



Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean

(Valencia and Online 7 to 9 June 2022)

UNEP/CMS/MIKT5/Inf.4

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2016-2020 FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



The European Union was recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018 - 2023. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.





Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



1st Meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean

Cairo, Egypt, 12 – 15 July 2016

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2016-2020 FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

INTRODUCTION

1. The priority actions in this Programme of Work (POW) are based on the existing guidelines and action plans in place for the Mediterranean region, especially the Bern Convention's Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds (Tunis Action Plan). They are also based on the proposals received from participants of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT).
2. Illegal killing, taking and trade is a shared issue and the implementation of the POW requires cooperation among governments, international organizations, law enforcement agencies, local communities, the responsible stakeholders and nature conservation NGOs, including hunting associations, to maximize impact.
3. The present POW includes a zero tolerance approach to illegal killing, trapping and trade of migratory birds (IKB), and the adoption of a full and proactive role at national level in fighting against these illegal activities, supported by international exchange of experience and cooperation as appropriate.
4. This POW contributes to the achievement of:

- a. the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ particularly goal 15 related to biodiversity which sets a target to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;
 - b. the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2011-2020, and its Aichi targets, particularly Target 12²;
 - c. the CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023
 - d. the CMS Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways adopted through Resolution 11.14.
 - e. the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (COM (2011) 244) and, in particular, its target 1 “Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives”;
5. The POW is divided into the following main thematic work areas, in line with the Tunis Action Plan:
- Overarching issues
 - Legal and enforcement aspects
 - Conservation and monitoring
 - Education and public awareness
6. The AEWA Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya will be considered as a model in the case of drafting and adoption of Action Plans to implement the POW at national level.
7. The responsible bodies specified are not an exhaustive list, remaining open to include additional ones as necessary.
8. The budget estimates are only indicative and subject to the relevant fundraising to implement these activities. Voluntary contributions are invited and will be necessary to realize the implementation of this POW.
9. The implementation of the POW will require coordination. A budget to cover the services of the MIKT Coordinator from 2018 onwards will be required.
10. Progress on implementation of the POW will be monitored at least every three years, including through a scorecard to track national trends in IKB and enforcement measures to eliminate it.

This POW complements the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU), the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Species Action Plan (AEMLAP) and the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds and the EU Roadmap towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds.

¹ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>

² Aichi Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

ACRONYMS

AEWA	African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
AEMLAP	African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan
APA	African Prosecutors Association
BLI	BirdLife International
CABS	Committee against Bird Slaughter
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
EURING	European Union for Bird Ringing
Europol	European Police Office
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
EGA	Environmental General Authority (Libya)
EJTN	European Judicial Training Network
EUFJE	EU Forum of Judges for the Environment
ENPE	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment
FACE	European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation
IAF	International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime
IKB	Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds
IMPEL	European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
EnviCrimeNet	Network of environmental protection officers within the EU
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LIFE	EU funding instrument for the environment and climate action
MED	All coastal States in the Mediterranean Sea
MIKT	Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
N/A	Not applicable
NABU	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union
NAP	National Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
NCE	Nature Conservation Egypt
SC	Scientific Council
TAP	Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.
TRAFFIC	Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Convention to Combat Climate Change
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WI	Wetlands International

2.0 PROGRAMME OF WORK MATRIX

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
1. Overarching issues	1.1. Encourage the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) to address IKB (where deemed useful)	1.1.1. NAPs for eliminating IKB are elaborated as outcomes of National workshops organized to involve all key stakeholders to agree priority measures to address IKB (Cross reference to Actions 2.1.1 and 2.3.1. of this PoW)	NAPs are developed as a framework for implementation in all countries, based on a comprehensive national picture of the scale of IKB	MED National Authorities, Law Enforcement Authorities, CMS Secretariat, WI, with the support of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and other relevant stakeholders	30,000€ Per workshop	2017-18	High
		1.1.2 NAPs are integrated into NBSAPs and associated implementation mechanisms		N/A			
	1.2. Report the situation in each country regularly	1.2.1. Harmonize reporting format and periodicity for national reporting under CMS COP and Bern Convention TAP and, as appropriate, reporting on the EU Nature Directives	Information on the state of IKB and the response to it is available for each country and adequate progress is made	MED National Authorities, CMS Secretariat	N/A	2017-18	High
	1.3. Address IKB in trouble spot areas to assist developing appropriate local solutions	1.3.1. Prioritise application of measures in this PoW in blackspot areas as identified by BLI.	A measureable reduction in IKB in the worst 20 blackspots as identified by BLI.	MED National authorities, EC, CMS Secretariat, WI, BLI, CABS	50,000€	2016-20	Core
1.4. Measure progress	1.4.1 Create a scoreboard to measure and allow benchmarking of concrete progress on eradication of IKB at national level (Cross reference to Actions 1.2.1 of this PoW)	A mechanism to evaluate IKB ranking of Mediterranean countries is established Data for the elaboration of the scoreboards is compiled on a regular basis	MED CMS Secretariat, EC, National authorities, NGOs	6,000 €	2017 for adoption -20	High	

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
2. Legal and enforcement issues	<p>2.1. Ensure that national legislation complies with international and EU law where applicable and is effective in addressing national challenges related to eradication of IKB</p> <p>(In TAP this is reflected as Expected Result 1)</p>	<p>2.1.1. Review national legislation in conjunction with stakeholders to identify gaps and deficiencies in existing legislation (including with reference to relevant legislation in other countries) and prepare proposed amendments or new legislation that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is compliant with international and EU obligations (where applicable) ▪ adequately addresses challenges related to eradication of IKB specific to each country (including the provision of key offences, appropriate penalties and other court orders that provide both a sufficient punishment for the offender and a deterrent to others - in particular to any organized illegal trading or criminal structures) ▪ addresses any administrative reforms or rearrangements which require legislative changes, to ensure adequate and sustained enforcement of the key offence provisions. <p>(Cross reference to Actions 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 of this PoW)</p>	<p>Review of legal framework conducted for each country (and potentially also at international level for trade)³</p> <p>Adaptation or enactment of legislation proposed by the review.</p>	<p>MED</p> <p>National Authorities, EC, legislative bodies and law enforcement authorities, Egypt and Libya IKB Action Plan (Result 2.2. EEAA, EGA); Barcelona Convention; Arab League; Tunis Action Plan; Bern Convention; Ramsar. BLI (summaries on national legislation)</p>	N/A	2016-20	Core

³ The EU Wildlife Trafficking Action Plan foresees under its action 9 (Develop strategies to improve compliance with EU wildlife legislation at national level) that EC assesses shortcomings in implementing EU wildlife trade regulations in each MS.

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
	2.2 Provide the judiciary sector with clear sentencing guidelines (in TAP this is reflected as Expected Results 3 & 4)	2.2.1. Encourage the adoption in each country of gravity factors and sentencing guidelines along the lines of those developed under the TAP or, alternatively, of the inclusion of appropriate aggravating and other sentencing factors within new or amending legislation.	Gravity factors and sentencing guidelines are promoted in the Mediterranean to be integrated in the legal framework and influence effective prosecution and sentencing in wildlife crimes as serious offences	EUROPE National authorities (with support from EUFJE, ENPE), CMS Secretariat	N/A	2017	Core
		2.2.2. Dissemination of existing sentencing guidelines and gravity factors developed under the TAP to non-European Mediterranean countries (Reference to Recommendation No. 177 (2015) Council of Europe)	Bern Convention gravity factors and sentencing guidelines are disseminated to non-European Mediterranean countries to encourage a consistent, transparent and harmonized framework of sanctions of wildlife offences in the Mediterranean	NON-EUROPE National authorities, EUFJE, ENPE, CMS Secretariat	N/A	2016	Core
	2.3. Ensure that legislation is properly implemented and enforced	2.3.1 Review of national implementation and enforcement framework to identify gaps (including opportunities for self-regulation by organized hunting groups) and deficiencies and propose amendments to ensure that it adequately addresses challenges related to eradication of IKB specific to each country	Review of implementation and enforcement framework conducted for each country Adaptation of framework proposed and where possible enacted Improvement of detection mechanisms	MED National authorities with support of EC, relevant intergovernmental organizations and conventions.	N/A	2020	Core
		2.3.2 Encourage the review and development of national manuals for conducting more effective inspections and ambushes to increase detection and convictions, providing, as appropriate, at international level, generic template with general applicable	Review conducted, including of existing national or international materials. Manual with guidance/formats developed when needed	MED National authorities with support of INTERPOL, IMPEL	12,000 € per manual	2017	Core

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
		sections that can be adapted to the national situation (Cross reference with Action 2.5.2. of this PoW).					
		2.3.3. Develop cooperation between national enforcement institutions	Institutional coordination and cooperation is improved at national level	MED National authorities	N/A	2017-18	Core
	2.4. Strengthen regional cooperation across law enforcement chains	2.4.1 Encourage and facilitate networking of environmental enforcement actors (judiciary and law enforcement officials) at pan-Mediterranean level	Strengthened cooperation between Mediterranean countries to share relevant expertise and intelligence to better tackle IKB (Cross reference to Objective 4.3 of this PoW)	MED Existing networks/organizations (UNODC, APA, EnviCrimeNet, EUFJE, ENPE, IMPEL, INTERPOL, Europol, TRAFFIC), CMS Secretariat	50,000 €	2017	High
		2.4.2. Facilitate development of pan-Mediterranean portal/database or other tools for the exchange of enforcement-related information (species and numbers affected, methods used, hotspot locations, penalties and sanctions) at pan-Mediterranean level, including through engagement with and use of existing communication channels for environmental enforcement professionals.	Strengthened cooperation between Mediterranean countries to share relevant expertise and intelligence to better tackle IKB (Cross reference to Objective 3.3 of this PoW)	MED National authorities (with support of international networks)	100,000	2016-19	Core

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
	2.5 Capacity building along enforcement chain and judiciary	2.5.1. Encourage the establishment of specialized environmental units, including field investigators/officers, prosecutors and interagency task forces and the compilation of a panel of relevant laboratory and other experts who may be needed to provide the expert evidence necessary for the proof of offences at national level	Specialized law enforcement units are established and a panel of experts is compiled	MED National authorities (with support of international networks)	N/A	2016-20	Core
2.5.2 Organize regional and national training seminars on IKB on environmental crime for police officers, inspectors, rangers, prosecutors, judges. (Cross reference to Action 2.3.2. and 3.1.3. of this PoW and reference to Action 17 EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking)		National training programmes are implemented to better detect/ monitor/collect evidence of IKB etc. Legal officers and judiciary are better trained to address IKB in the Mediterranean	MED / National authorities, EC, EUFJE, EJTN, UNEP, ENPE, IMPEL, Europol, INTERPOL, CMS Secretariat	50,000 € per national seminar 100,000 € per regional seminar	2016-20	Core	
2.5.3 Use of existing international networks, platforms and information exchange mechanisms to maximize cooperation in law enforcement amongst MIKT member states.		MIKT is engaged and integrated with existing networks/initiatives on the fight against IKB (i.e. organize targeted training seminars, etc)	National Authorities, EC, CMS Secretariat, INTERPOL, Europol, TRAFFIC, Customs network, Barcelona Convention, NGOs	N/A	2016-20	Core	

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
		2.5.4 Organize a workshop to tackle IKB of raptors in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East region	A strategy for combatting the illegal smuggling of falcons in the region is adopted	MIDDLE EAST Raptors MoU, IAF	30,000 €	2016-17	High
3. Conservation and monitoring	3.1. Improve monitoring of IKB activities on the ground	3.1.1. Development of a monitoring protocol on the status and trends of IKB in the Mediterranean (Cross reference to Action 3.1.2. of this PoW)	Trends of IKB in the Mediterranean are properly monitored in a systematic and repeatable way using robust methodologies with results able to be synthesized at regional level, as an input to scoreboard on progress for eradication of IKB in the Mediterranean (Cross reference to with activity 1.4.1 of this PoW)	MED National authorities with support from CMS, CABS & BLI when needed, Tour du Valat ⁴	50,000 €	2018	Core
		3.1.2. Disseminate example protocols and methodologies to capture data in a more standardised and comprehensive way Develop guidelines on monitoring IKB for use by national authorities based on existing guidelines, including the BLI monitoring guidelines, but with additional case studies, protocols and methods. (Cross reference to Action 3.1.1. of this PoW)	Increased collection of data on IKB and enforcement measures. Surveillance is increased. Legislation on bird protection is respected, enforced and illegal activities are discouraged.	MED EC, BLI, CMS Secretariat, Bern Convention with the support of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation	20,000 €	2016-20	Core

⁴ International Waterbirds Census

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
		<p>3.1.3. Increase the number of wardens and rural police that patrol areas where IKB takes place (consider a proportional density to number of offenders) and provide adequate training</p> <p>(Cross reference to Action 2.5.2 of this Pow)</p>		<p>MED</p> <p>National Authorities</p>	N/A	2016-17	Core
	3.2. Undertake research on the scale, drivers and modus operandi and impacts of IKB and the species affected	<p>3.2.1. Support identification of enforcement priorities at national level taking into account all available data, through a participative approach involving governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.</p>	<p>Data is properly collated in conjunction with relevant stakeholders to better focus on tackling IKB to the highest priority areas in the Mediterranean region</p>	<p>MED</p> <p>Relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders</p>	15,000 €	2016-17	High
		<p>3.2.2. Conduct additional research on IKB in the region, including scale, drivers, modus operandi, national and international legal and illegal trade in wild birds in the Mediterranean region</p> <p>(Cross reference to Action 9 EU Action Plan on Wildlife Trafficking)</p>	<p>Understanding is improved on how best to tackle IKB, including through prevention by means other than the enforcement deterrent.</p> <p>Data on illegal trade is collected in the Mediterranean to measure the scale of this wildlife crime.</p>	<p>Range countries</p> <p>National authorities, EC and CMS in cooperation with range studies & relevant organizations [universities, independent researchers & institutions], RESSOURCE</p>	100,000 €	2016-18	Core

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
	3.3. A Knowledge Management base is in place to better understand the status and trends of IKB in the Mediterranean and as a basis for research and conservation	3.3.1. Review existing tools and portals and, if necessary, establish a Knowledge Management Portal	Knowledge base increased and trends of IKB in the Mediterranean are properly monitored in a systematic repeatable way using robust methodologies with results able to be synthesized at regional level.	MED National authorities, EC, CMS, NGOs	75,000 €	2018	Core
	3.4. Alternative sources of income are identified for communities that depend on illegal killing and trapping of birds for subsistence	3.4.1. Wherever relevant, undertake national socio-economic studies on IKB to better understand the drivers of bird crime (Cross reference to Action 3.4.2. of this PoW)	Reliable data on the social, economic and cultural dimensions of IKB is available to better tackle IKB at national and regional level and enable conservation efforts	MED National authorities, UNODC, NGOs, universities, independent researchers and institutions	20,000 € per study	2016-19	High
		3.4.2. Promote alternative livelihoods projects/programmes (Cross reference to Action 3.4.1. & 4.2.1. of this PoW)	Local communities in relevant countries are engaged in livelihood activities that do not negatively impact on wildlife	Non-EUROPE National authorities, UNODC, NGOs,	200,000 €	2016-20	High

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
4. Education and public awareness⁵	4.1. Improve hunter education processes and raise awareness at national level by working together with hunting organizations and the wider hunting community	<p>4.1.1. Increase the level of regulatory awareness amongst the hunting community, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encouraging hunting organizations to adopt codes of conduct including, where relevant, those based on traditional hunting principles, and by systematically condemning IKB; ▪ Encouraging hunting organizations to reject membership to hunters who have been convicted of IKB; ▪ Dissemination of principles of the Bern Convention Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity and other relevant guidance; ▪ Encouraging states and hunting associations to organize national seminars to inform and train hunters on species identification, species protected by law, forbidden methods, etc. ▪ Encouraging national administrations to improve regulatory systems concerning hunting education (e.g. licensing, examinations, hunter training, etc) 	<p>Achieve improved levels of understanding and compliance with the law and sustainable hunting</p> <p>Mobilize full support of hunting organizations / hunters in the fight against IKB</p>	<p>MED</p> <p>National authorities, FACE, IAF with the support of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation</p>	N/A	2020 staggered milestones	Core

⁵ Previous work by LIFE projects in Mediterranean EU MS on public awareness activities:

http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/20141010_Overview_LIFEProjects_BirdLifePartners_illegalkilling-trapping-trade-birds-EU.pdf

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
		Encouraging hunters to continue to participate in surveillance effort and to assist the authorities in detecting IKB					
	4.2. Raise awareness within local communities on the environmental, social and economic impacts of IKB	4.2.1. Encourage close engagement with members of local communities, key community actors and leaders, local educators and younger generations to mobilize their support in the fight against IKB (Cross reference to Action 3.4.2., 4.4.1. and 4.2.2. of this PoW)	Measureable increase, at least in blackspot areas, in awareness of the issue of IKB, why it should be eradicated, and increased support for its eradication	MED National authorities, INTERPOL, NGOs,	N/A	2016-20	Core
		4.2.2. Promote and facilitate the use of available hotlines and the creation of national hotlines to report IKB (Cross reference to Action 4.2.1. of this PoW)	Increased reporting of IKB by the community	MED National authorities, NGOs	N/A	2016-20	Core
	4.3. Public awareness	4.3.1. Design, produce and disseminate a multi-media toolkit on eradication of IKB including a documentary.	Securing commitment and support from the general public towards eradication of IKB.	MED National authorities, EC, CMS Secretariat, BLI & other NGOs	75,000€	2020	Core
		4.3.2 Ensure coordination with communication efforts of other international conventions and platforms	Coordination of communication effort with relevant stakeholders in the Med region			N/A	2016-20

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Target / Indicator	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget	Timeline (2016-20)	Priority (Core / High)
	4.4. To encourage countries to develop national communication strategies addressing national stakeholders to implement of national action plans.	<p>4.4.1 Development of communication strategies at national level.</p> <p>(Cross reference to Action 4.2.1. of this PoW)</p>	Communication strategies are in place at national level	<p>MED</p> <p>National authorities, CMS Secretariat</p>	N/A	2020	High