



CALL FOR TENDER – CONTRACT FOR FRENCH BEARDED VULTURES CAPTIVE BREEDING CENTERS SUPPLYING YOUNG BEARDED VULTURES FOR THE REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

Currently a large number of statutory bodies and NGO entities from different countries are collaborating with the VCF to establish a bearded vulture European meta-population, through reintroduction projects. The final aim is to re-establish the historical gene flow between North Africa and Asia through the autochthonous and reintroduced European Bearded Vulture populations. To achieve these objectives two main actions are carrying out:

- Conservation of autochthonous bearded vulture populations
- Establishing new populations in areas where they had disappeared with the aim to re-connect the existing populations.

The creation of new populations is carried out with releases of nestlings produced within the European Endangered Species Program for the Bearded Vulture (EEP). These nestlings are released following a modified method of “hacking back” which has been developed at the Richard Faust Bearded Vulture Breeding Center (EEP headquarters, Austria) using offspring of black kites. It has shown its success by the successful reintroduction of bearded vultures in different projects (e.g. Alps and Andalusia). The management of the bearded vulture EEP lies with the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

In September 2015 a six-years long new LIFE project started in France named “Restoration of connections between the Alpine and Pyrenean populations of bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*)” (LIFE GYPCONNECT, LIFE14 NAT/FR/000050) with the aim to bridge the gap existing between the western Alps and the oriental Pyrenees vearded vulture populations.

The bearded vulture is considered as Vulnerable in the European IUCN Red List and as Endangered of extinction in France. This LIFE project aims to establish new core populations of bearded vultures by reintroducing birds in the Massif-Central and the Department of the Drôme, and to restore the exchanges between these different mountains with the Pyrenean autochthonous and Alpine reintroduced populations.

To achieve this objective, the LIFE project GypConnect contemplates the releasing of 4 chicks per year during six years (2016-2021). As part of this project, a call for tenders from international institutions which could provide this LIFE project with chicks for releasing is foreseen.

The conditions are the following:

ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS

- Guarantee the availability of bearded vulture chicks for the GypConnect LIFE project in case of border closure for bird transport because of sanitary reasons (e.g. bird epidemics), to guarantee the continuity of the releases.
- Guarantee that all chicks are appropriate for reintroduction. That requires that during their development no negative influences have influenced the ontogeny of the birds, showing the same behavioral as its wild conspecifics and capable to reproduce when they reach their sexual maturity.

COMPLEMENTARY CONDITIONS

- Knowledge on bearded vulture releasing technic in case advice is needed by the GypConnect release team.
- Knowledge on natural behavioral development by released bearded vulture nestling and fledglings.
- Knowledge on bearded vulture monitoring of released birds.
- Knowledge on bearded vulture needs for captive holding in case birds are recovered from the wild.
- Knowledge on bearded vulture threats in case birds are recovered from the wild, for advising a rapid detection of the cause of its weakness.
- Knowledge on bearded vulture treatment in case birds are recovered from the wild.
- Availability of adequate housing conditions for injured recovered Bearded vultures.

TIMING

Proposals with a budget should be sent to Alex Llopis, Bearded vulture captive breeding manager (a.llopis@4vultures.org), by the 15th July 2016.

Proposals should include

1. Short introduction 1 page
2. Track-record of the institution 1 page
3. Budget 1 page
4. Name of contacts