



The monitoring of the grey partridge in France

➤ Examples of the game management of
the **grey partridge of the plains** and the **grey partridge of the Pyrenees**



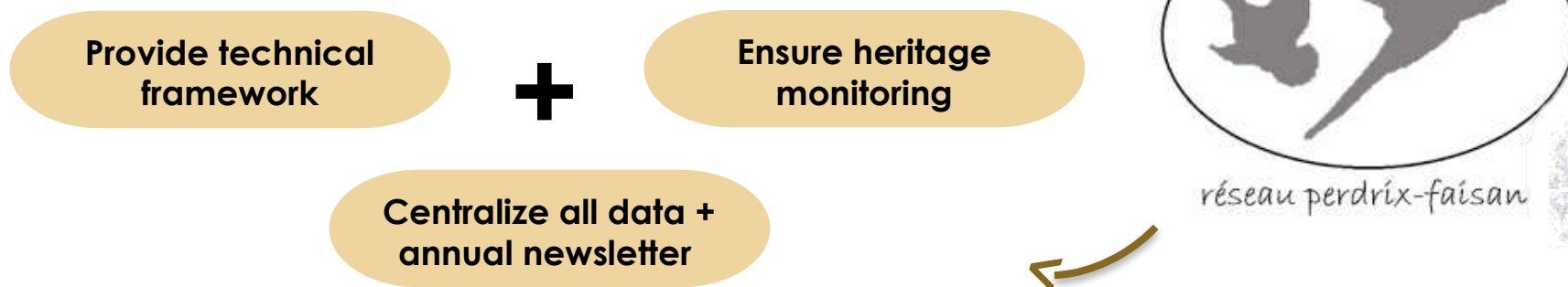
November, 28th 2024



1. The role of the National Federation of Hunters (FNC)



- Role of the FNC : defends and promotes the **interests of hunters** at national and European levels
- Main topics : wildlife and habitat management, **hunting regulation**, safety and coexistence with others, representation of hunters, management of game damage
- **Coordination of the Federal network** : regional federations (13 FRCs) + departmental federations (94 FDCs)
- FNC + FRC + FDC = extensive knowledge and **expertise in managing the grey partridge**
- Part of the **partridge-pheasant network** :



2. The grey partridge of the plains

a. Characteristic and distribution



Source : OFB

- Small gallinaceous
- ♂ : 350-500g **VS** ♀ : 350-450g
- White belly with a brown horseshoe (smaller in ♀), head more reddish in ♂
- Laying from April to June and hatching from late May to late August

- Presence in the **2/3 north of France**, but declining population since the 60s, worsened since 2008
- Causes : modernization of agriculture, disappearance of subsistence polyculture, and, after 2008, a series of years with poor reproduction
- Estimation in 2018 : **421 480 – 773 390 partridges**

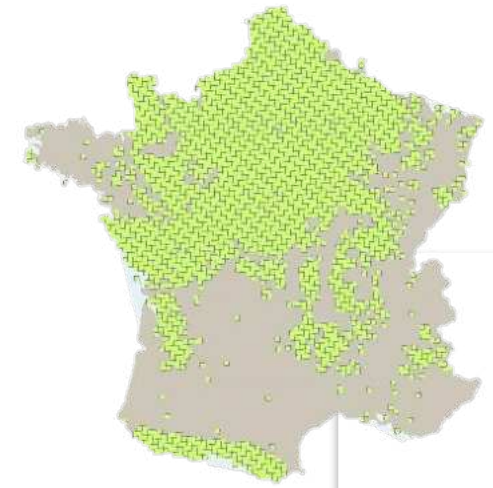


Figure 1 : Global distribution of the grey partridge of the plains in 2012

Source : INPN – three-year report 2008-2012

2. The grey partridge of the plains

b. Game management plan

① Population monitoring → estimation of the grey partridge numbers

SPRING DENSITY (*drive counts / linear transect surveys*)

Figure 2 : Municipality distribution of the grey partridge of the plains spring density in 2023

6.1 couples / 100 ha



REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS
(*sampling of coveys*)

Figure 3 : Representation of the number of young per partridge hen in 2023



Source : Lettre d'informations du réseau Perdrix-Faisan, n°32



2.58 youngs / hen partridge

Source : Lettre d'informations du réseau Perdrix-Faisan, n°32

2. The grey partridge of the plains

b. Game management plan

② Development of game management plan → by the FDC

**Territory
management**



**Supplementary
feeding / watering**



**Harvest
management**



**Game
reserves / GICs**



Predator control

2. The grey partridge of the plains

b. Game management plan

② Development of game management plan → by the FDC

Different types of harvest management :

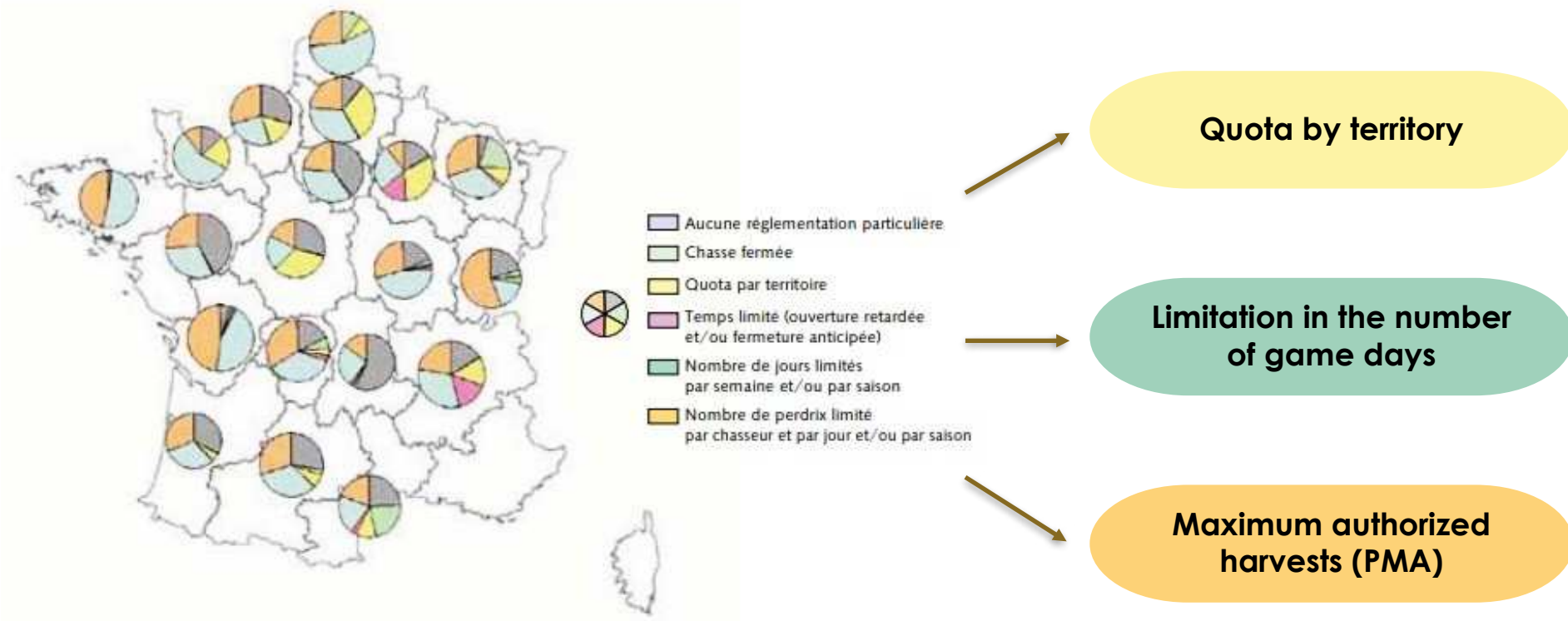


Figure 2 : Methods of grey partridge game management by administrative region in 2009

Source : Faune Sauvage, n°295

3. The grey partridge of the Pyrenees

a. Characteristic and distribution



Source : OFB

- Small gallinaceous
- ♂ : 315-385g **VS** ♀ : 300-365g
- Darker than grey partridge of the plains
- Different alleles and bigger genetic diversity

- Presence only **in the Pyrenees, natural population**
- Subspecies : *Perdix perdix hispaniensis*,
- During 2000-2009 : presence on **306** municipalities, in **6** departments
- Estimation in 2018 : **3 260 – 16 300 partridges**



Figure 2 : Municipal distribution of the grey partridge of the Pyrenees in 2009

Source : OGM – ten-year report 2000-2009

3. The grey partridge of the Pyrenees

a. Characteristic and distribution



Source : OFB

- Small gallinaceous
- ♂ : 315-385g **VS** ♀ : 300-365g
- Darker than grey partridge of the plains
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- Only found from an altitude of 1300m to 2500m
- Hunted species subject to a game management plan, valid until 2026
- Classified as nearly threatened → game practice subject to attacks by opponents

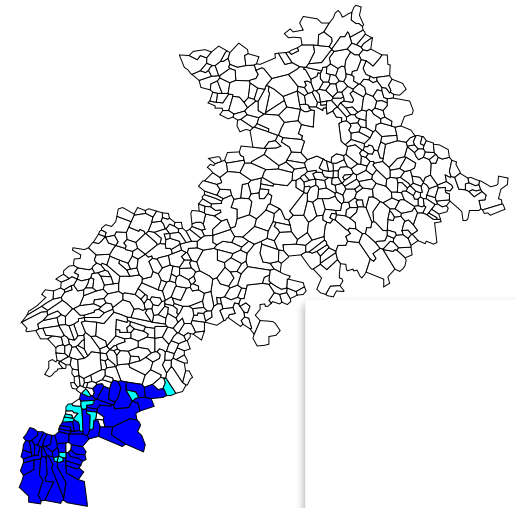


Figure 3 : Municipal distribution of the grey partridge of the Pyrenees in Haute-Garonne

Source : FDC31

3. The grey partridge of the Pyrenees

b. Game management plan



Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs

Legend:

Counts

Hunting

STEP 1

MONITORING OF PARTRIDGES

Carried out using pointing dogs, with protocol established by OGM



STEP 3

DETERMINATION OF ALLOCATIONS AND PMA

Proposed by the FDC, validated by partners

STEP 5

DECLARATION OF EVERY HARVEST ON CHASS'ADAPT

Recorded in real-time (app developed by the FNC)

STEP 2

EVALUATION OF DENSITIES AND ABUNDANCE

Compiled in the regional project Cyn'Obs

STEP 4

DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST LOGBOOK AND BRACELETS

Regarding the departmental quota (established by a prefectural order)

STEP 6

MONITORING + RESPECT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL QUOTA

Done by the FDC, to monitor partridge harvests and quotas

SURVEY OF PARTRIDGE POPULATIONS

3. The grey partridge of the Pyrenees

b. Habitat management



Habitats of the grey partridge :



Heathlands

(Source : FDC31 – July 2023)



Subalpine grasslands

(Source : FDC31 – July 2023)


+ dependent on extensive pastoralism

Preserve, improve and enhance the habitats of the grey partridge of the Pyrenees : development of several **habitat restoration projects**

3. The grey partridge of the Pyrenees

b. Habitat management

Identify the **living** and **breeding** areas of the grey partridge of the Pyrenees



Through a model
developed by the FRC
Occitanie

By tracking birds,
using GPS

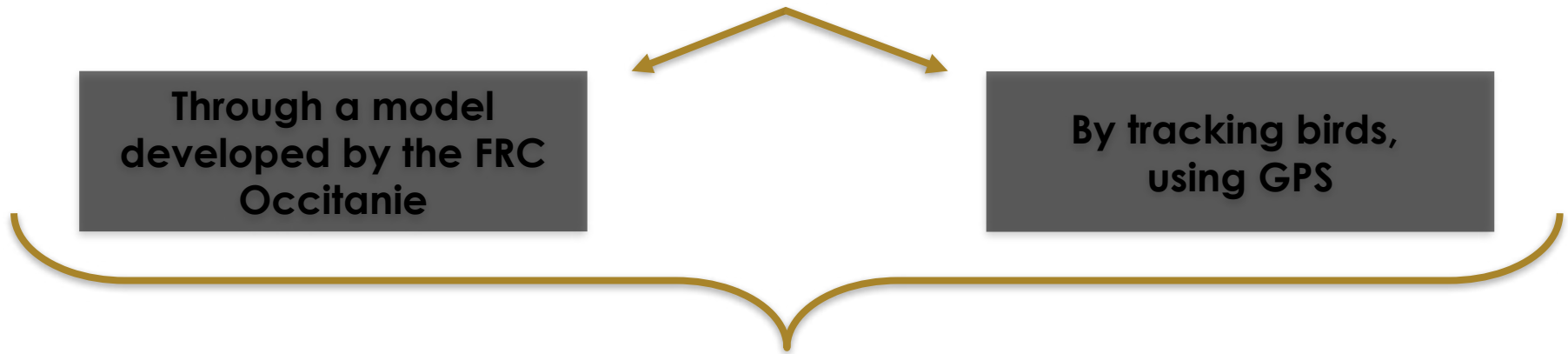


3. The grey partridge of the Pyrenees

b. Habitat management



Identify the **living** and **breeding** areas of the grey partridge of the Pyrenees



- **Determination of living areas by the grey partridge of the Pyrenees:**
Open habitats primarily composed of heather, grasses and scattered woody elements.
- **Determination of breeding areas of the grey partridge of the Pyrenees:**
Herbaceous locations rich in heather or blueberries, with a maximum height of 40 cm.
- **Visualization of movements and ranges** used by the grey partridge of the Pyrenees.

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> Thank you for listening !

