



# Antilopes Sahélo-Sahariennes



## Lappet-faced Vulture, *Torgos tracheliotus* 4 years of Survey, Surveillance and Monitoring in the Termit

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# Introduction



**\*Lappet-faced vulture is found in a total of 41 countries world wide and is classified as globally vulnerable,**

**\*Among the 7 globally threatened birds species in Africa,**

**•No data on lappet-faced vulture for Niger till 2007.**

**•Probabilities show that, there are less than 30 pairs of the bird remaining in the wild in Termit.**



# Objectives



**The main objective is to create data-base for Lappet-faced vulture, so as to improve knowledge of this raptor in this particular area.**

**Priority specific objectives are:**

- ❖ **To estimate the population of the target bird**
- ❖ **To identify threats to lappet-faced vulture**
- ❖ **To apply efficient conservation measures**

# Methodology



- Road surveys:

Large scale transect can be made from motor vehicles (Millsap & Lefranc, 1988, Resources inventory committee, 2001)

- Count units:

involve the location of birds that are potentially breeding, and their nests (or other evidence of breeding) if they breed.

## Breeding season visit Schedule

To establish occupancy and presence of a breeding pair, visits detailed below are made:

<b>Visit 1</b>	<b>Late February</b>	<b>To check for occupancy</b>
<b>Visit 2</b>	<b>Late March</b>	<b>To locate active nests</b>
<b>Visit 3</b>	<b>Late May</b>	<b>To check for young</b>
<b>Visit 4</b>	<b>Late June</b>	<b>To check for fledged young</b>



# Materials

- Telescope for remote observation of the nest
- binoculars
- Range finder
- GPS
- Camera
- Talkie-walkie
- Voice recorder

## Cyber tracker: two special sequences are designed

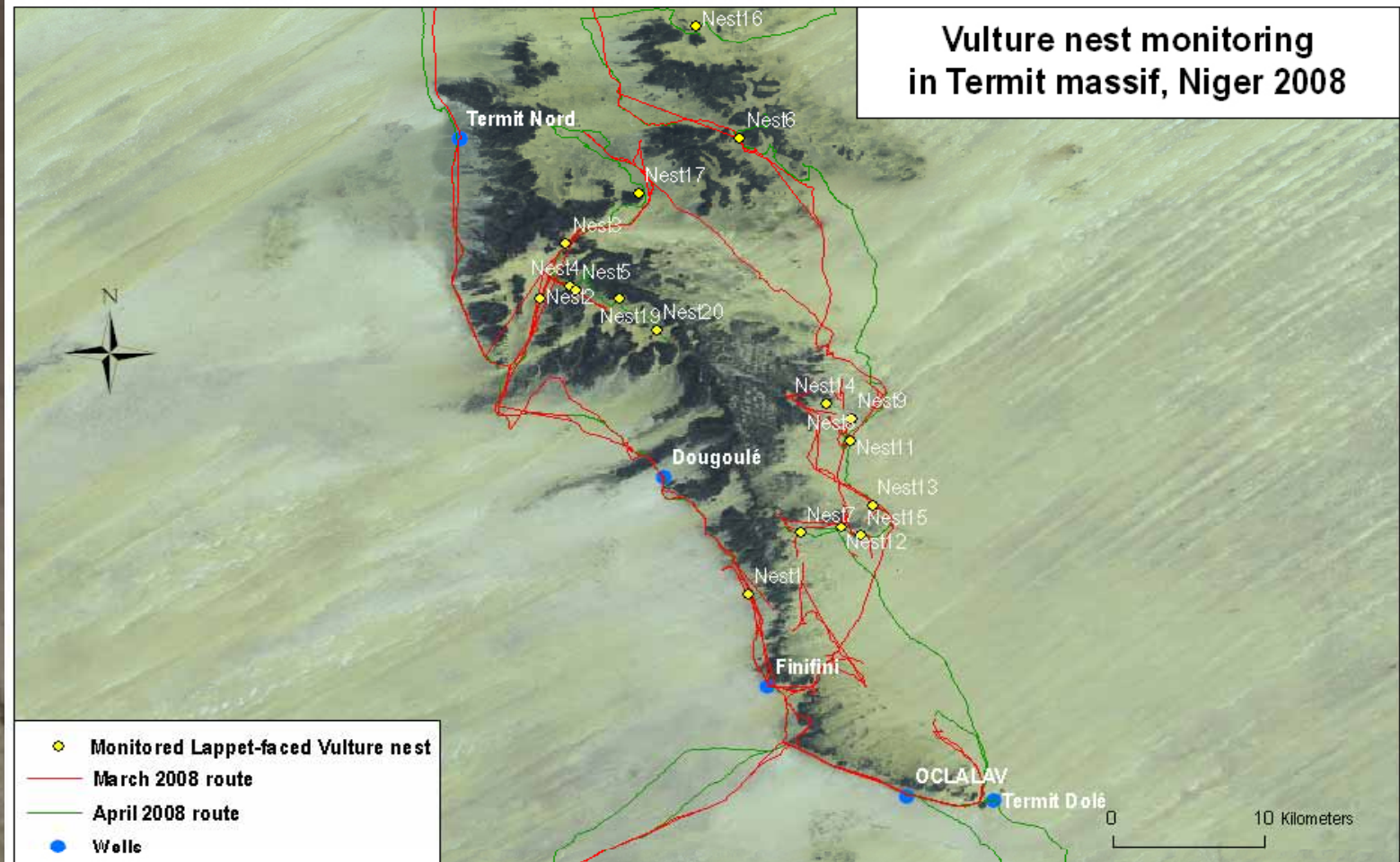
- Lappet-faced vulture's general survey sequence

Date & time	GPS	Type of observation	habitat	Total number	Sex	Social behavior	Activity	Distance	Angle

- Nest monitoring sub-sequence designed to record all the parameters needed:

Nest identifier	Nest status	Height of the Nest tree	Dropping Pluck Molted feather Pellets	Egg	Chick	Prey remain	Breeding success and Fledging	Habitat	Failure and Persecution

# Results 2008



# Occupancy

- 24 nests are recorded (6 are non actives).
- 18 occupied nests are visited regularly
- 10 are breeding nests



# Breeding success and fledging

Identifier	N° of chick	Fully feathered	Capable of flight	Out of nest	Visit n°
Nest 11	1	yes	yes		2 to 4
Nest 6	1	yes	yes	yes	2 to 4
Nest 16	1	yes	yes	yes	2 to 4
Nest 18	1	yes	yes	yes	2 to 4
Nest 14	1	yes	yes		2 to 4



# Failure and persecution

- Human interference is the cause of nesting failure for 3 breeding nests
- nest 17 failed soon after laying, the cause is unknown

# Census

- A total of 107 birds are recorded for the entire visits, including breeding pairs and young birds.
- Five young birds
- The biggest group observed is composed of 11 individuals feeding on a rest of goat
- It is often difficult to determine sex ratio during road survey because of sun light interference,
- And sexual dimorphism is not clearly visible.

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# Results 2009

- 34 nests are recorded (10 are non actives).
- 24 occupied nests are visited regularly
- 14 are breeding nests

# Breeding success and fledging

Identifier	N° of chick	Fully feathered	Capable of flight	Out of nest	Visit n°
Nest 4	1	yes	died		1 to 3
Nest 22	1	yes	yes		1 to 3
Nest 6	1	yes	yes	yes	2 to 4
Nest 7	1	yes	yes	yes	1 to 4
Nest 19	1	yes	yes	yes	1 to 4
Nest 11	1	yes	yes	yes	2 to 4
Nest 11	1	yes	yes	yes	2 to 4

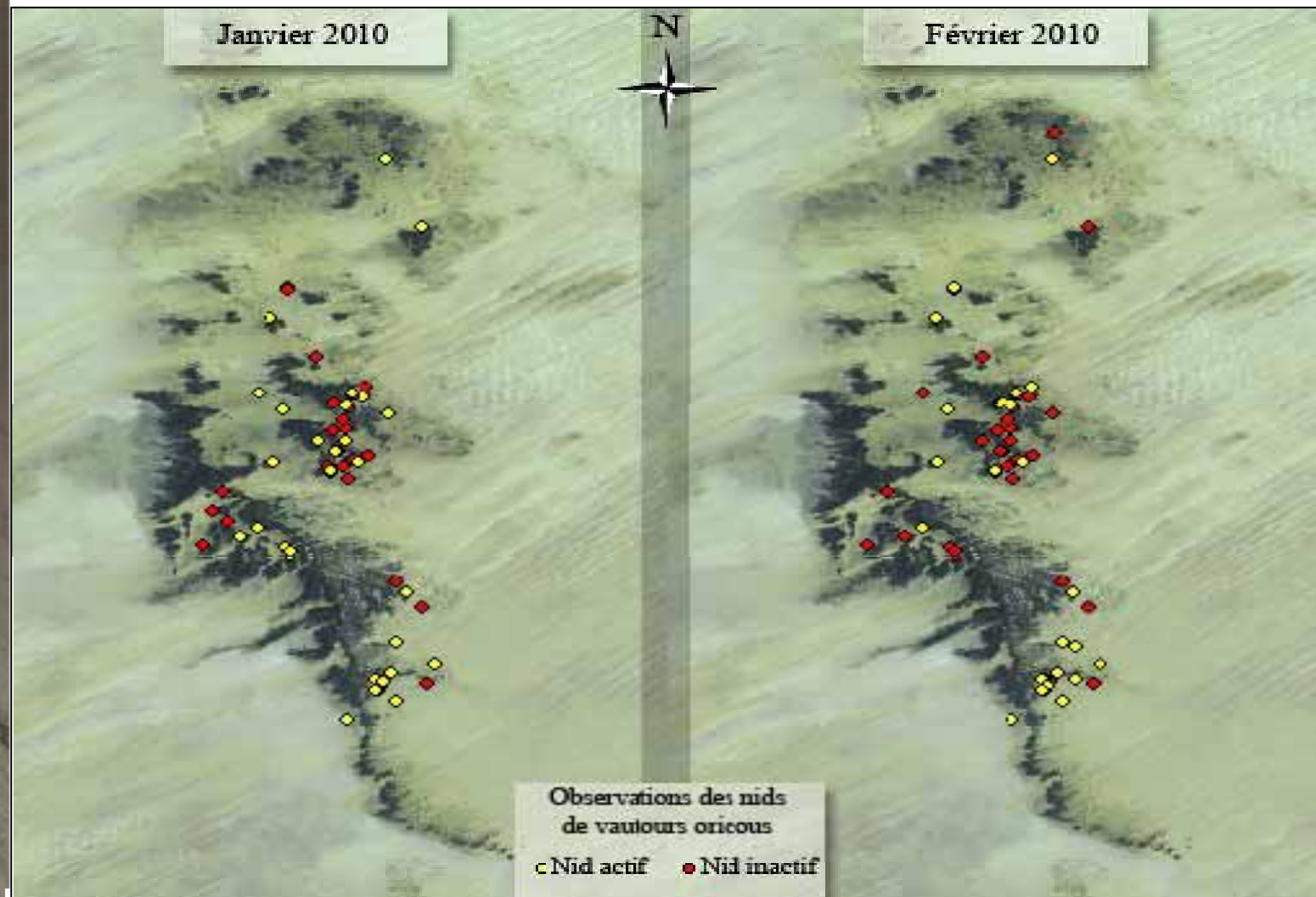
# Failure and persecution

- Nest 4 failed after the chick is fully feathered
- 5 nests are persecuted
- 2 failed after laying (no egg, no chick)

# Census

- A total of 83 birds are recorded for the entire visits, including breeding pairs and young birds.
- 7 young birds recorded
- One bird is died in a well
- Another bird is also died close to a nest.

# Results 2010

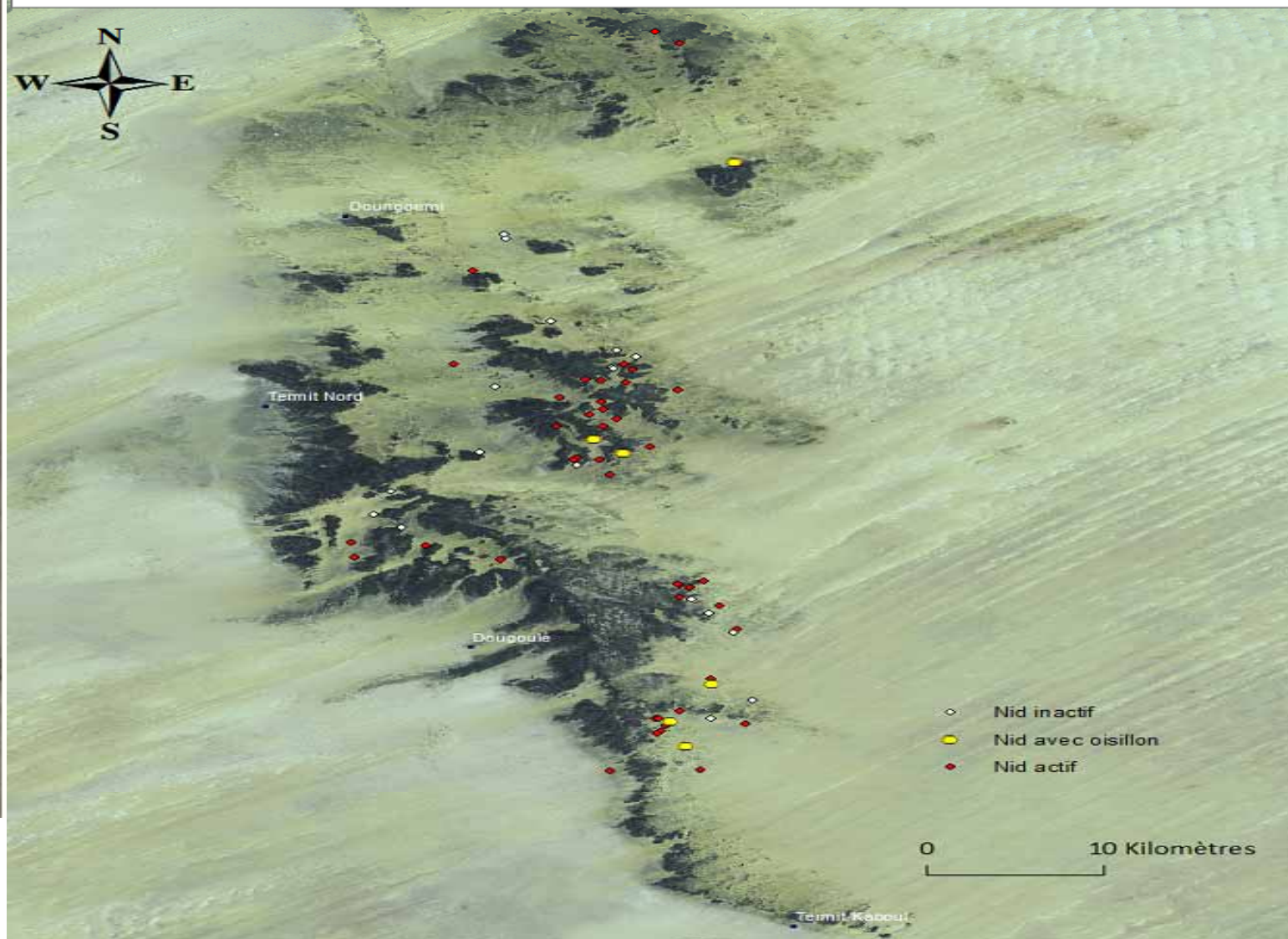


# Census

- 62 nests recorded
- 74 birds observed
- One chick is died
- No chick in the other nests

# Results 2011

Distribution des nids de vautours oricou dans le massif de Termit en Février 2011

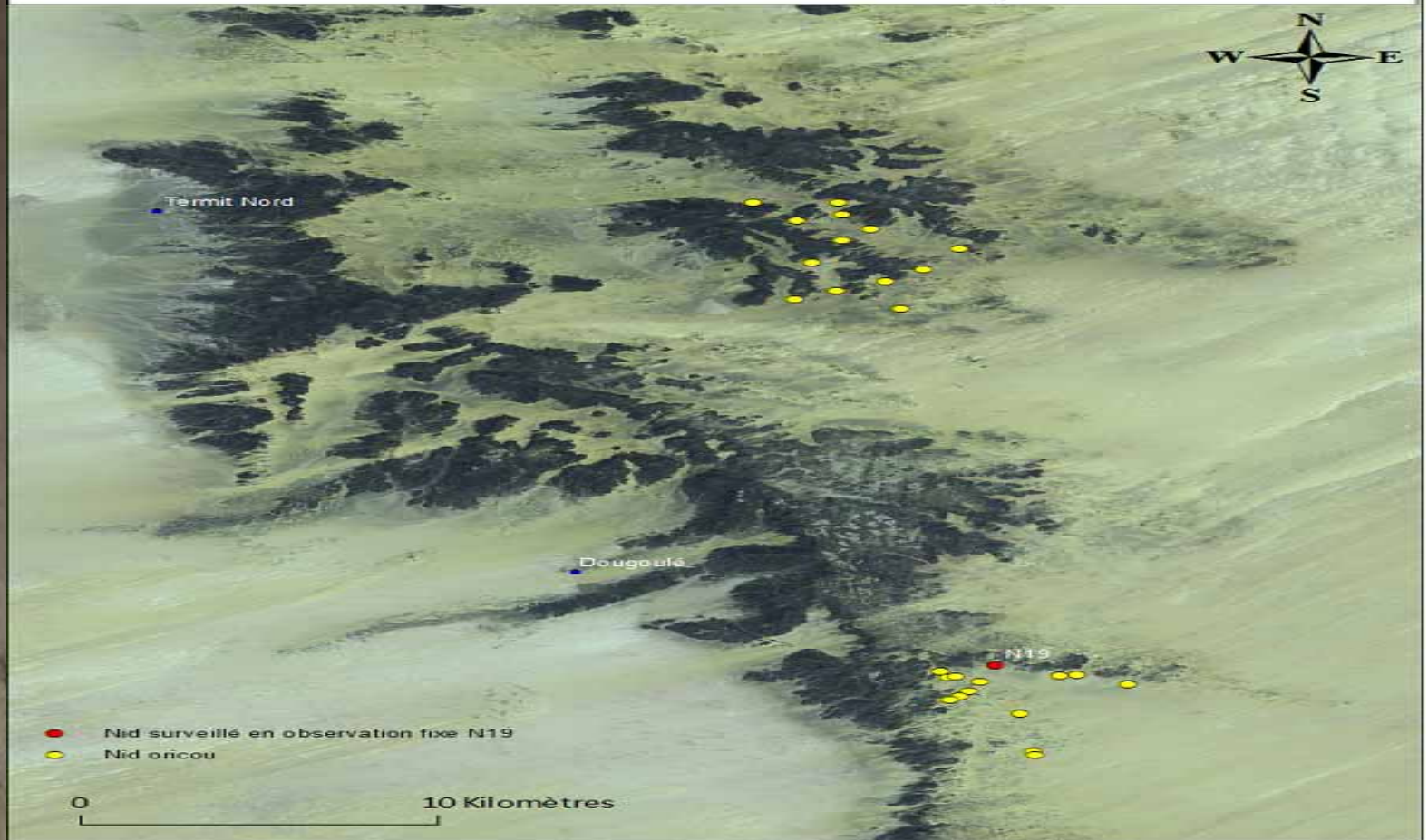


# Nest census

Total number of nests	Active nests	Unactive nests	Destroyed nests	New nests	Nests with chicks
67	49	18	7	14	6

# Sample sites:

Répartition des nids de vautours oricou dans la vallée des Dama et la Vallée des Colocynthes





# A sampling strategy

- This involves the randomised selection of defined areas for field work
- This avoid any bias arising from surveying only the « best area »





# Observation of breeding nests

Foraging keep the breeding pairs for more than three hours out of nest. (mostly from 10 a.m to 1p.m)

- the chick is feeded by the two birds
- During hot time (1 to 3 p.m) birds use their wings to provide shade to chick.
- One chick is died





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# Breeding nest 2011



# Breeding nest 2011



# Threats

- Threats to lapped-faced vulture from human interference are the cause of nesting failure
- Results stress up that drought may be one of the most important threats to birds (in 4 years 3 chicks are died on the nests and an adult in a well).
- The use of chemical to eliminate Jackal is another threat to be proved.

# Conservation measures

- Awareness campaign,
- Keeping water around well during reproduction period ( this activity is carried up by C.A)
- Satellite tracking to know where birds are going after reproduction (need for more funds)
- and the elaboration of conservation strategy based on fly way approach.

