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per la biodiversità



LIFE Egyptian Vulture Project

Final Conference

Manuel de La Riva

The main mortality causes for diurnal raptors in Europe

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Diurnal raptors in Europe



Photos: various authors under CC, for ERLoB 2021. BirdLife

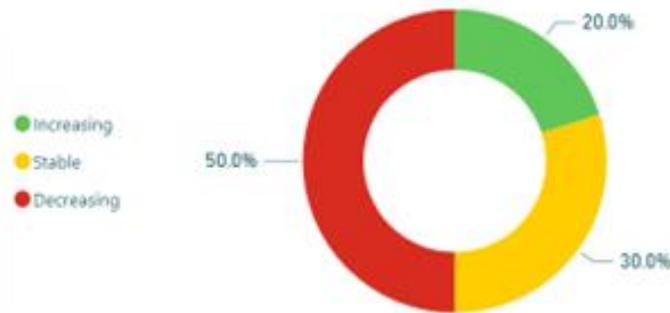
1/4 of the diurnal raptor species in Europe are globally/regionally (near)threatened

Falcons

IUCN Red List Categories

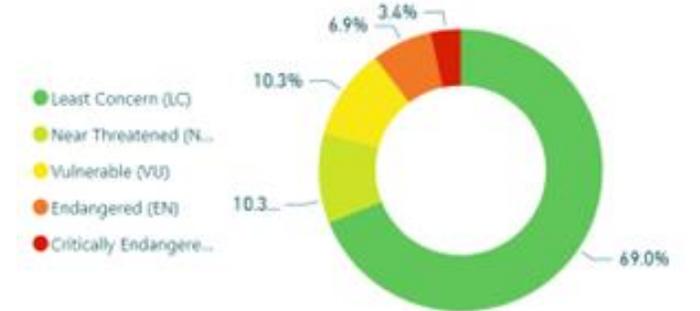


Direction of global population trend

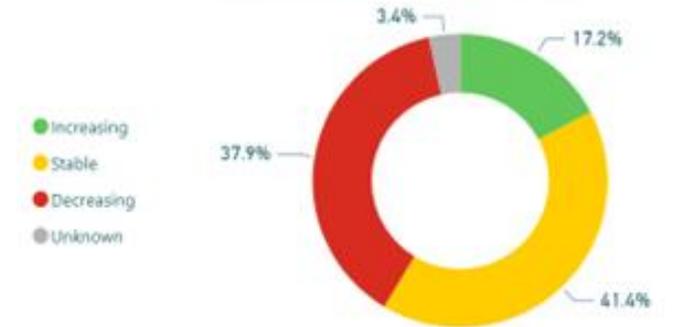


Hawks and eagles

IUCN Red List Categories



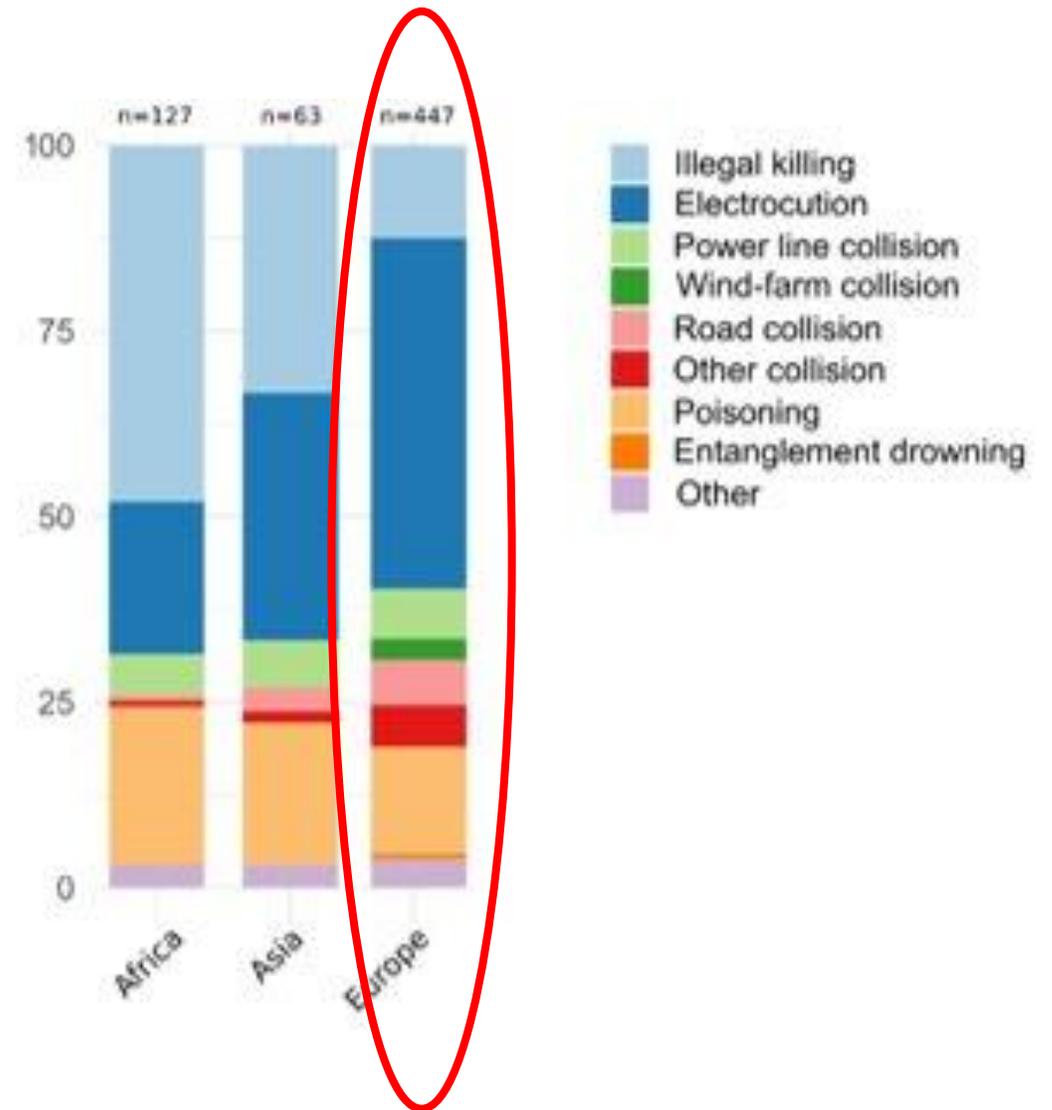
Direction of global population trend



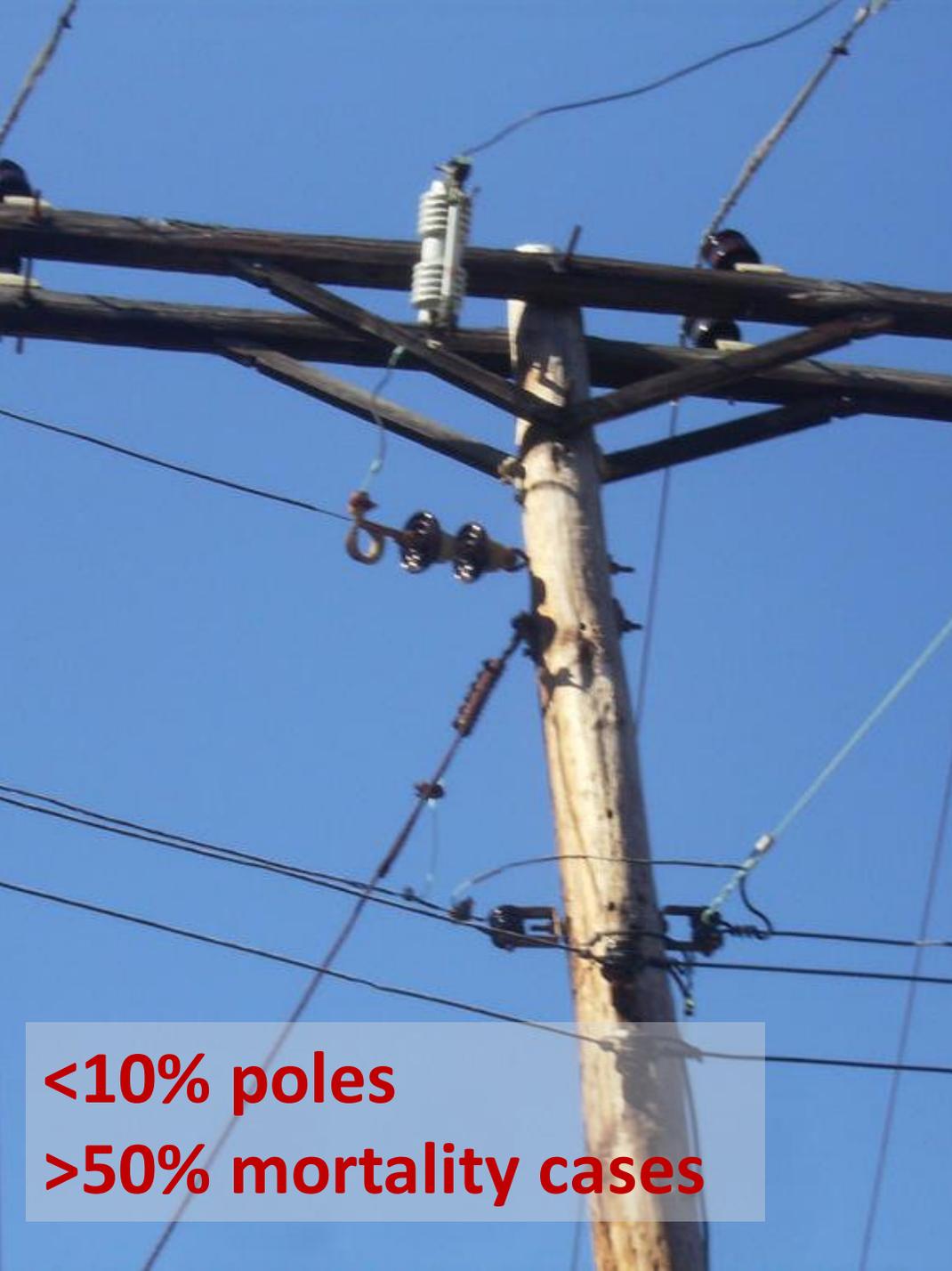
Source: BirdLife DataZone, 2023.

Main causes of mortality

1. Electrocution & collision
2. Illegal Killing
3. Poisoning
4. Other threats: habitat loss and degradation, disturbance, climate change



Source: Raptors MOU Conservation Status Assessment Report MOS3 (2023), after Serratos et al. (in prep).



<10% poles

>50% mortality cases

Electrocution and collision

- **Most affected:** large birds, perching or nesting on power lines.
- **Key factors:** pole hazard and exposure by susceptible species, as well as habitat, sex, age, weather, and behaviour.
- **Mitigation:** separation between hazardous contacts, insulation, or attempting to redirect birds to safer locations, installation of visibility-increasing devices.

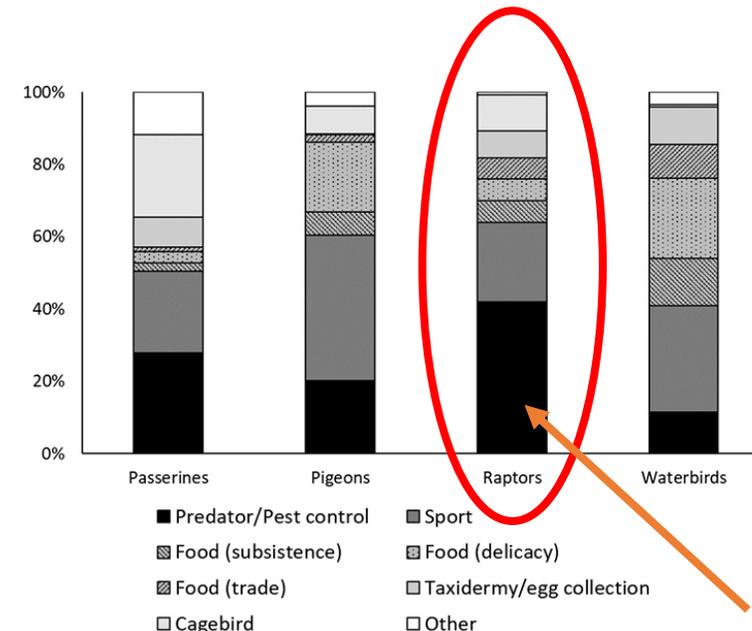
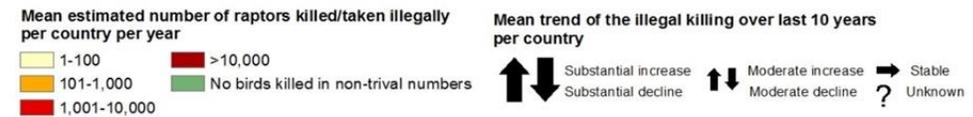
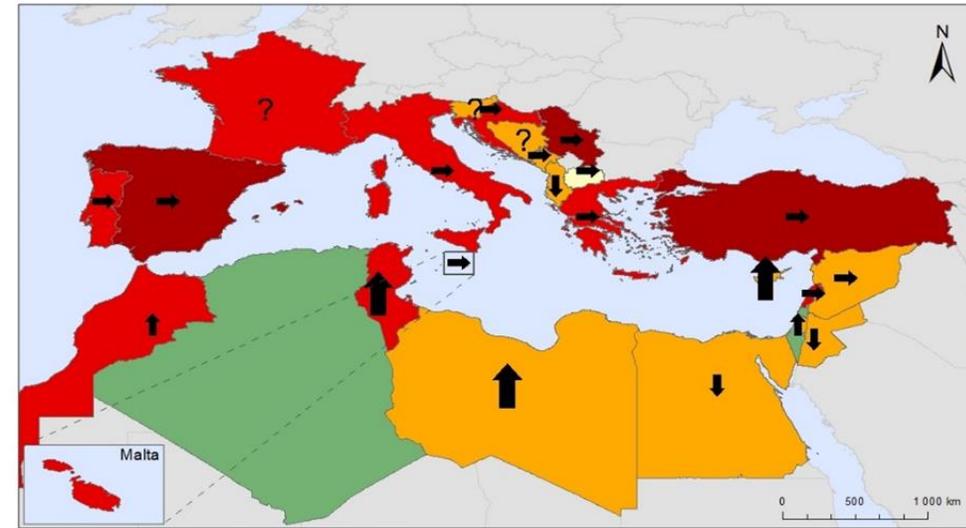
Wind Energy Infrastructure

- **Most affected:** large soaring raptors, species with similar flight and forage morphology, abundant sp.; buzzards and kestrels
- **Key factors:** species behaviour, specifics of the infrastructure
- **Mitigation:** infrastructure planning, monitoring, stopping turbines



Illegal shooting, Trapping, and Poisoning

- IKB is a growing issue of concern, especially across the Mediterranean region.
- In Europe, raptors are the 2nd most affected by IKB group of birds in terms of impact on their global populations, and 1st in terms of % species affected.
- Est. 75,600 (37,500 – 113,700) raptors may be illegally killed/taken each year in the Mediterranean, with another 15,100–68,500 in N & C Europe and Caucasus.



Other threats

- Habitat loss and degradation
- Climate change
- Lead poisoning
- Disturbance

