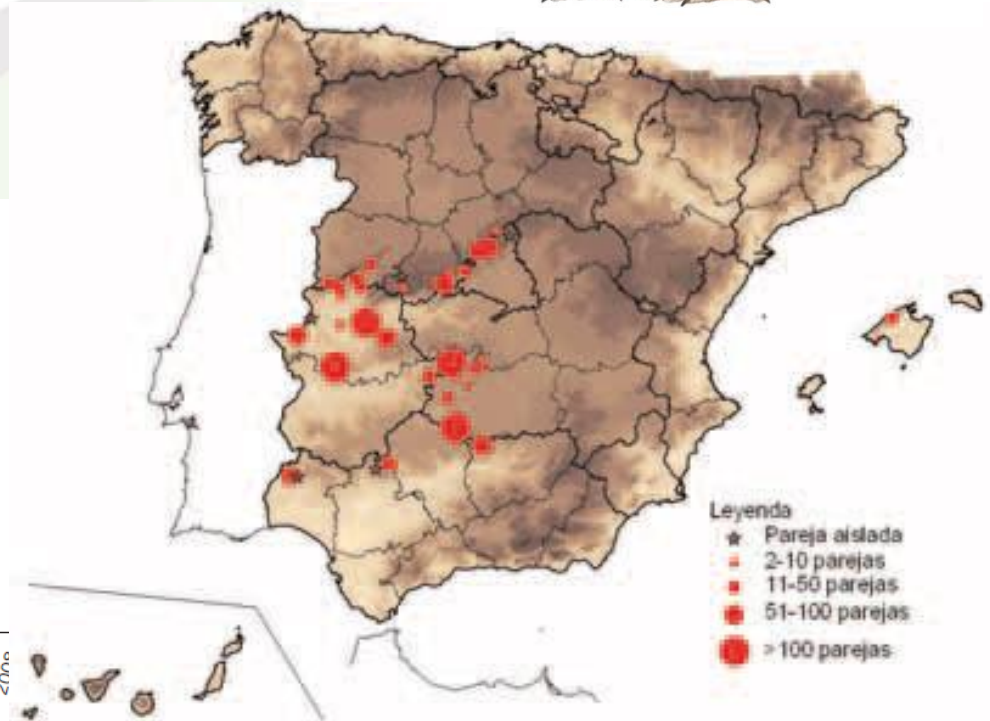
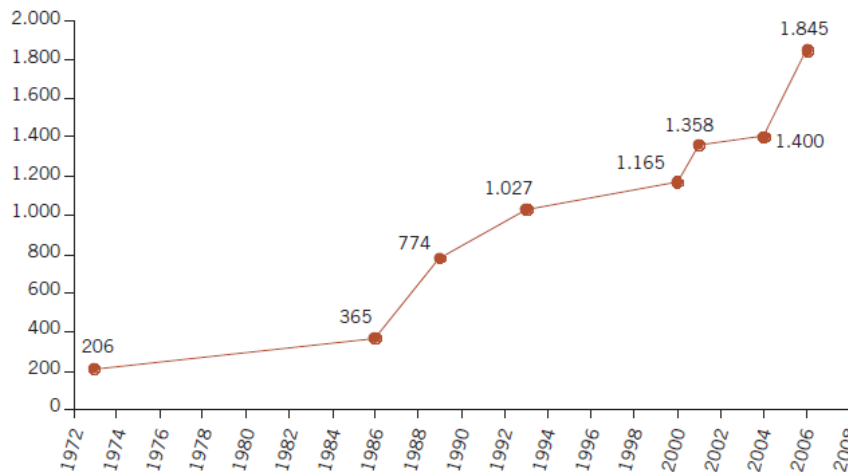
Cinereous vulture *Aegypius monachus*

1.845-2.440 breeding pairs (2006)



It is in recovery in Spain but poisoning does not allow total population recovery

MAIN CAUSES OF MORTALITY: POISON



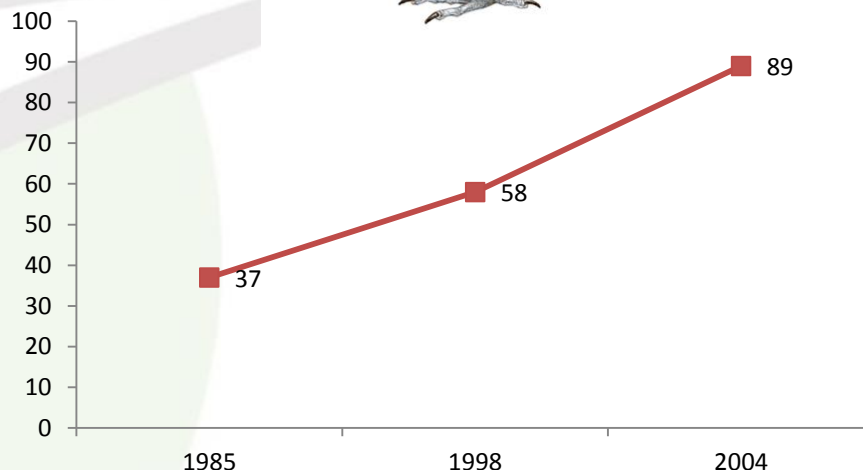
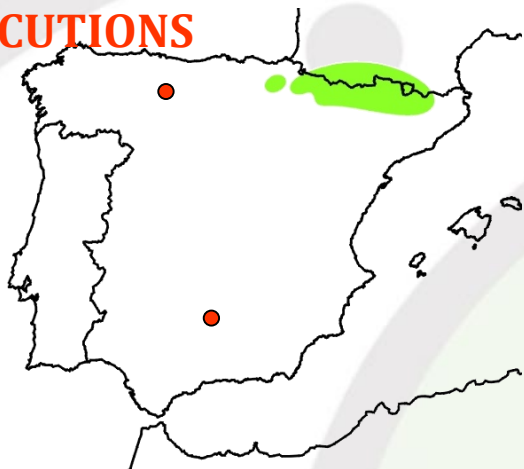


Bearded vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*

The species is mainly distributed in the Pyrenees, with incipient populations in the Cantabrian Mountains and Andalusia, result of recovery and reintroduction projects.



MAIN CAUSES OF MORTALITY: POISON & ELECTROCUTIONS



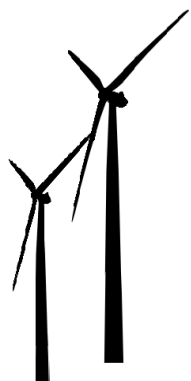
Some 170 breeding pairs in the Pyrenees in 2015 (66% of the population of the European Union). In Andalusia from 2006-2015, 37 specimens had been released within the reintroduction project and in 2015 the first specimen was released. In the Picos de Europa there is another reintroduction project, and there is already a breeding pair established and in breeding period.

CONSERVATION OF IBERIAN VULTURES



THREATS

COLLISIONS



ELECTROCUTIONS



NO AVAILABILITY OF DEAD ANIMALS FOR VULTURES



ILLEGAL KILLING (POISON, SHOOTING, TRADE, CAPTIVITY)



THREATS NO Availability of dead animals for vultures



From a traditional model to an European framework

- Vultures traditionally feed on animal dead in the field in extensive farming systems and on dumping sites called “muladares”

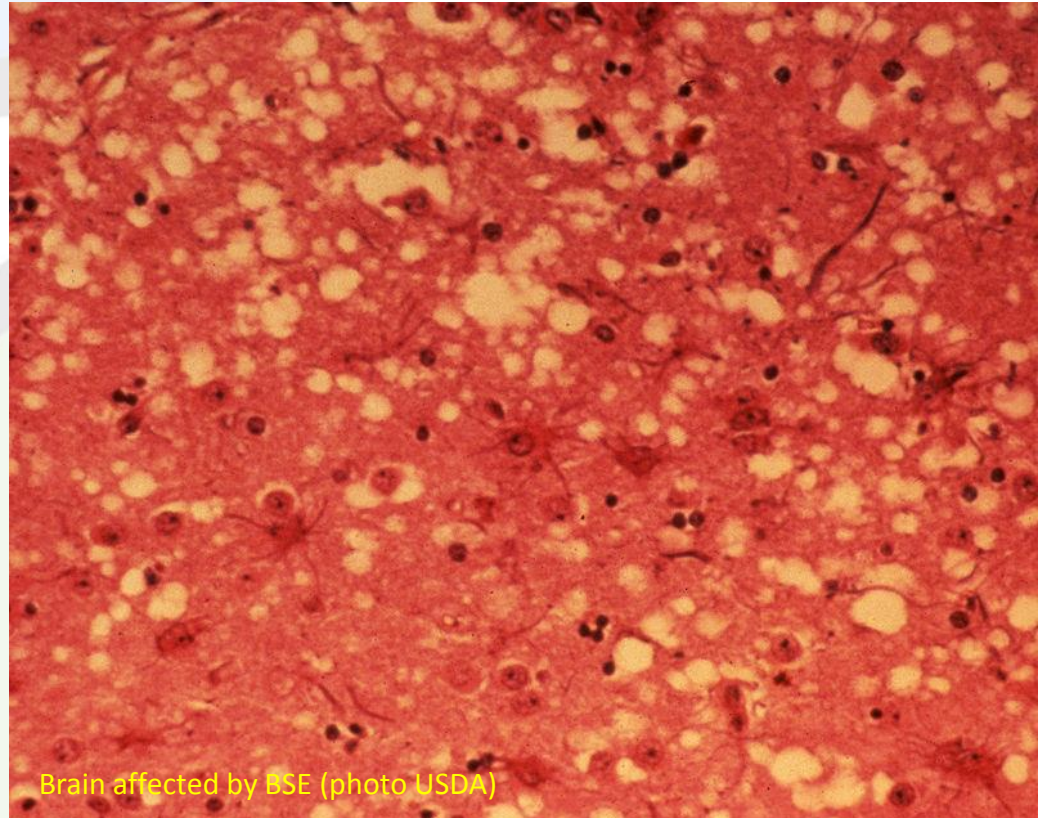




THREATS | NO Availability of dead animals for vultures

From a traditional model to an European framework

- 1986: Bovine spongiform encephalopathy is detected in UK



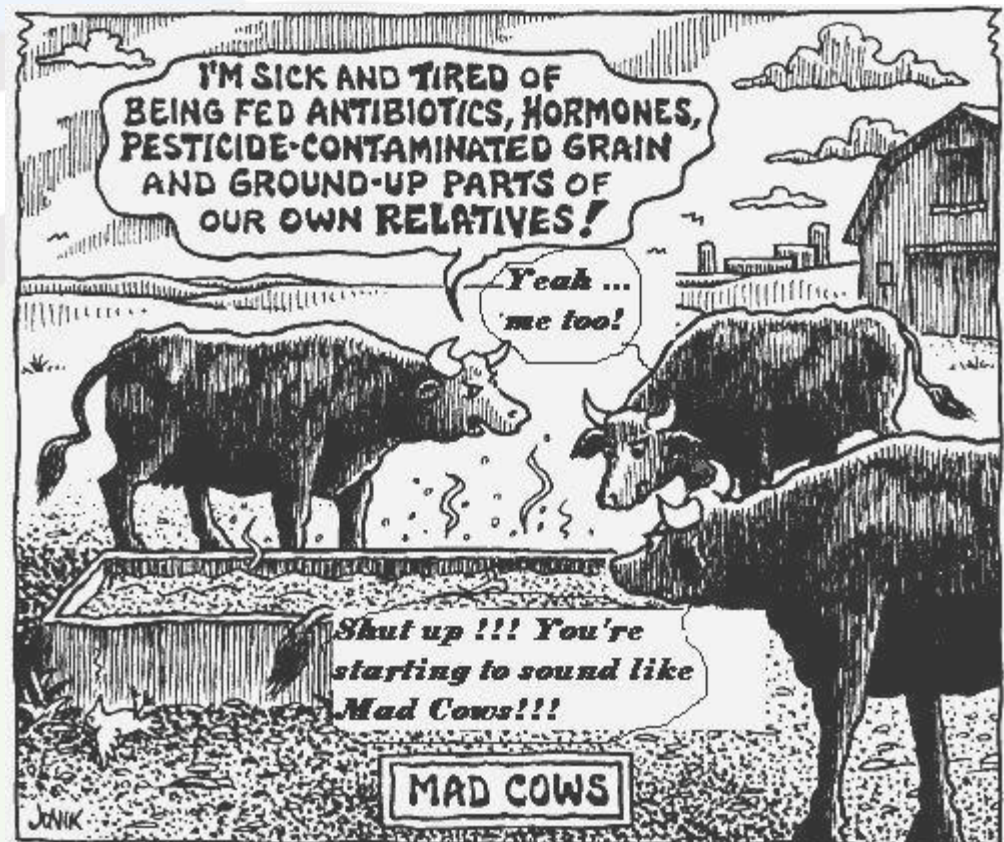
Brain affected by BSE (photo USDA)



THREATS NO Availability of dead animals for vultures

From a traditional model to an European framework

- Inclusion of infected bovine by-products in fodder likely to be responsible

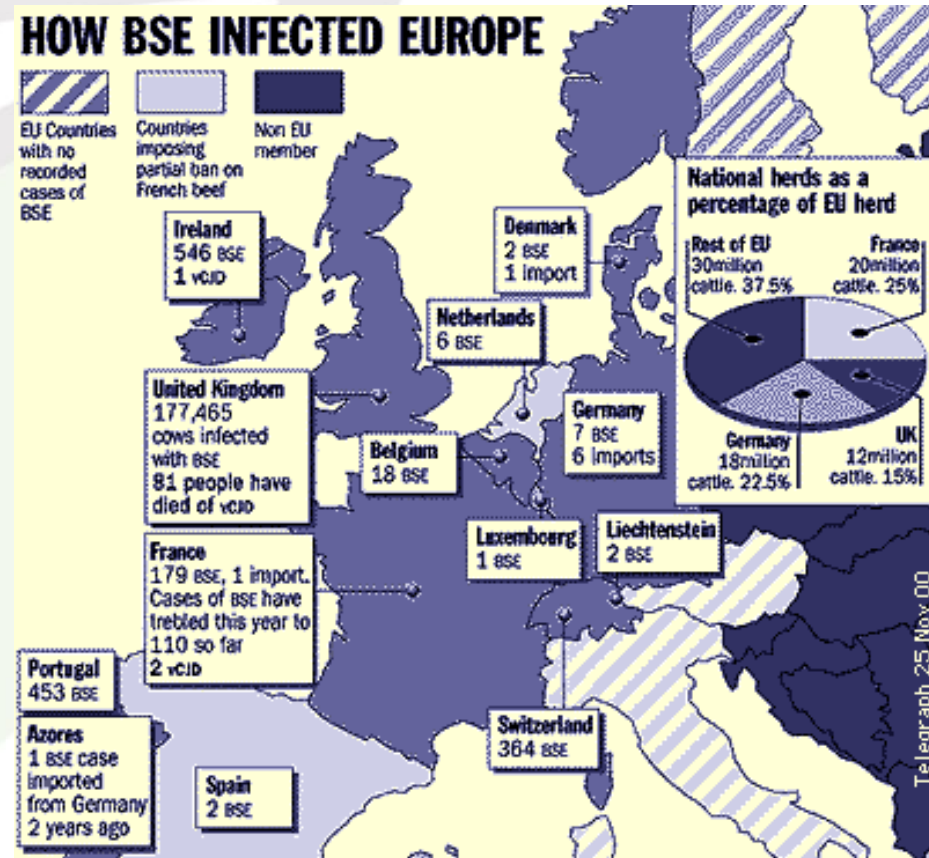




THREATS NO Availability of dead animals for vultures

From a traditional model to an European framework

- Related to variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in humans (vCJD)
- From 188,652 BSE cases, 97% were in UK
- From 229 vCJD cases, 77% were in UK





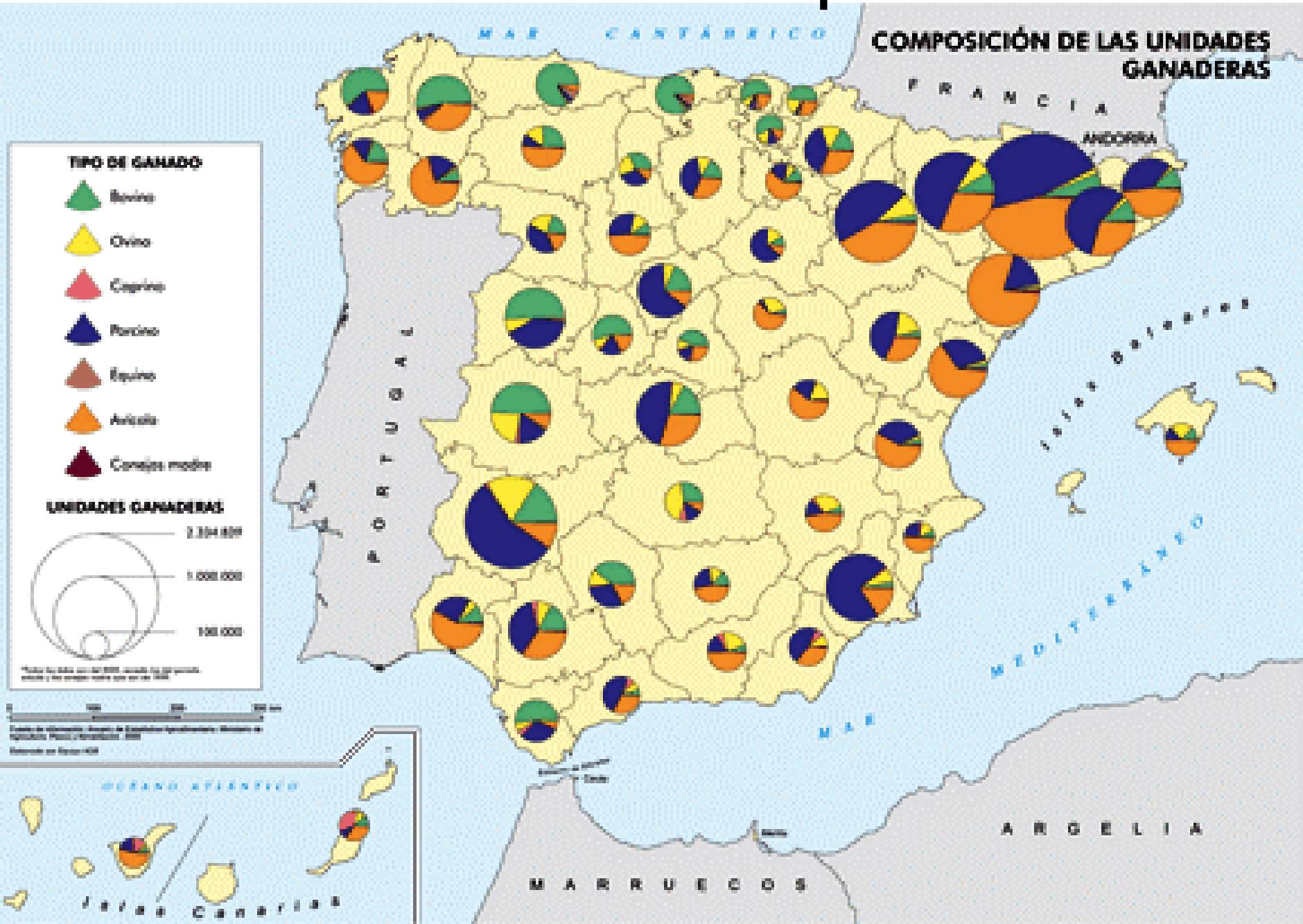
THREATS | NO Availability of dead animals for vultures

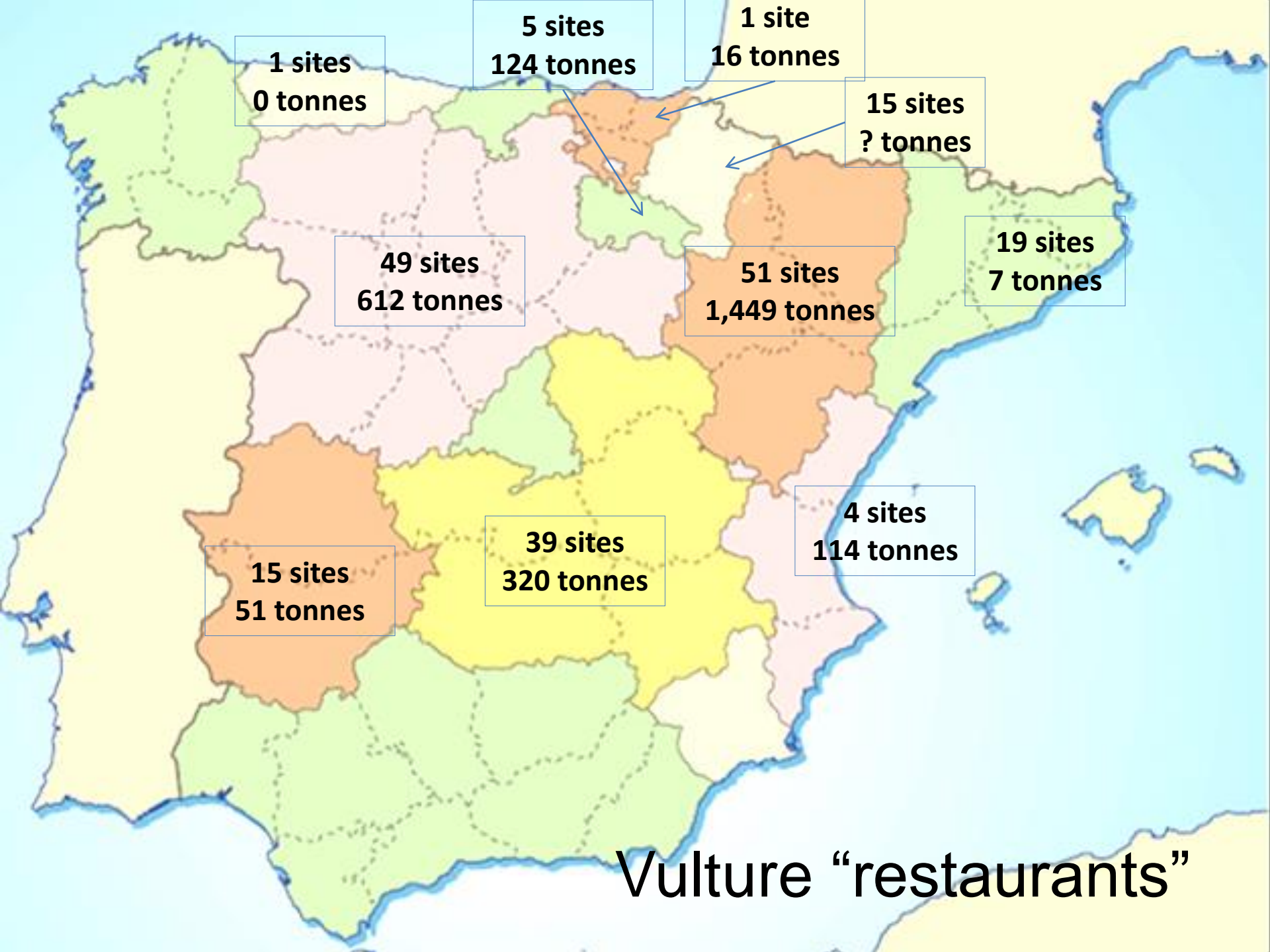
From a traditional model to an European framework

Regulation (EC) No
1774/2002 of the European
Parliament and of the
Council of 3 October 2002
laying down health rules
concerning animal by-
products not intended for
human consumption

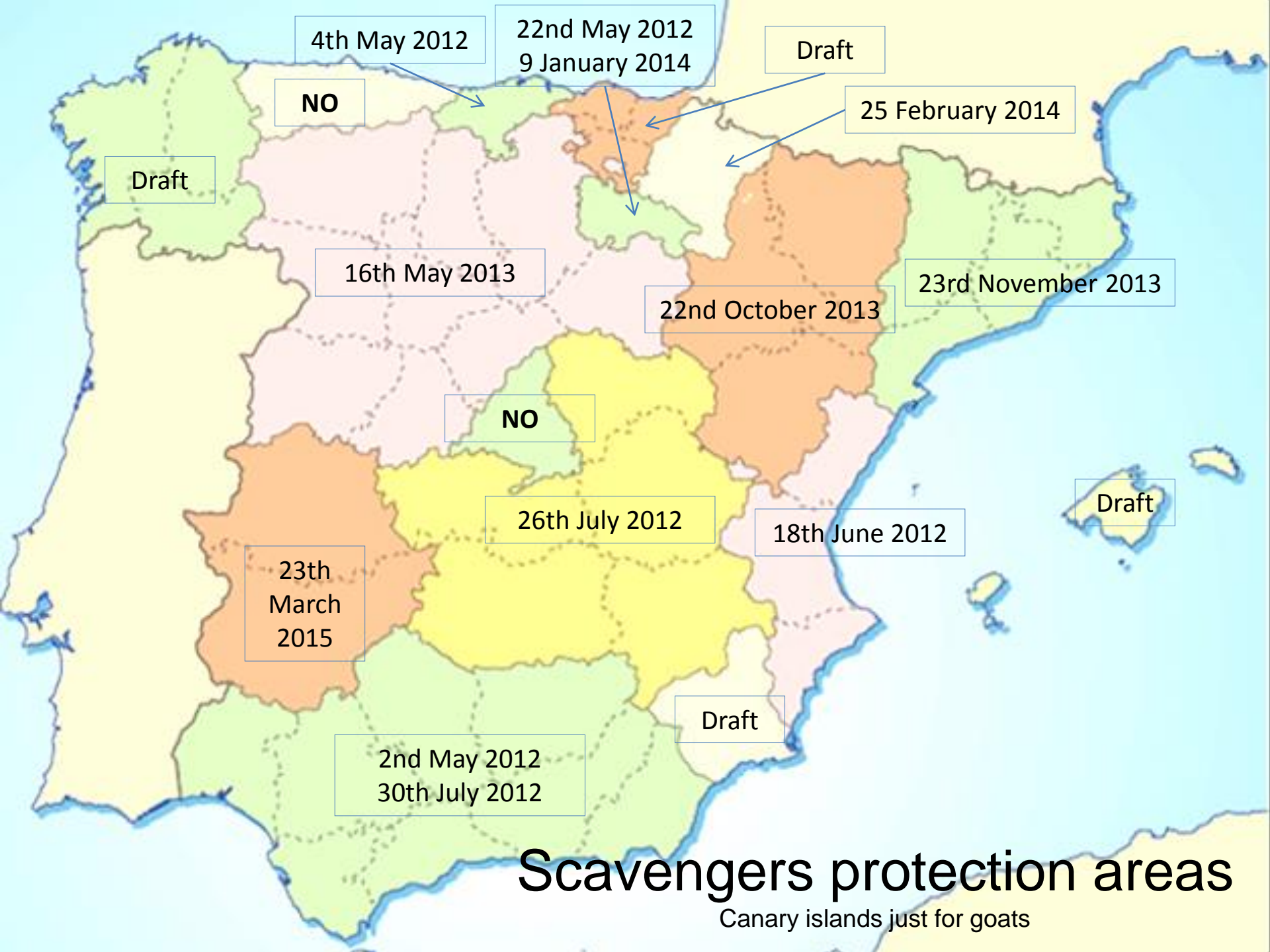


Livestock in Spain





Vulture "restaurants"



4th May 2012

22nd May 2012
9 January 2014

Draft

NO

25 February 2014

Draft

16th May 2013

22nd October 2013

23rd November 2013

NO

26th July 2012

18th June 2012

Draft

23th
March
2015

2nd May 2012
30th July 2012

Draft

Scavengers protection areas

Canary islands just for goats



THREATS | NO Availability of dead animals for vultures

- *Most of Peninsular Spain (13/17 regions, 88% surface) have any or both feeding sites or scavengers protection areas*
- *They account for:*
 - *Cinereous vulture* 95%
 - *Griffon vulture* 97%
 - *Egyptian vulture* 96%
 - *Bearded vulture* 100%
- *The whole population of all 4 spp. would have access to carrions when regulations are in place*





THREATS

ILLEGAL KILLING (POISON, SHOOTING, TRADE, CAPTIVITY)



<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	TOTAL
90-500	690-2350	100-250	0-30	880-3130

Estimated annual mortality from illegal killing of Iberian vultures (2016)



THREATS | POISON



Iberian Vultures Mortality POISON (1992-2013) (% Total poisoning raptors)

<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	278	(4,4%)
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	1576	(25,0%)
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	578	(9,2%)
<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	29	(0,5%)

	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
Nº individuals	278	1576	578	29
Estimated real cases	5560		9248	193
Criteria for estimation	5%		6%	15%

Estimation of real cases of poisoning for Iberian vultures (1992-2013)



THREATS | DICLOFENAC

Diclofenac in Spain

- March 2013: Approved for cattle and pork
- Summer 2013: Published its authorisation
- September 2013 Communication starts between SEO/BirdLife and the environmental authorities
- December 2013: Other European BirdLife partners involved
- January 2014: meeting with DG Sanco (health and consumers)
- March 2014 Request for a referral procedure starts





THREATS | DICLOFENAC

Reaction from administrations

- *Spanish Agency for Medicines (AEMPS):*
 - *Recommended the company to show risk on package and web*
- *Spanish Ministry for Agriculture and Environment:*
 - *Concerned, aware, but reluctant to act against AEMPS*





THREATS | DICLOFENAC

Measures adopted by the company

- *Included a notice:*
 - *No utilizar en animales cuyo cadáver pueda ser consumido por la fauna salvaje (Not to be used in animals whose corpses could be consumed by wildlife)*





THREATS | DICLOFENAC

Spain is different

“In Spain there’s a lot of control”



Closed down!!



Open door!!



THREATS | DICLOFENAC

Spain is different

“Other NSAIDs are used without any evidence of mortality”

Flunixin (Zorrilla *et al.*, 2014)





THREATS | DICLOFENAC

Spain is different

“In Spain, only non-extensive livestock is treated”

Evidence of use on extensive (free roaming) sheep and goats



THREATS | DICLOFENAC

Déjame vivir para surcar tus cielos

#PatitoFeo



Hasta 6.000 buitres leonados podrían morir en España a causa del diclofenaco

Los investigadores recomiendan la prohibición preventiva de este medicamento de uso veterinario y utilizar un compuesto alternativo que no afecta a las aves



Diclofenaco: el fármaco que mató millones de buitres en Asia llega a España

Publicado el 28/02/2014 por SEO/BirdLife

El uso de diclofenaco con fines veterinarios produjo una mortalidad masiva de varias especies de buitres en Asia, llevando a estas especies casi a la extinción. SEO/BirdLife lleva trabajando desde hace meses para intentar la prohibición del fármaco para su uso veterinario en España y en Europa.



Photo: C. Carboneras

#banveticlofenac

Press,
TV,
lobbying



Thank you!