



Online Workshop on Monitoring Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade (IKB) of Migratory Birds

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Assessing trends of IKB numbers through proxies: rescue centers and other official data



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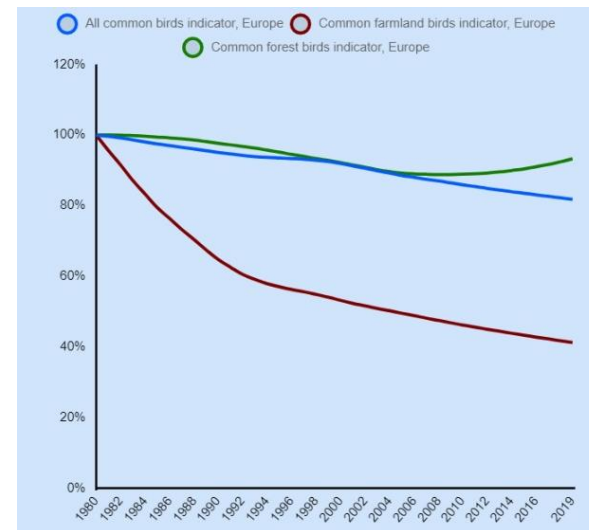
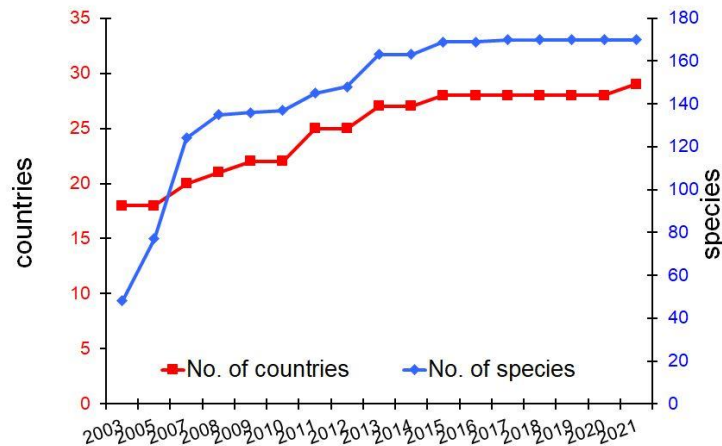


SETTING THE SCENE

THERE IS AN INHERENT DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING POPULATION DATA AND STATISTICS ON WILDLIFE

- Observed vs existing (plenty scientific literature)
- Large-scale monitoring programs are highly positive (PECBMS) but also criticized in relation to methodologies for “key” species

Increasing number of both countries providing data and species covered by the PECBMS



TOTAL NUMBERS/GENERAL ESTIMATES IS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT

- Need to perform repeats of estimates with a given periodicity
- A greater likelihood of including biases

SETTING THE SCENE

AS AN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, IT IS EXTREMELY COMPLEX TO OBTAIN RELIABLE AND ROBUST DATA ON IKB

DIFFERENT FACTORS MODULATE ACCURACY OF DATA:

- **DIFFERENT IKB ACTIVITIES WITH DIFFERENT METHODS AND DETECTABILITY:**
 - Shooting
 - Illegal trapping (nets, limesticks, birdcalls, snares, clamps...)
 - Poisoning
- **MONITORING EFFORT IN THE FIELD AND CASE REGISTRATION (STATISTICS)**
- **EXTENT OF CONFLICT AREAS AND BIRD RICHNESS/ABUNDANCES**



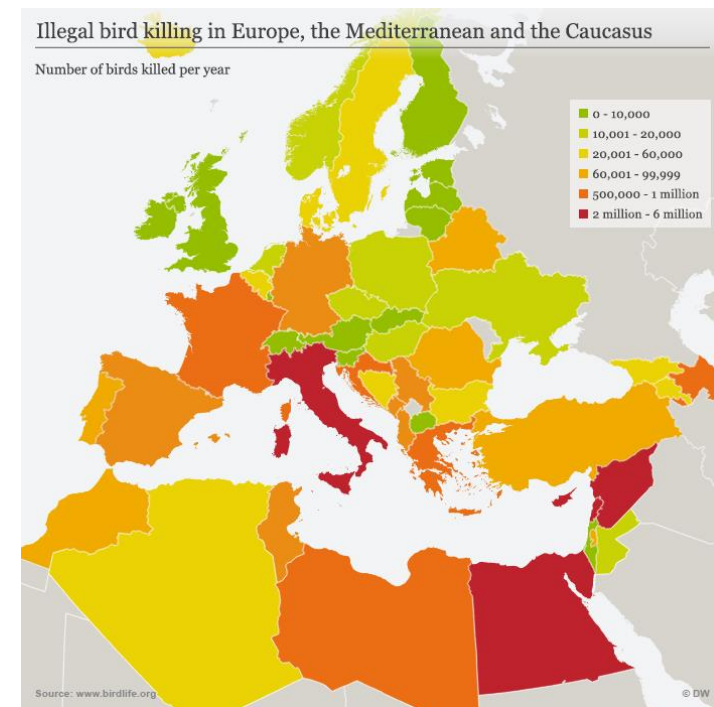
ROME STRATEGIC PLAN AND PAPER ON BASELINE AND METHODOLOGY

**Main GOAL of RSP 2020-2030: reduction of IKB at least 50%
(overarching vision is to eradicate IKB)**

**RSP: Comprise ACTIONS TO REDUCE IKB + SELF-ASSESSMENT (progress in each
country/member)**

**PRIORITY: know the trend of IKB impact closely
linked to implementation of RSP/other rules**

**Global numbers offer initially a global picture
but not necessarily related to the
effectiveness and efforts made to implement
RSP**



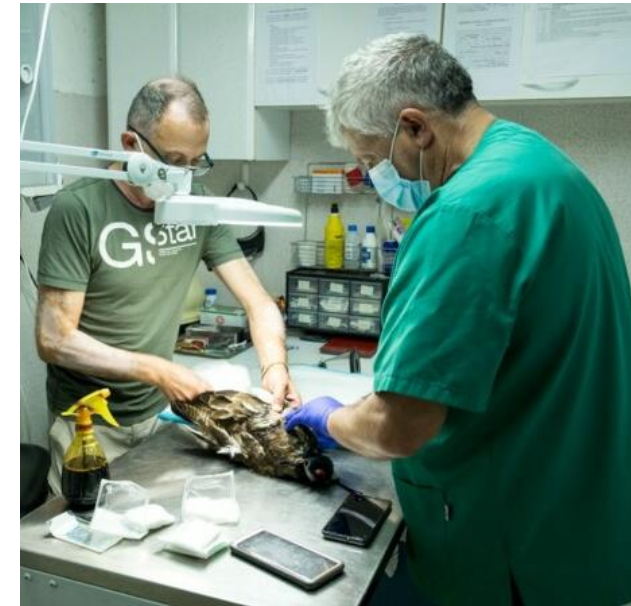
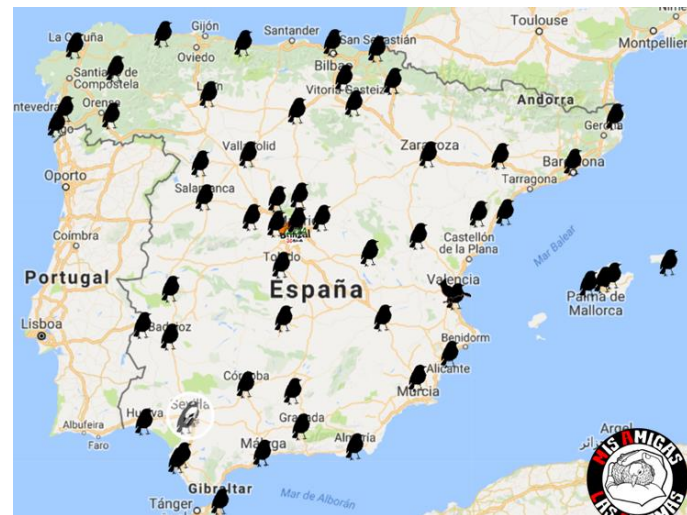
OPTIONS FOR METHODOLOGY

- a) Estimate the full scale and magnitude of IKB. Several methods:
- Review available data and decide on a methodology
 - Regular ad-hoc survey of IKB activities/impact across an appropriate scale
 - BirdLife International estimates
- b) Indicators of scale to allow tracking and progress (without extrapolating to national scale). Several methods:
- Review available data and decide on a methodology
 - Establish a regular survey across an appropriate scale

THE SPANISH EXPERIENCE

Selection of Option B) Indicators/proxies selected due to:

- Difficulty in national estimates of all IKB sources and situations (vaste country, different authorities, lack of specific resources, etc)
- Take advantage of ongoing monitoring programs
- Prioritize knowing trends and effectiveness of measures



THE SPANISH EXPERIENCE

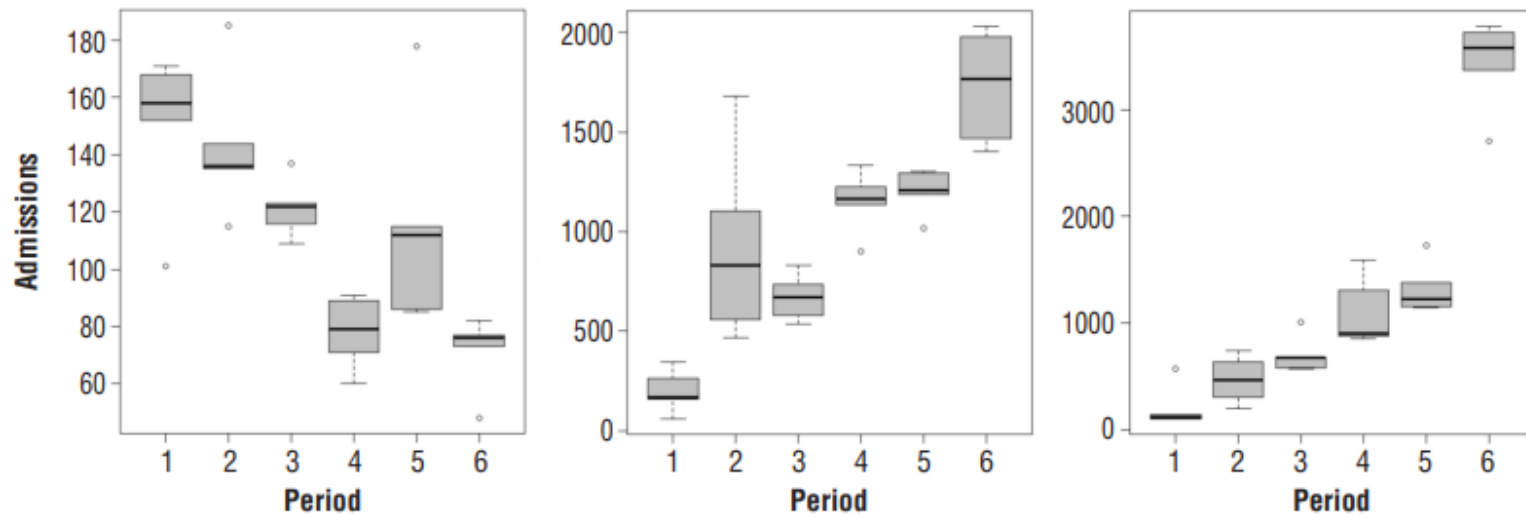


FIG. 1.—Box-plots of the number of admissions for each selected category, by five-year periods (1: 1991-1995; 2: 1996-2000; 3: 2001-2005; 4: 2006-2010; 5: 2011-2015; 6: 2016-2020), Left: Deliberate, Centre: Accidental, Right: Natural.

way to test this change is to examine the causes of admission of wildlife to recovery centres. In this study we analyse c. 70.000 admissions of birds to the three rehabilitation centres of the regional government of Valencia (Eastern Spain) during 30 years (1991-2020). Using multiple hypotheses testing, specified by means of Poisson regressions and selected via AIC, we found that our more parsimonious models included only the interaction between causes of admission, habitat and source of origin with time (in five-year periods). Specifically, admissions resulting from non-natural causes decreased over time and those due to accidents with infrastructure or due to non human-related causes showed an increase. Birds of prey were more commonly admitted due to deliberate persecution than the other bird groups studied (6.36% v. 1.23%), but the trend over time of raptor admissions due to illegal shooting was negative and strong, declining from 21.7% in 1991-1995 to 3.0% in 2016-2020. Collisions against infrastructures were the main cause of accidental admissions (59.5%), followed by electrocutions (14.8%) and road kills (9.6%). Admissions due to natural causes were mainly of orphaned young birds or undernourished individuals (85%). The number of orphaned bird admissions increased exponentially during the study period. Regarding habitat of origin, bird admissions from urban and rural areas

Long-Term Shifts in Admissions of Birds to Wildlife Recovery Centres Reflect Changes in Societal Attitudes towards Wildlife in Spain

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Methodology:

- **NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS TO RESCUE CENTRES RELATED TO IKB ACTIVITIES**
- **In a given year (2019) for 2020 Scoreboard**
- **Currently, approx. 40 rescue centers operating in Spain: managed by authorities or private with collaboration agreements**
- **But extrapolating to national situation:**
 - **Information provided by 17 comunidades autónomas (managers of rescue centers)**
 - **But not all communicate data: 5 in 2018 (30%) and 9 in 2020 (53%)**
 - **Need to ensure involvement of all regions to increase accuracy**
- **Unknown situation of rescue centers in other countries (sample, collection of data and causes of admissions, etc)**

THE SPANISH EXPERIENCE

Other options of methodology assessed:

- Poisoning numbers
- Good series (1992-2017) thanks to NGOs collecting official data
- A mean of 850 birds/year poisoned, but decreasing in recent years
- Proportion of poison cases in relation to admissions is around 12-18%
- But data not available yearly for poison birds
- Administrative/judicial cases
- This information is included in Scoreboard Q4, not for national numbers
- Overlap with data of rescue centers at least partially



SCOREBOARD FULFILLED IN 2020

Question 1 of the Scoreboard

A. National Monitoring of IKB – Data Management of Scope and Scale of IKB.

1. Status and Scale of IKB

The extent to which data and information on illegal activities at national level are available.

Question: What is the quality of national data about IKB?

0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 X	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Data and information on number of totals of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB are not available.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimate of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based on expert opinion¹ and anecdotal information.	X National estimate of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based partially on quantitative data and records and partially on estimates and extrapolation.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimates of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based largely on quantitative data and records.

Comments: Brief written justification of the choice (recommended)

SCOREBOARD FULFILLED IN 2020

Question 2 (QA2): *How many birds and in which season are estimated to be illegally killed, trapped or traded every year in your country including relevant overseas territories? What is the trend?*

2019	March to May	June to August	September to November	December to February	Total
<i>España – National Baseline (extrapolation for the entire Spanish regions)</i>	1902	3077	2455	1088	8522
<i>Spanish regions</i>					
Aragón	50	19	28	36	133
Islas Canarias	3	1	2	0	6
Castilla-La Mancha	24	39	30	35	128
Cataluña	847	1449	1124	414	3834
Galicia	20	25	13	7	65
Comunidad de Madrid	6	14	6	10	36
Región de Murcia	27	28	27	14	96
La Rioja	0	7	4	7	18
Comunidad Valenciana	30	47	66	53	196

Trend: *Unknown. In the IKB report for 2018, 1,580-4,625 birds died from this type of illicit activity, although the methodology and type of data obtained are not comparable with complete certainty with the data of 2020 report.*

SCOREBOARD FULFILLED IN 2020

Question 4 (QA4): *How many IKB cases have been prosecuted in the reporting period in your country?*

In 2019, there were 953 legal proceedings initiated, for all crimes related to wild flora and fauna (not just birds), according to data from the Prosecutor's Office on the Environment.

In this period, there were 290 convictions and 54 acquittals, in relation to crimes related to wild flora and fauna (not just birds), according to data from the Prosecutor's Office on the Environment.

Category of IKB offence	Number of persons prosecuted in the assessment period *	Number of bird specimens involved in the offence (specimens seized)*	Number of persons prosecuted in the assessment period **	Number of administrative infringements processed**	Number of penal offences processed**
Illegal killing of protected birds (shooting, poisoning, other methods of killing)	9	271	208	4422	177
Illegal taking of protected birds (trapping using any means)	69	1180			
Illegal possession of live / dead protected birds	51	1422			
Illegal importation or transport of live / dead protected birds	1	1214			
Illegal taxidermy of protected birds		1			
Illegal trade in protected birds (including trafficking for sale, marketing for sale of any live or dead protected birds or their parts)	1	1214	108		64
Serving / offering of protected species in restaurants					
Use of prohibited methods of hunting (bird callers, snares, nets, lights, gas, etc)	56	771			
Hunting outside open season or during unpermitted hours	10	9			
Hunting without a license, breach of license conditions (e.g. exceedance in hunting quotas, failure to report birds caught, etc)	15	15	103	3011	91
Hunting in prohibited areas (game reserves)	2	1			
Removal of eggs	1	13			
Totals	215	6111	419	7433	332

*data provided by 7 (out of 17) comunidades autónomas

**Data provided by SEPRONA of the Civil Guard (they are grouped into illegal hunting activities -yellow-, illegal trafficking -green- and other crimes involving fauna and flora -orange-, in the case of actions not only on birds but on all taxonomic groups).

Thank you!!



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DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO