



LIFE AEGYPIUS RETURN

Tender for Filmmaker

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DOCUMENTARY



About LIFE Aegyptius Return

The LIFE Aegyptius Return project aims to consolidate and expand the Cinereous Vulture population in Portugal and Western Spain. Initiated in 2022, the project focuses on improving habitat and foraging conditions, minimizing threats, and developing capacities. Co-financed by the European Union's LIFE Programme, the project is led by the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF) in collaboration with various local partners, mostly in Portugal.

Project objectives

- Double the breeding population in Portugal to at least 80 pairs in 5 colonies by 2027.
- Increase breeding success, enhance connectivity, and improve the conservation status of the Cinereous Vulture.
- Establish new breeding colonies and increase resilience to climate change.
- Mitigate threats, including lead exposure, poisoning, nest disturbance, forest fires and electrocution.
- Improve capacities to combat illegal wildlife poisoning and raise awareness among stakeholders.

Project actions

1. Manage and enhance habitat

- Improve habitat around existing and potential colonies.
- Enhance habitat by managing property owned by project partners.
- Sign agreements with local landowners and managers covering 15,000-20,000 ha in existing colonies and potential new colony areas.

2. Resilience to fires

- Manage habitat in approximately 570 ha around existing or potential breeding colonies.
- Establish 25 km of strips to prevent fires.
- Improve surveillance for habitat resilience to climate change.

3. Nest availability and safety

- Construct at least 120 artificial nesting platforms.
- Repair and maintain a total of 105 existing natural or artificial nests.
- Improve nest availability and safety to attract new breeders and reduce breeding failure.

4. Reinforce Cinereous Vulture population

- Soft release of approximately 20 rehabilitated Cinereous Vultures into the Douro Internacional region.
- Promote the growth of the most vulnerable breeding colony.

5. Improve food availability and quality

- Enhance the existing vulture feeding stations network.
- Establish new supplementary feeding stations in Portugal and Spain to support colonies and promote connectivity.

6. Establish unfenced vulture feeding areas

- Collaborate with extensive livestock farms to create 66 unfenced vulture feeding areas totalling 18,000 ha.
- Adapt areas to Cinereous Vulture natural foraging behaviour.

7. Mitigate threats to reduce mortality

- Prevent and reduce nest disturbances from human activities in existing colonies.

8. Lead exposure and poisoning

- Minimize lead poisoning by transitioning 14 hunting estates and 300 hunters to non-lead ammunition.
- Implement testing and adoption of non-lead ammunition, and awareness-raising activities.

9. Capacity building to mitigate wildlife crime

- Enhance national capacity in Portugal to prosecute wildlife crimes through anti-poisoning protocols.
- Establish a database of incidents and provide advisory support to relevant authorities.
- Create two anti-poisoning dog units in Portugal to improve detection of poisoning incidents.

10. Evaluate movements and behaviour

- Equip 60 Cinereous Vultures with GPS transmitters.
- Monitor behaviour through observations in the field to improve knowledge of the population, habitat use, causes of mortality, movements, and feeding behaviour.

11. Reduce electrocution and collision

- Provide GPS data on movements and mortality of Cinereous Vultures.
- Inform existing projects on actions to reduce the risk of electrocution, such as installing bird markers and insulating dangerous electricity pylons.

12. Raise awareness

- Improve knowledge and awareness of veterinary drugs and lead intoxication.
- Promote associated mitigation measures.
- Increase awareness and involvement of stakeholders and the general public on conservation issues regarding Cinereous Vultures.



About Documentary

Coordinator

Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF)

Budget

Max. 20,000 euros, all costs and taxes included

Documentary scope

The documentary aims to show key aspects of project implementation to raise awareness and engage the general public and stakeholders in the conservation of the Cinereous Vulture. Focused on storytelling, it will cover the key elements described below.

Guidance for film production

Introduction

The film should open with a compelling narrative that traces the history of Cinereous Vulture conservation in Portugal and Spain. Highlight key milestones such as the drastic drop in populations, the extinction of the species as a breeding species in Portugal in the 1970s-1980s, and the significant recovery in Spain in the last 30 years. Emphasize the historic moment in 2010 when the Cinereous Vulture naturally recolonized Portugal, thanks to the increase and expansion of the Spanish population and the concerted efforts in scavenger conservation in Portugal.

Importance of Cinereous Vulture

- Convey the "wow factor" of the Cinereous Vulture through stunning visuals and captivating storytelling.
- Emphasize the ecological importance of the species as a keystone scavenger and its role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem (ecosystem services).

Conservation context

- Present the critical conservation problem faced by the Cinereous Vulture, emphasizing its status as Endangered in Portugal and Vulnerable in Spain.
- Articulate the urgent need for the LIFE Aegyptius Return project to address the fragility of the population and breeding colonies.

Film objectives

- Clearly articulate the objectives of the LIFE Aegyptius Return project, including doubling the breeding population in Portugal, increasing breeding success, enhancing connectivity, and improving habitat to secure the definite comeback of the species. Or this can be presented at the end of the film as the objectives achieved since the film will be finalised by the project's end in 2027.
- Stress the importance of establishing new breeding colonies, increasing resilience to climate change, and addressing specific threats such as lead exposure, poisoning, nest disturbance, and electrocution.

Showcasing actions

- Film all project actions undertaken by the project that show the project team at work such as habitat management, enhancement around existing and potential colonies, construction of artificial nesting platforms, release of rehabilitated and soft-release birds, tagging of nestlings and/or adults, and measures to prevent threats, showcasing vulture mortality, creating fire prevention strips and improving monitoring of population.
- Highlight the soft release of rehabilitated Cinereous Vultures and the efforts to reinforce the population.

Results and achievements

- Showcase positive outcomes and achievements resulting from the project's actions, including increases in breeding pairs, occupied territories, and successful nesting.
- Emphasize the project's role in improving habitat resilience to climate change and mitigating human disturbances.

Conclusion

- Conclude the film by summarizing the project's role and impact on Cinereous Vulture conservation, mitigating threats and improving the species' habitat.
- Reinforce the importance of continued efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of the species in Portugal and Spain.

Please note that this film guidance can be adapted as the LIFE Aegypius Return project develops and after discussion with the project team and the selected filmmaker.



Scenes that should be filmed

General

- Landscape scenes showing habitat and biodiversity around existing and potential colonies
- Cinereous Vulture (and other vultures) behaviour in various settings: Soaring, feeding, breeding, etc
- Other wildlife relevant to species conservation, other vulture species, mammalian scavengers, etc.

Project actions

- Project team in action
- Establishing strips to prevent fires and improving surveillance to ensure habitat resilience to climate change
- Construction of artificial nesting platforms or maintenance of existing natural or artificial nests
- Rescue, rehabilitation and soft release of Cinereous Vultures
- Supplementary feeding stations (management, vultures feeding) and unfenced vulture feeding areas
- Capacity building and/or investigation of wildlife crime like poisoning and persecution
- Process of catching and equipping Cinereous Vultures with GPS transmitters, monitoring of Cinereous Vulture and GPS analysis (chicks in nest and tagging rehabilitated birds before release)
- Talking with farmers, hunters and the general public during events
- Farmers, livestock farming and vultures with farm animals, veterinary drugs
- Hunting activities and initiatives for transition to lead ammunition
- Cinereous Vulture (and other vulture) mortality (if possible, illegal wildlife poisoning incident and its aftermath)
- Dangerous electricity pylons for electrocution and wind turbines for collision (if possible, capture scenes of vultures flying around/near powerlines)
- Habitat degradation and forest fires (probably archive)

All filming must prioritize vulture conservation, ensuring scenes are captured without disturbing the natural environment. It is imperative to show utmost respect for the communities involved and prioritize the safety of the filmmaker and other stakeholders throughout the process.

Proposal submission guidelines

Interested filmmakers should submit detailed proposals through [an online submission form](#). The proposal should include:

- Budget
- Approach to the documentary and creative ideas for storytelling.
- Portfolio showcasing previous documentary work, especially in conservation or wildlife (vultures in particular).

Submission deadline

10th March 2024

Contact for more information

Milene Matos (LIFE project manager) - m.matos@4vultures.org

Submission format

<https://forms.gle/KG2QvP7u2MsgRPYs5>

The selected candidate is expected to showcase a budget breakdown for all work until 2027 and agree to the terms and conditions listed below.

Deliverables and other details

Purpose

- Raise awareness about the LIFE Aegyptus Return project.
- Engage the general public and stakeholders with the species conservation.
- Promote the project's goals, objectives, actions and achievements.

Deliverables

- Rough cut and final cut of a ~20-minute documentary.
- Shorter version (~5 minutes).
- Promo/Teaser: 30 seconds to 1 minute
- Raw footage provided throughout the filming for internal editing and dissemination by VCF and partners.
- Additional footage capturing Cinereous Vulture behaviour and habitat.
- Format: 4K Ultra HD Format
- Film language delivered in English, Spanish, Portuguese for voiceover and subtitles. Script is done by the selected filmmaker but validated/agreed with project team.

Distribution

Through various channels such as websites, social media, local events, and traditional media platforms.

Target audience

General public, project stakeholders, wildlife enthusiasts in Portugal, Spain and globally

Treatment and storyline

Fast-paced, engaging, cohesive, and creatively presented

Utilize modern cinematographic techniques and narrative approach

Very high visual appeal

Location of shooting

Various sites in Portugal and Western Spain covered by the LIFE Aegyptius Return project

Project implementation areas include the following Natura 2000 sites along border areas of Portugal (7) and Spain (3):

Douro Internacional e Vale do Águeda

Natura 2000 Code: PTZPE0038

Rios Sabor e Maçãs

Natura 2000 Code: PTZPE0037

Vale do Côa

Natura 2000 Code: PTZPE0039

Serra da Malcata

Natura 2000 Code: PTZPE0007

Tejo Internacional, Erges e Pônsul

Natura 2000 Code: PTZPE0042

Mourão/Moura/Barrancos

Natura 2000 Code: PTZPE0045

Vale do Guadiana

Natura 2000 Code: PTZPE0047

Campo de Azaba

Natura 2000 Code: ES0000202

Sierra de Gata y Vale de Pilas

Natura 2000 Code: ES0000370

Canchos de Ramiro y Ladronera

Natura 2000 Code: ES0000434

Stock/ archival footage and music

- Original high-quality shooting expected
- Limited use of stock footage (if any) and music to be the responsibility and cost of the filmmaker within the estimated budget.
- VCF and partners can provide additional footage that needs to be credited free of charge.

Narration

Neutral or native English/Spanish/Portuguese accent with clear diction Subtitles for accessibility and to ensure clarity for international audience

Submission of material

- Regular updates on progress are expected.
- Raw footage should be provided after each filming session, covering specific actions, general Cinereous Vulture behaviour, and habitat/landscape scenes.

Deadline

- Deadline for the first rough cut: End of 2026.
- Deadline for the final product: Late spring/Early summer 2027 (it will be shown at local events so should foresee time to do so).

Shooting to be done from Spring 2024 until 2026

Terms and Conditions

Terms and Conditions for Filmmaker Tender - LIFE Aegypius Return Documentary

General

- The Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF) is the coordinating entity for the LIFE Aegypius Return project.
- The selected filmmaker agrees to produce a documentary in line with the project's objectives, emphasizing vulture conservation and achievements.

Rights and credits

- Credit will be given to the filmmaker and contributors in all public use of the documentary.
- The filmmaker retains the rights to the footage as well as showcasing the documentary in their portfolio.

Usage and distribution

- Raw footage, documentary, and related materials can be utilized by VCF and LIFE Aegyptius partners/funders for communications and awareness through various channels, including social media, local events, and traditional media platforms.
- Unrestricted access is granted to the VCF to distribute the film as desired, with credits always attributed. However, VCF reserves the right to approve any external use beyond the agreed scope.

Updates and communication

- The selected filmmaker agrees to provide regular updates on the progress of the documentary to VCF.

Project management

- Any significant deviations from the proposed approach or budget must be communicated and approved by VCF in advance.

Timeline and deliverables

- Final deliverables, including the completed documentary, must be submitted by the agreed-upon deadlines.

Termination

VCF reserves the right to terminate the agreement with the filmmaker if there is a breach of the terms and conditions outlined herein

By participating in this tender, the filmmaker acknowledges and agrees to abide by these terms and conditions.



The **LIFE Aegyptius return** project has ambitious yet attainable goals to secure the comeback of the Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) in Portugal and western Spain. Until the end of the project in 2027, the team aims to double the breeding population in Portugal, encourage connectivity between colonies and downgrade the national conservation status from Critically Endangered to Endangered.

It is a 3.7 million project, co-financed by the European Union's LIFE Programme, whose success relies on the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and the extensive collaboration of the leading project partner, the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF), with all local partners: Palombar – Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural, Herdade da Contenda, Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves, Liga para a Proteção da Natureza, Associação Transumância e Natureza, Fundación Naturaleza y Hombre, Guarda Nacional Republicana e Associação Nacional de Proprietários Rurais and Associação Nacional de Proprietários Rurais Gestão Cinegética e Biodiversidade.

Coordinating beneficiary



Associated beneficiaries



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