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safelines4birds.eu

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SafeLines4Birds

# SafeLines4Birds

## Reducing bird mortality caused by power lines



## PARTNERS

From France, Belgium, Portugal, Germany, and USA



## FUNDING



Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

# THE PROJECT HAS 4 OBJECTIVES

## IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT

Collisions with power lines, electrocutions, and disturbances during the breeding season are major threats to certain bird species. These threats cause the deaths of millions of individuals in Europe each year and in some cases seriously threaten the viability of species populations.

**SafeLines4Birds'** goal is to reduce the non-natural mortality of 13 representative bird species along power lines in France, Belgium, and Portugal. The aim is to ensure that high-risk power lines and dangerous poles and pylons are retrofitted using state-of-the-art and innovative technical methods for bird safety.

## TARGET SPECIES

Some European species are more vulnerable given their size, morphology, behaviour, and distribution. Thus, the project targets 13 species most impacted by power lines in France, Belgium, and Portugal:

- Bearded Vulture
- Black Stork
- Bonelli's Eagle
- Cinereous Vulture
- Common Crane
- Egyptian Vulture
- Eurasian Curlew
- Eurasian Woodcock
- Lesser Kestrel
- Little Bustard
- Northern Lapwing
- Osprey
- White Stork

### REDUCING BIRD COLLISION

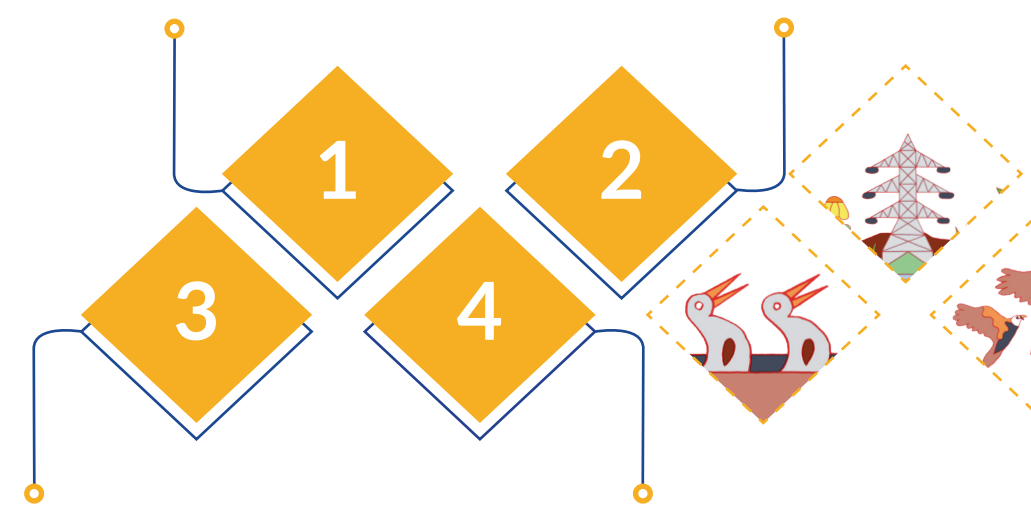
#### ACTIONS:

- Installation of anti-collision devices on 60 km of high-risk lines
- Testing of new anti-collision devices, such as the Avian Collision Avoidance System (ACAS)
- Testing of innovative installation methods of devices
- Placement of 15 to 20 km lines underground in high-risk areas

### REDUCING BIRD ELECTROCUTION

#### ACTIONS:

- Retrofitting and insulation of dangerous power poles
- Installation of 1,800 deterrence devices in higher risk sites to prevent perching or nesting
- Installation of more than 182 platforms and 320 perches to protect birds that roost or nest



### REDUCING BIRD DISTURBANCE

#### ACTIONS:

- Adaptation of grid maintenance and surveillance methodologies in line with the breeding periods of the target species
- Limitation of helicopters flying over breeding sites where possible

### IMPROVING & SHARING KNOWLEDGE

#### ACTIONS:

- Creation of a SafeLines4Birds open digital platform
- Dissemination of knowledge through brochures, social media, conferences, webinars, best practice events, and workshops
- Networking with experts on the topic
- Enable better exchange between environmental NGOs and grid operators in Europe and beyond

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b> ca. 14 million €	<b>DURATION</b> January 2023 - December 2028
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