



*The International Observation Days (IOD) are the annual monitoring event for Bearded Vultures organised by the International Bearded Vulture Monitoring network (IBM). The monitoring action takes place in the first two weeks of October with a synchronous and coordinated survey on the focal day and covers large parts of the Alpine arc (since 2006), parts of the Massif Central (since 2012), the eastern part of the French Pyrenees (since 2016), several regions in Spain (since 2017) and some selected sites in Bulgaria (since 2018). In 2023 two observations sites were occupied on Crete (Greece) and we hope that this will continue for the future. . The aim of this expanding network is to establish a Europe-wide monitoring of the Bearded Vulture population where time-synchronised observations on the focal day allow to make an estimation of the population size and age class distribution. A monitoring action of this scale and the fact that birds are identified on an individual level whenever possible, is unique and generates baseline information for survival analyses and demographic modelling, which give valuable insight into the population dynamics. Furthermore, the number of participants during the IOD increases every year and thus the IOD represents a big public event that helps to increase awareness for the conservation of the Bearded Vulture as a flagship species.*

## Keyfacts

- 680 occupied observation sites during the focal day 14.10.2023 and the IOD-period until the 22.10.2023.
- 1124 participants coordinated by 25 regional coordinators
- 617 Bearded Vulture observations at ~37% of the sites (256 / 680)

## Further evaluation – final report

This short report about the preliminary results show a summary of the occupied sites (Figure 1 and Figure 2) and the encountered weather at the different sites (Figure 3). **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the occupied sites and if one or several Bearded Vultures were observed. Further, these maps distinguish between the different age classes. The evaluation of the large amount of data is ongoing and will still take some time. The final report will be published in the next few months and shared with all project partners.

## Involved partners



## Monitoring network

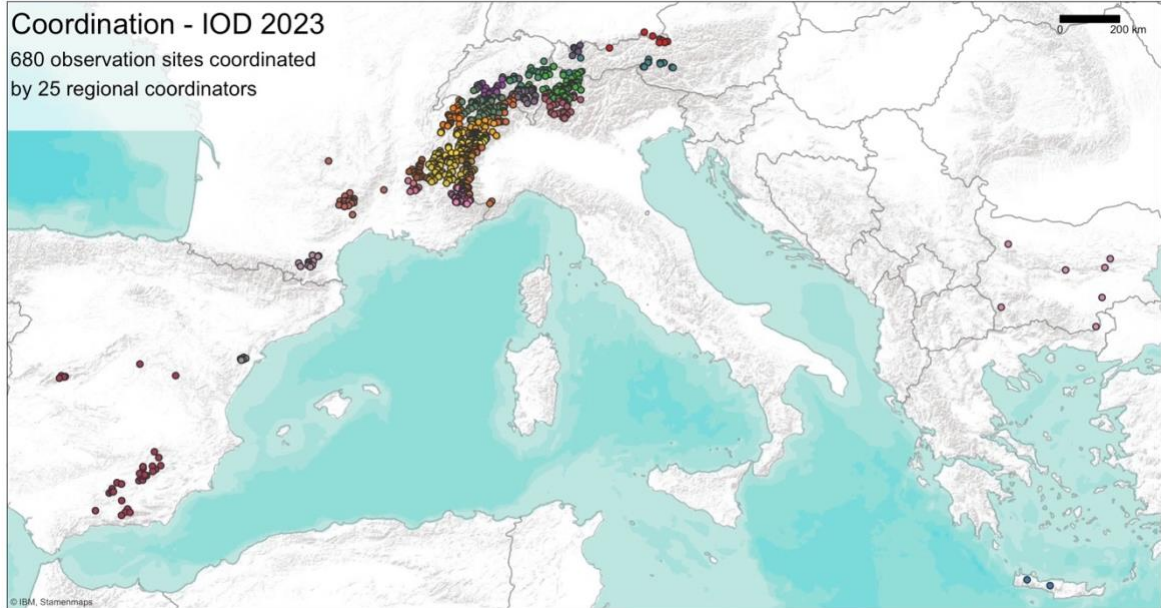


Figure 1. 25 regional coordinators in Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Greece organized this year's IOD on the focal day 14.10.2023 and the following period until the 22.10.2023.

## Bearded Vulture observations

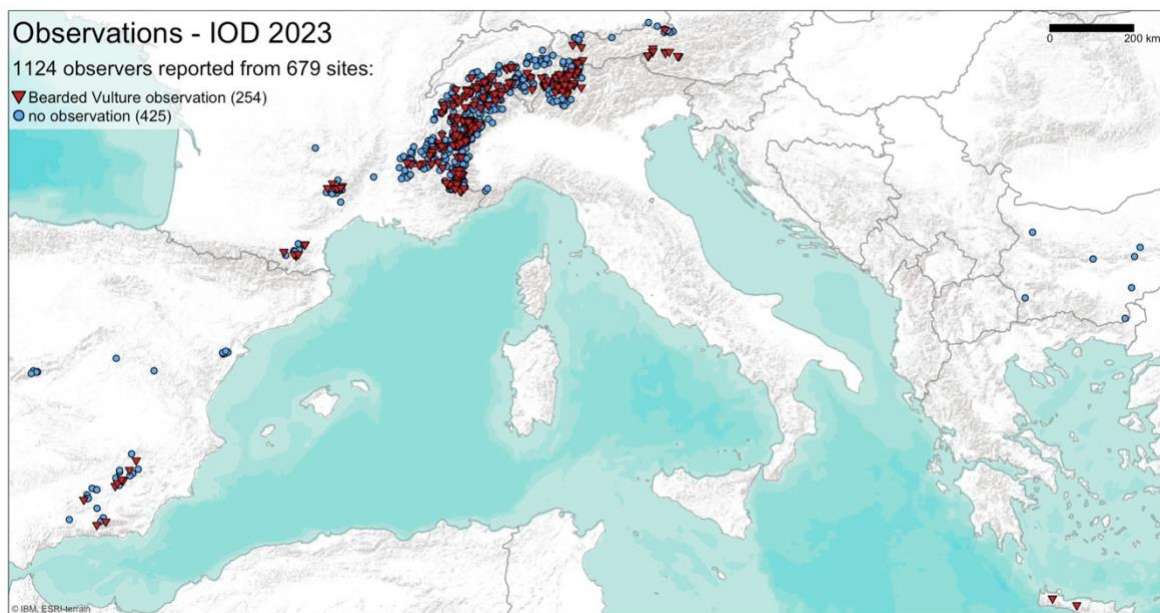


Figure 2. With the support of more than 1120 observers that occupied 679 sites, it was possible to make 254 Bearded Vulture observations at 254 of the 679 sites (~37%).

## Weather conditions on the focal day

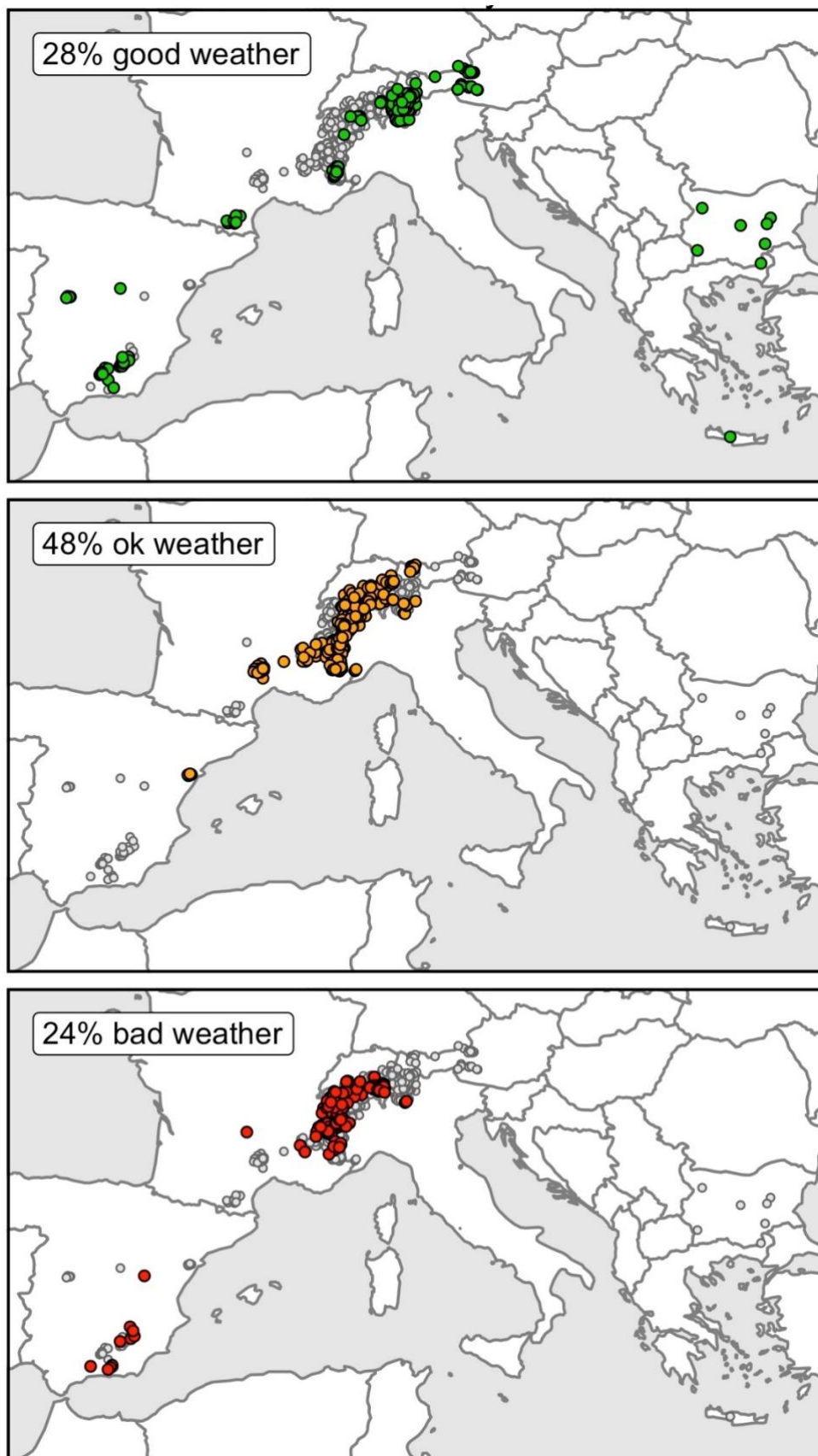


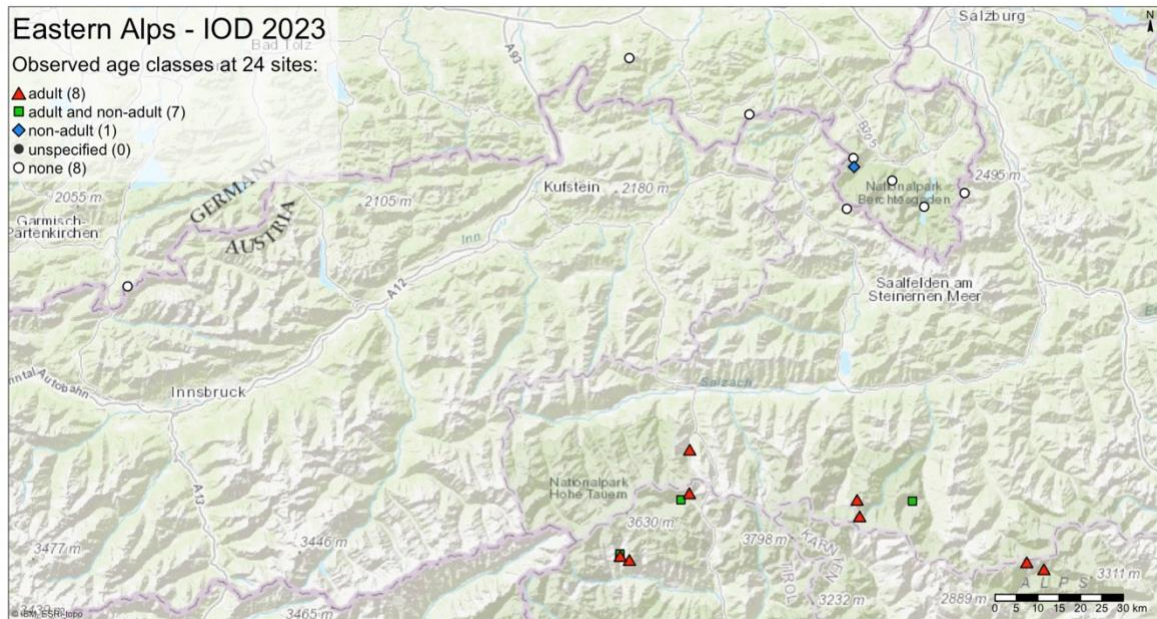
Figure 3. Most of the observers profited from favourable weather conditions on the focal day 14.10.23. Nevertheless, almost one fourth of the observers were confronted with bad weather.



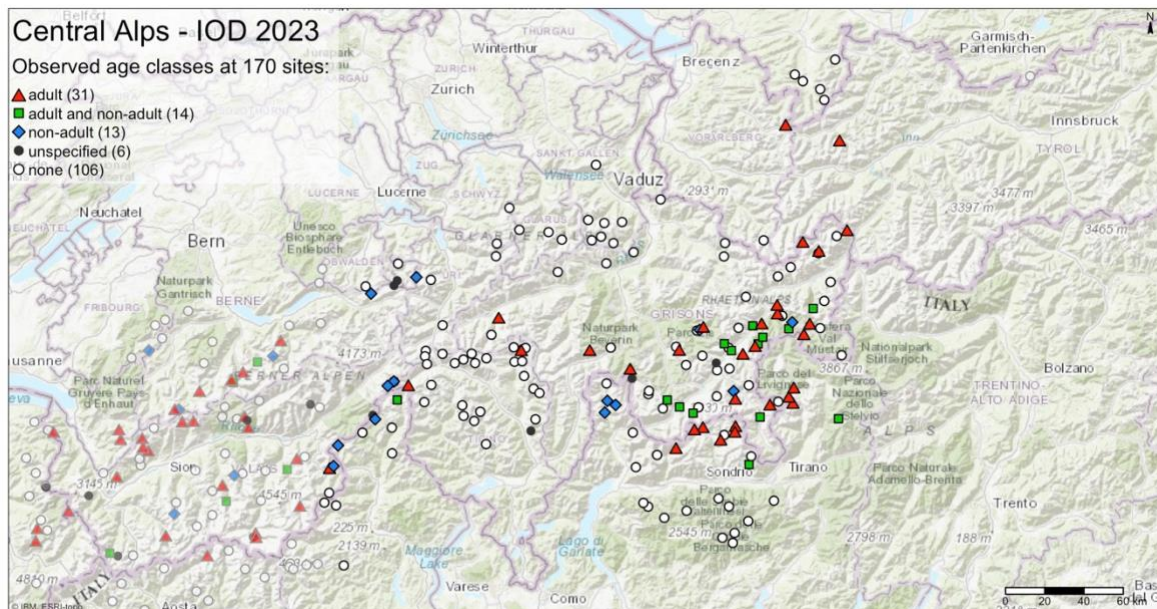
## Observed age classes

The following figures show the occupied observation sites in the corresponding zones. Sites are color coded depending on the age of the observed Bearded Vulture (red triangle = adult, green square = more than one bird of different age classes, blue diamond = juvenile, immature or subadult bird, black dot = unknown age, white dot = no Bearded Vulture observation).

### Eastern Alpine range

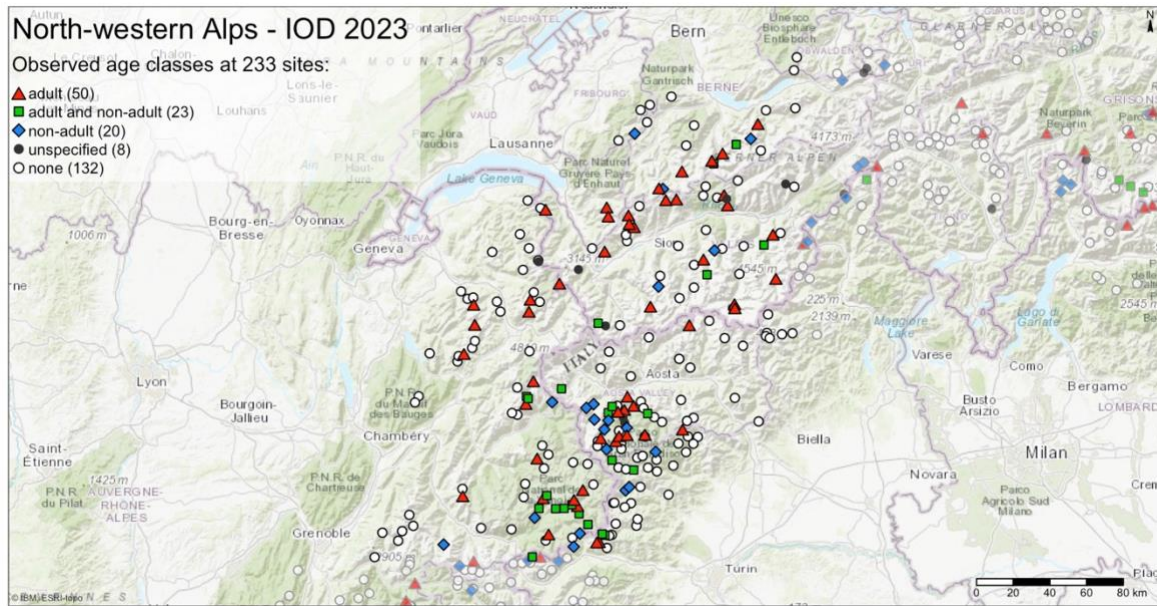


### Central Alpine range

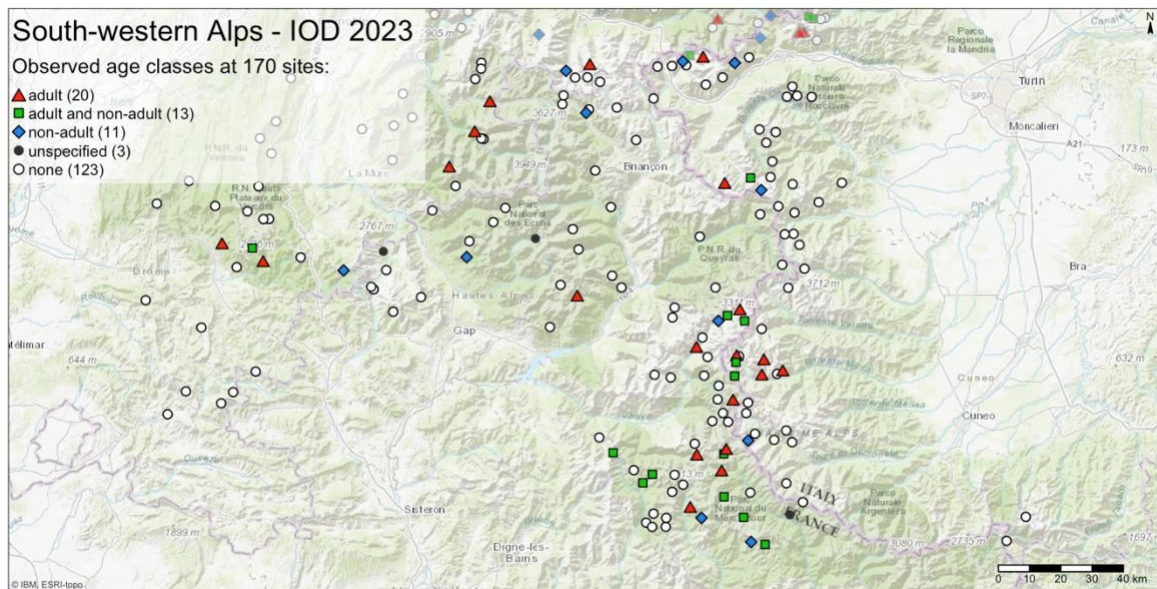




## North-Western Alpine range

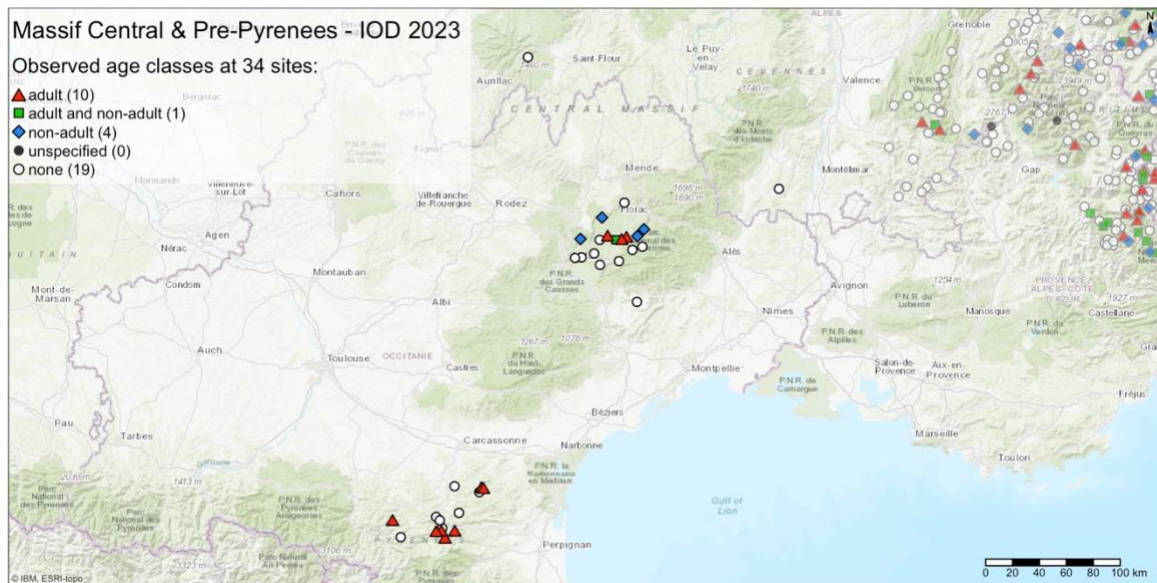


## South-Western Alpine range





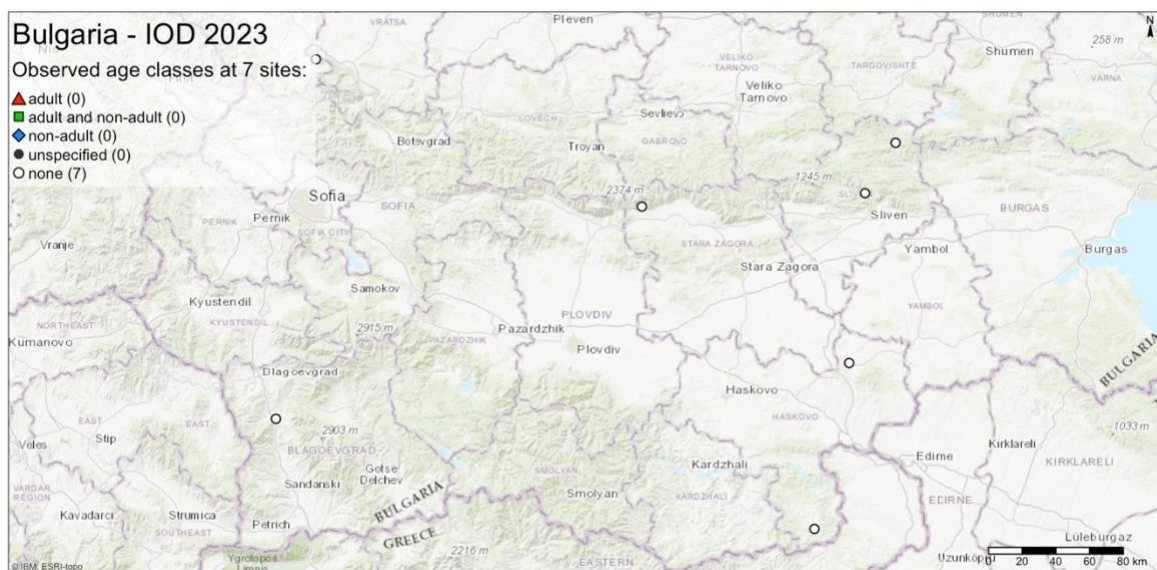
## Massif Central & Pre-Pyrenees



## Spain (without Pyrenees)



## Bulgaria



## Crete (GRC)

