

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY AGAINST THE USE OF POISON BAITS IN SPAIN



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Side event “Vultures are Still Dying from Poisoning, but the Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan is Working”

VULTURES AND OTHER SCAVENGERS IN SPAIN

Species	Pairs (n)	Total estimated indivs. (n)
Bearded Vulture	133	950
Griffon Vulture	30.927	100.000
Cinereous Vulture	2.548	6.500
Egyptian Vulture	1.506	3.400
Spanish Imperial Eagle	520	1.390
Golden Eagle	1.553	3.706
Red Kite	2.312	5.624
Black Kite	10.300	22.100
Total		

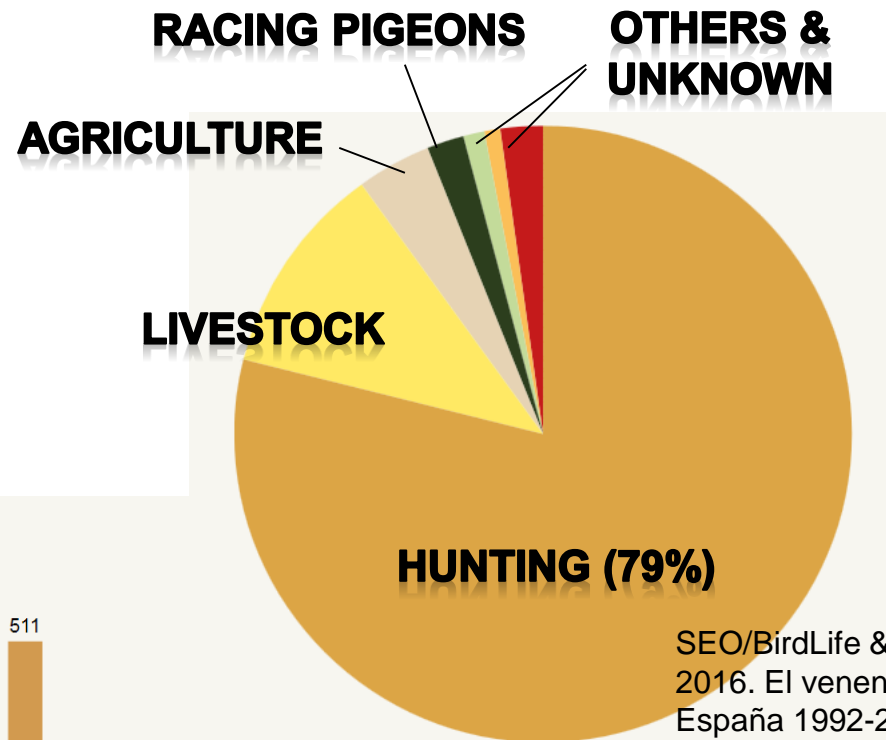


Spain, home of >90% of European vulture populations

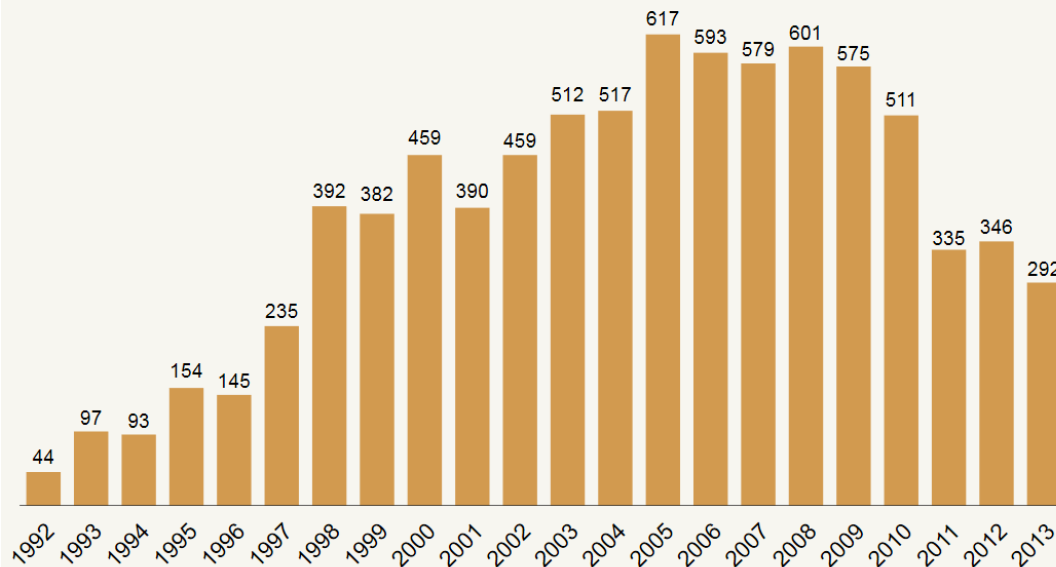
POISONING: A SERIOUS ISSUE

Impact per species (1990-2015): >6300 deaths

- **Bearded vulture: 35**
- **Egyptian vulture: 305**
- **Cinereous vulture: 609**
- **Griffon vulture: 1656**
- **Spanish imperial eagle: 167**
- **Red kite: 1187**



SEO/BirdLife & WWF.
2016. El veneno en
España 1992-2013.



THE SPANISH STRATEGY AGAINST THE USE OF POISON BAITS

- **Advisory technical framework for conservation action at national level**

- **Derived from legislation on biodiversity protection:**

International conventions (Bern Convention, art. 8, CMS), EU Directives (92/43/CEE, art. 15 a; 2009/147/CE, art. 8), National regulations (Act 42/2007, art. 65.3); Penal code (Act 10/1995, art. 336)

Administrative penalties:

Very serious: 200,001 to 2,000,000 € (for “endangered” species)

Serious: 3,001 to 200,000 € (for “endangered” species if damage is assessed <100,000€)

Penal crimes against wildlife

Prison of four months to two years, or

Fine of 8 to 24 months suspension for profession or trade and suspension of the hunting license for a period of one to three years.

THE SPANISH STRATEGY AGAINST THE POISON BAITS

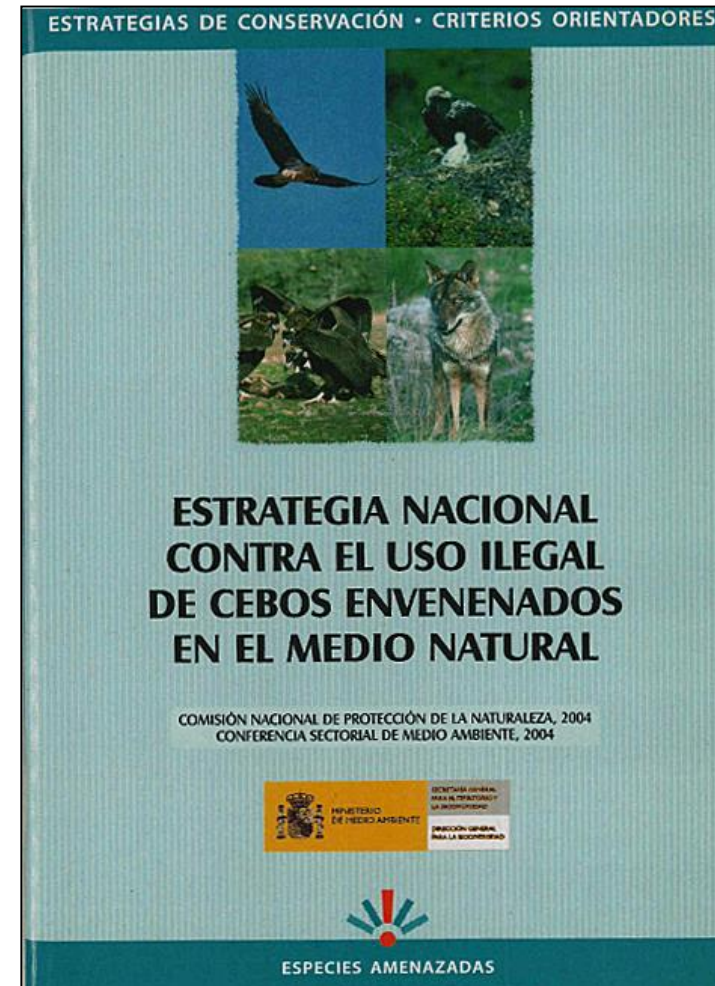
Approved in 2004

Aim: to eradicate the illegal use of poison baits in Spain

3 objectives and action lines:

- **Improve information and knowledge**
- **Strengthen prevention and deterrence**
- **Optimize persecution of the crime**

Coordinated through a working group

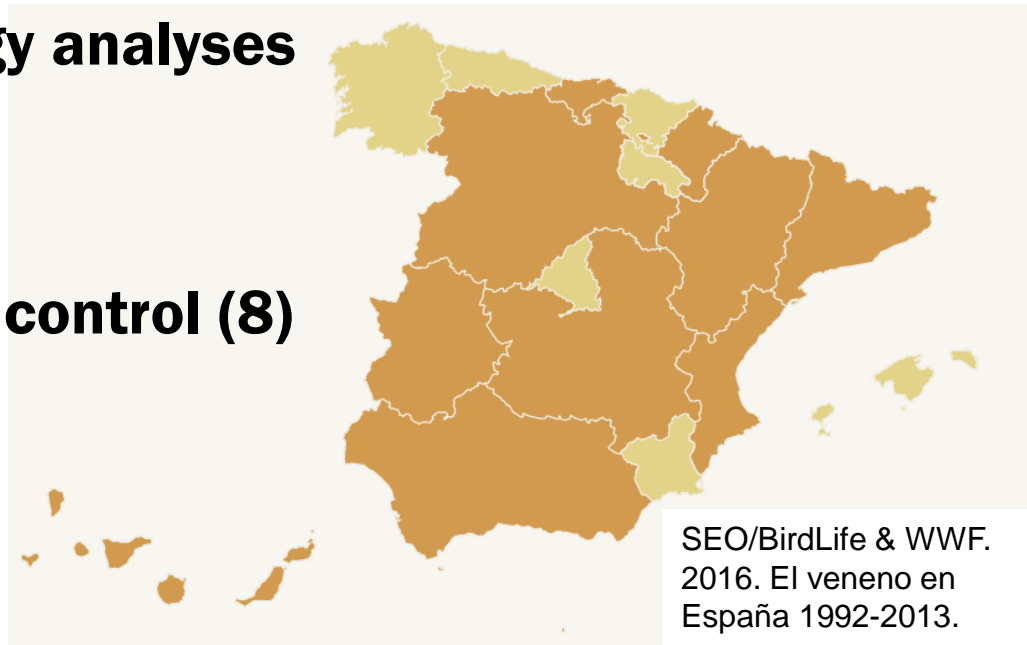


IMPLEMENTATION

Great effort by regional authorities

Legally binding regional plans (10 out of 17):

- **Teams for fight against poisoning (1)**
- **Canine patrols (7)**
- **Ranger patrols (3)**
- **Monitoring, toxicology analyses and surveillance (all)**
- **Guidelines with best practice for predator control (8)**



IMPLEMENTATION

Action from the Environmental Enforcement Police (SEPRONA) in 2019:

- **47 incidents of poison baits located in the field**
- **119 dead animals found**
- **28 suspects arrested**
- **175 administrative sanctions started**
- **37 criminal infringements started**
- ***Specialization and training of all units***
- ***Two canine patrols***
- ***International linkage with other bodies***



IMPLEMENTATION

Key role of environmental NGOs

- Public awareness
- Reporting cases: Programa ANTIDOTO
- Report cases and participation in judgements
- Lobbying administrations in:
 - poisoning cases
 - approval of regional plans
- LIFE projects (VENENONO, Guardians)
- Reports (<https://goo.gl/aax3Wt>)



IMPLEMENTATION

Involvement of hunters and farmers

- **Reporting poisoning cases and awareness**
- **Training in selective methods for predator control**
- **Involvement in testing sustainable systems for preventing wildlife damage**

Jugdement and legal actions

Administrative sanctions: (>120 cases)

- **Suspension of hunting activity**
- **Rejection of subsidies due to lack of eco-conditionality**

Criminal processes: (>60 convictions)

- **Establishment of the Environmental Coordination Unit of Prosecutors in 2006**
- **Specialized units of prosecutors**



IMPLEMENTATION

Effects on target species

- Unclear results: unclear cause-effect relationships
- Increased awareness and enforcement
- But far from being solved; i
- Population trend of 10 most affected species:

(+):



(↔)



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CHALLENGES

Coordination (*administrations*)

Optimize protocols (*administrations & enforcement bodies*)

Accessibility to toxics (*enforcement bodies*)

Awareness (*administrations & NGOs*)

- Training enforcement bodies
- Increasing political commitment

Reconcile human-wildlife uses (*administrations*)

- Compulsory implementation of mitigating measures

Judiciary involvement (*prosecutors & judges*)

- Training

Thank you!!



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DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO