

Servizio Caccia e Pesca
Provincia di Sondrio
via XXV Aprile
23100 Sondrio, Italy

11 April 2017

Rehabilitation of bearded vulture Lea: Thank you

Dear Sir,

I am José Tavares, the director of the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF), which is a leading organization for the conservation of vultures in Europe. I am writing to you now to thank you for the work that the wildlife rehabilitation centre you manage did to help Lea, a bearded vulture that was recovered weakened near Temú on March 23rd. Lea had been released as part of our reintroduction project in Austria in 2015, and travelled far and wide across the Alps until its GPS tag signaled he was stationary in Temú. You can see some news about the recovering of Lea in our website [here](#).

As you know the species went extinct in the Alps 100 years ago. Thirty years ago, we started a reintroduction project in the Alps. There are now 45 bearded vulture pairs across the mountain chain, and the population totals about 200-250 individuals, but each individual is still precious and valuable, and so we prize very much all your efforts to save Lea. Thank you!

The final goal of the VCF is to establish a European bearded vulture meta-population, re-establishing the connection between the European autochthonous isolated populations (Pyrenean, Corsica and Crete), the reintroduced ones (in the Alps, Grands Causses and Andalusia) as well as with the northern Africa and Asia populations.

For this we need the collaboration of all. Thanks to the commitment of your staff, Lea could be saved. Our relationship with Sondrio is not new and comes from the beginning of the alpine reintroduction project. Sondrio has been a part of the International Bearded Vulture Monitoring network (IBM), that gathers and analyses the data for the alpine reintroduction project

We hope we will be able to continue this wonderful collaboration in the future and continue to work together to support the conservation of bearded vultures across Europe. The reintroduction of the species into the Alps is one of the most successful conservation stories of our times. Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



José Tavares, *Director Vulture Conservation Foundation VCF*