

TRAINING PACKAGE – PART A – FIRST SESSION ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADING OF MIGRATORY WILD BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION



PRODUCED BY THE LIFE-ENPE WILDLIFE CRIME WORKING GROUP (WG1)

BASED UPON THE SEGOVIA WORKSHOP FOR PROSECUTORS FROM MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES IN MAY 2018. THE WORKSHOP INVOLVED THE CLOSE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE CMS (BONN) CONVENTION



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.



FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
FORUMULIȘI JUCIȘI POUȘI ȘI ENVIRONMENT



With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community

LIFE-ENPE - IKB IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION - TRAINING PACKAGE

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LIFE-ENPE “IKB IN THE MED REGION” TRAINING PACKAGE

INTRODUCTORY

THE TRAINING PACKAGE CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS, EACH DIVIDED INTO TWO SESSIONS:

PART A – ENPE, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, METHODS AND MOTIVES OF IKB, INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT & OBLIGATIONS, AND INTELLIGENCE (MUCH OF THIS PART HAS BEEN MADE PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE ON THE ENPE AND CMS WEBSITES);

PART B - CASE STUDIES FROM THE REGION AND TOPICS OF RELEVANCE TO PROSECUTORS (THIS PART IS NOT TO BE PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE).



IKB IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

PART A – SESSION 1

WHAT IS ENPE?



European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment



Our aim is: “to improve compliance with EU environmental law by addressing uneven and incomplete implementation across Member States through improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of prosecutors and judges in combating environmental crime”.

ENPE - OUR MISSION

- Promote the prosecution of environmental crime by supporting the operative work of environmental prosecutors
- Strengthening trans-national ties
- Exchanging information and experience
- Delivering training
- Providing guidance on best practice
- Data collection and analysis concerning environmental law and its criminal enforcement





The LIFE-ENPE Project determined a 5 year work-plan with four priority areas of transnational environmental crime



WORK GROUP 1 -Wildlife Crime



Waste crime



Air pollution



Prosecution and sanctioning practice



ENPE receives funding from the European Union's LIFE financial instrument, LIFE/GIE/UK/000043



WHY IS WILDLIFE CRIME A PRIORITY?

IN RECENT YEARS
WILDLIFE CRIME HAS
MOVED UP THE
INTERNATIONAL AGENDA
– FOR EXAMPLE SEE UN
REPORT OF MAY 2016
WHICH ASSESSED
WILDLIFE CRIME AS THE
4TH MOST PROFITABLE
GLOBAL CRIME



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

World Wildlife Crime Report

Trafficking in protected species



UNODC
RESEARCH

2016



LIFE-ENPE WG1 - DATABASE

- At the outset of the LIFE-ENPE project a Capitalisation and Gap-filling Report was commissioned, into the recording of environmental crime across Europe.
- It found that recording of environmental crime was very inconsistent.
- It found that wildlife crime was particularly less recorded than other environmental crimes.
- LIFE-ENPE WG1 has set up a prosecutor's database of significant wildlife crime judgements.





LIFE-ENPE WG1 – WILDLIFE CRIME



SOME REGIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE PARTICULAR WILDLIFE CRIME PROBLEMS. THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION IS ONE SUCH REGION. THAT PROBLEM IS THE ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADING OF MIGRATING WILD BIRDS.



IKB IN THE MED REGION - EMERGENCE OF CONCERN

- Concern over the illegal killing of migratory birds on the Africa-Eurasian Flyway was increasingly shown from the 1990s. It led to, under the aegis of CMS, an agreement to protect migratory water birds and their habitat (the AEWA 1999), the Raptors MoU of 2008 and the African-Eurasian migratory landbirds action plan (AEMLAP 2014).
- 2013 – The Bern Convention adopts the Tunis Action Plan for the eradication of illegal killing, taking and trading of wild birds (IKB); effective across the EU - and in Tunisia and Morocco.
- 2014 - CMS (Bonn) Convention initiated the Intergovernmental Task Force on IKB in the Mediterranean (MIKT), 1st meeting Cairo 2016.



IKB IN THE MED REGION - EU CONCERN

RELEVANT OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OF CONCERN:

2009 - From the preamble Birds Directive – 2009/147/EC

- *“A large number of species of wild birds naturally occurring in the European territory of the Member States are declining in number, very rapidly in some cases.”*
- *“(4) The species of wild birds naturally occurring in....Member States are mainly migratory species. Such species constitute a common heritage and effective bird protection is typically a trans-frontier environment problem entailing common responsibilities.”*

1979 - From the preamble to the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife & Natural Habitats:

- *“Recognising that wild flora and fauna constitute a natural heritage of aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational, economic and intrinsic value;”*
- *“Numerous species...are being seriously depleted and that some of them are threatened with extinction;”*
- *“... international co-operation should be established;”*



IKB IN THE MED - INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

RELEVANT STATEMENTS (CONT):

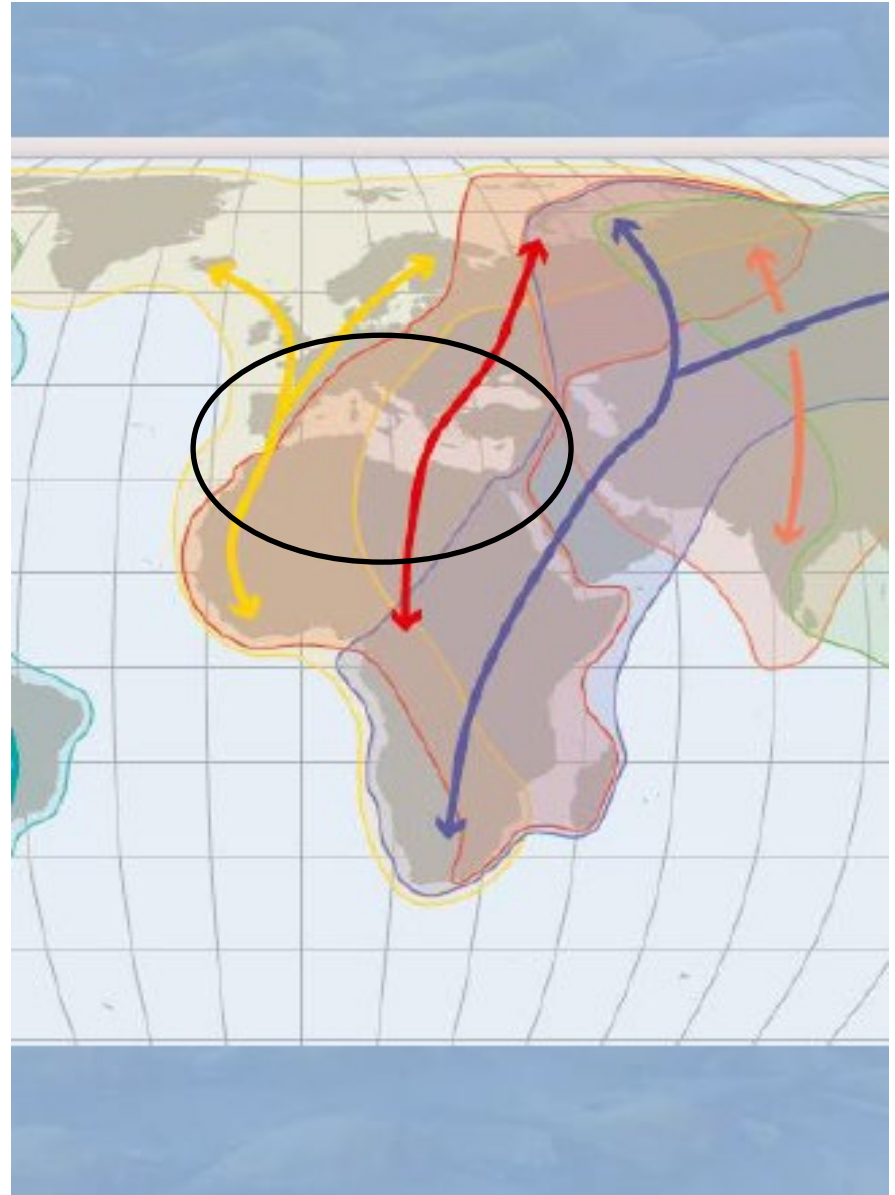
- [11th Meeting of the Parties to the CMS](#) (Bonn) Convention for the protection of migratory species, held in Quito, Ecuador 2014 passed **a Resolution that recognized illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB) as a global problem, and it focussed “on the Mediterranean as a region where this activity is especially acute”**
- **The Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) was set up as a result of the Quito resolution.** At the first meeting of the MIKT, in Cairo 2016, the Task Force Co-ordinator said: **“The illegal killing of birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean has reached alarming levels recently”**



IKB IN THE MED REGION

THE AFRICAN- EURASIAN FLYWAY

THE MED REGION
CIRCLED IN **BLACK** –
IT IS TWO THIRDS OF
THE WIDTH OF THE
FLYWAY



IKB IN THE MED REGION

AUGUST 2015 – BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHED “THE KILLING”, A REPORT OF THEIR RESEARCH INTO THE EXTENT OF IKB IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

IKB SHOWN AS PROBABLY OF THE ORDER OF 25 MILLION BIRDS PER ANNUM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION



THE KILLING

Unlawfully shot, trapped or glued.
Every year around 25 million birds are slaughtered
in the Mediterranean. Read our first review
of illegal killing of birds in the region



IKB IN THE MED REGION - LIFE-ENPE WG1 BECOMES INVOLVED

- In 2016 ENPE were invited by CMS to the 1st meeting of MIKT in Cairo in July of that year, with Observer status. (A member of the Wildlife Crime Working Group attended).
- In 2017 ENPE were invited by CMS to a joint meeting of MIKT and the Bern Convention's Network on IKB held in Malta. Again a representative from LIFE-ENPE WG1 attended. Essentially this meeting was to monitor progress on the issue and to discuss a "Scoreboard" on the position of each country, with regard to IKB and steps taken to eradicate IKB (including prosecution activity).
- The matter had clearly become a priority issue within the EU. In 2017 ENPE decided to focus on this subject and to organise and conduct a workshop on IKB for prosecutors from Mediterranean countries. As we are EU based and EC funded, we immediately requested the assistance of our friends at CMS to involve Middle Eastern and North African colleagues. The workshop took place in Segovia, Spain in May 2018.





IKB IN THE MED REGION - THE SEGOVIA WORKSHOP

- As the problem involves North Africa and The Middle East, and not just the EU, ENPE co-ordinated with CMS, who facilitated attendance from North African and Middle Eastern Mediterranean countries.
- Through the good offices of ENPE's Spanish representative, the Chief Prosecutor for Environment and Planning matters, Antonio Vercher Noguera, we obtained the use of Spain's National Environmental Training Facility near Segovia.
- A 3 day workshop was conducted from 9-11 May, 2018. The 37 delegates, included prosecutors from 3 North African*, 2 Middle Eastern** and 7 European Mediterranean countries***.



* Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt, ** Israel and Lebanon, *** Spain, Italy, Malta, Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Greece, Cyprus



IKB IN THE MED REGION - SEGOVIA PROGRAMME

The programme was arranged into **2 parts**:

- the **first: “scene setting”**, an open session, which included presentations from NGOs;
- the **second session: “case studies/discussion groups”**, a closed session for prosecutors & enforcement officers only. Why closed? It was to encourage questions and discussion by prosecutors, including discussion of current cases, without the concern that publicity might jeopardise a prosecution.



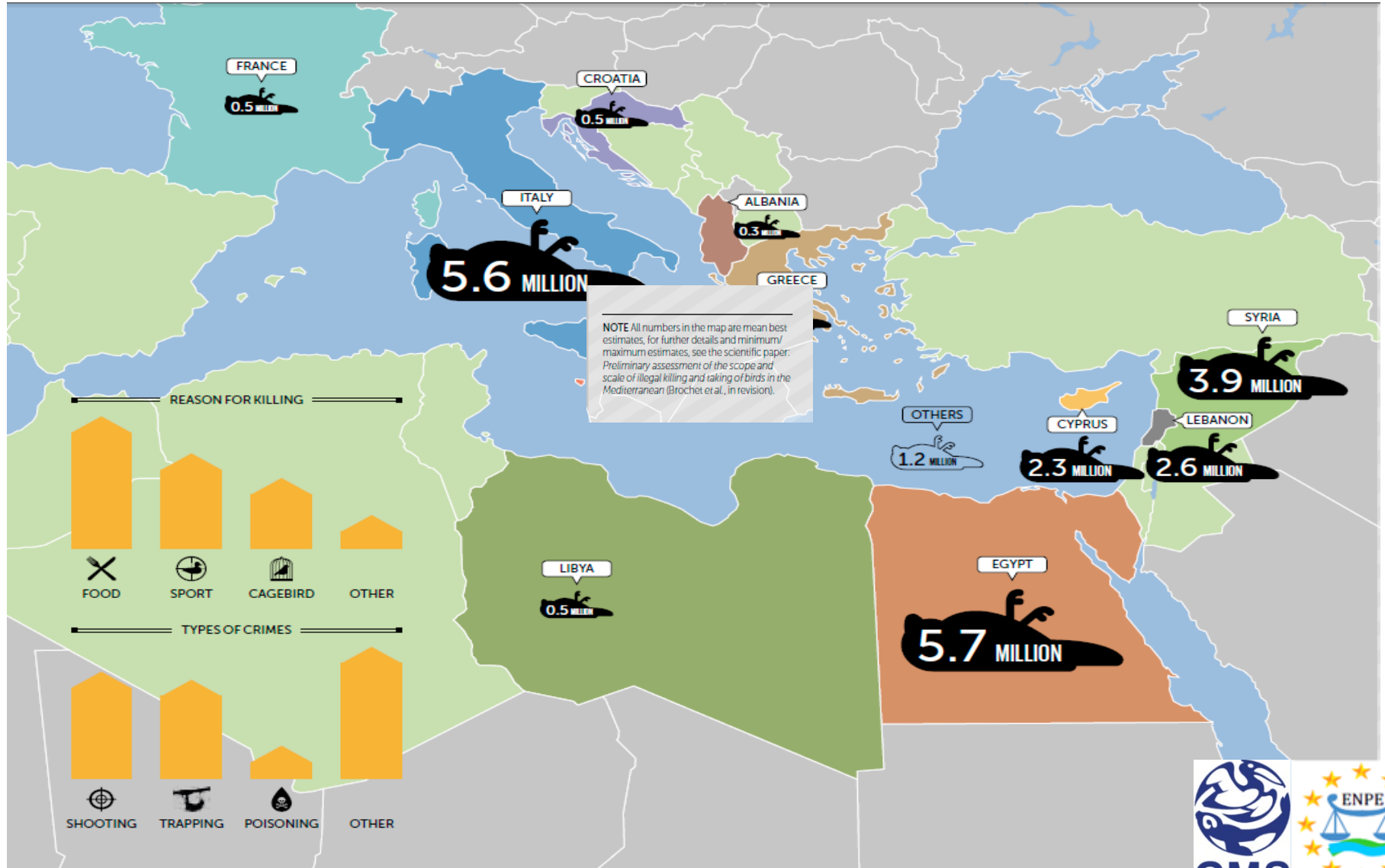
IKB IN THE MED REGION

**WHAT DOES THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
SHOW?**



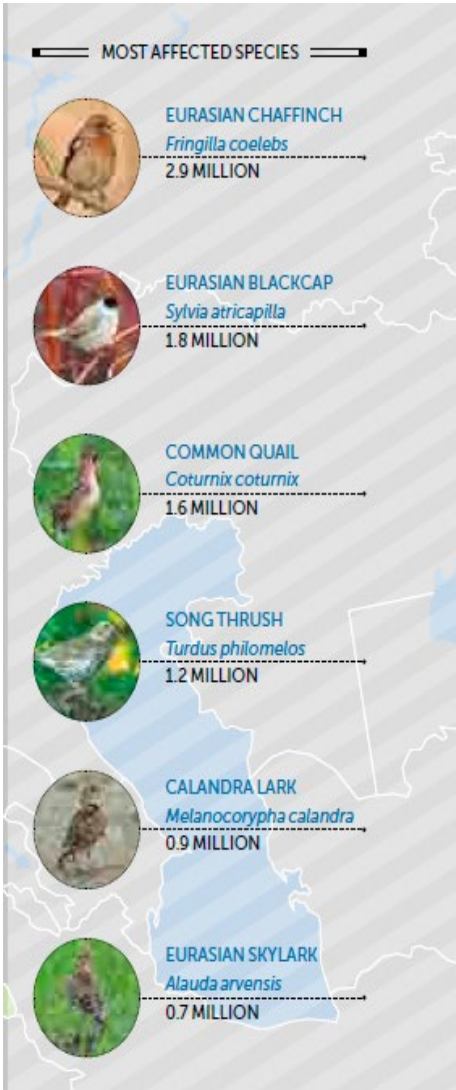
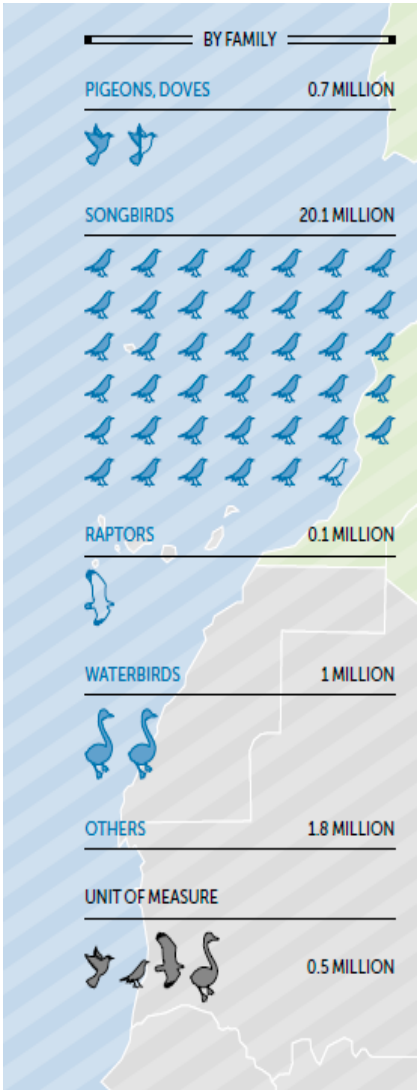
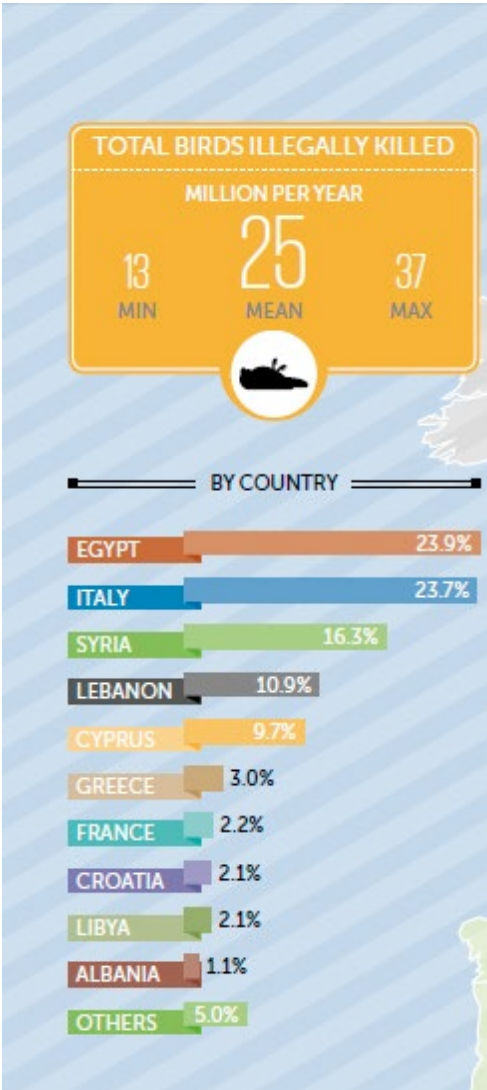
IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH: “THE KILLING – 1.0”

WE ALREADY HAD ACCESS TO THIS 2015 RESEARCH BEFORE SEGOVIA



IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH: “THE KILLING – 1.0”

RELEVANT INFORMATION WHICH SURROUNDED THE MAP ON THE LAST SLIDE



STATISTICAL CAVEAT

NOTE All numbers in the map are mean best estimates, for further details and minimum/ maximum estimates, see the scientific paper: *Preliminary assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds in the Mediterranean* (Brochet et al., in revision).



IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [a]

PRESENTATION TO THE SEGOVIA WORKSHOP BY DR VICKY JONES OF BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

SHE REFERRED TO THE EARLIER RESEARCH, UPDATED IT, AND COMMENTED ON IT

DEFINITION OF IKB - USED FOR BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL'S RESEARCH.

(Note the “use of methods”, 3RD bullet, means the use of methods that are outlawed.)

Illegal killing and taking of birds

Defined as: “any form of deliberate action that results in the death or removal from the wild of an individual bird (regardless of whether it was the target of this action or not), that is prohibited under national legislation”

- Taking of species prohibited under law
- hunting of ‘game’ species during the closed season or in protected areas
- use of methods (e.g. traps, mist-nets, lime-sticks, poisons)
- prohibited activities (e.g. egg-collecting)
- Taking under derogation counted as legal



Partnership for nature and people



IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [b]

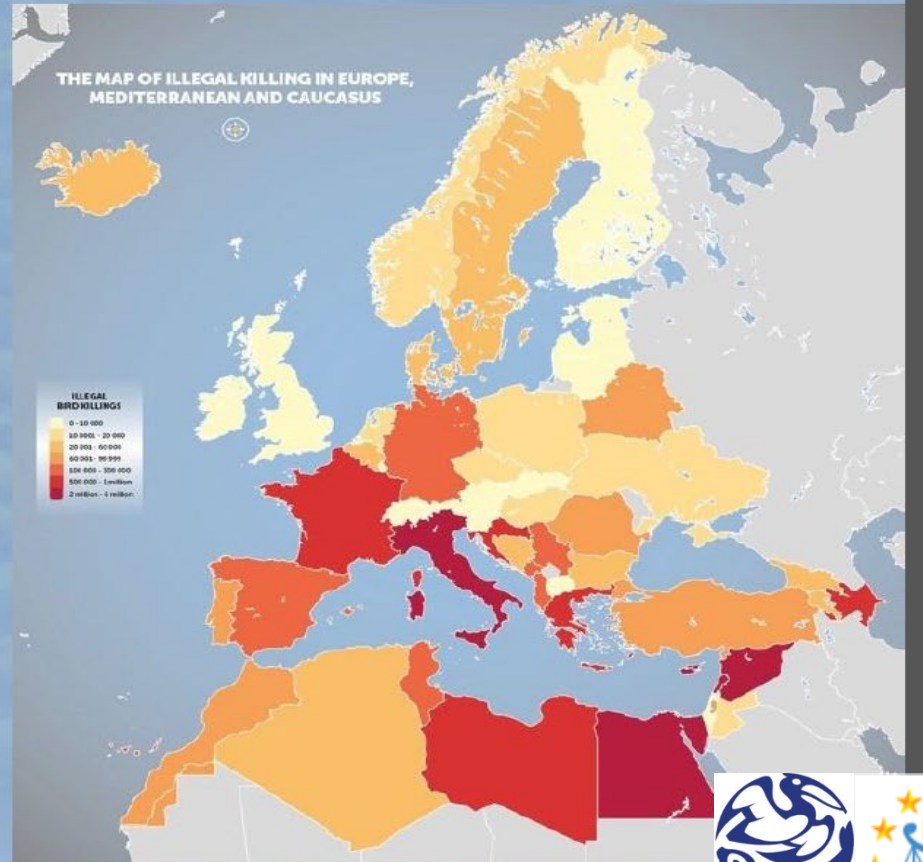
“KILLING 2.0” - WHOLE OF EUROPE & CAUCASUS - ADDS 1.2 MILLION TO MED REGION’S
25 MILLION = 26.2 MILLION

MED REGION STILL ACCOUNTS FOR OVER 90% OF IKB FOR WHOLE AREA

Mediterranean, N & C Europe and the Caucasus

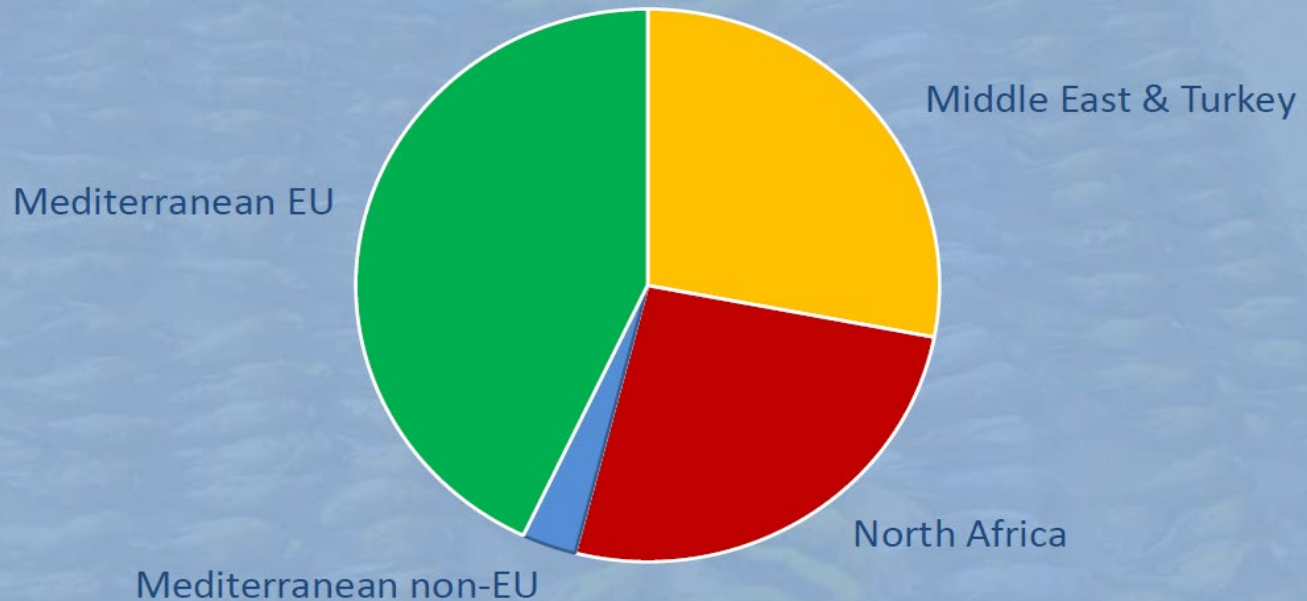
Illegal killing was reported to be **widespread all around the Mediterranean: 11-36 million birds** may be illegally killed/taken per year

Italy	5.6 million
Egypt	5.4 million
Syria	3.9 million
Lebanon	2.6 million
Cyprus	2.3 million



43% OF IKB IN THE EU

Illegal killing in different areas of the Mediterranean



43% of birds reported to be killed/taken around the Mediterranean on average may be killed/taken **in the EU**



Partnership for nature and people



IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [d]

NOTE THAT BIRDLIFE RESEARCHERS COMPILED FACTSHEETS FOR EACH COUNTRY. THESE CONTAIN: the principal legislation involved, regulatory authority; species protected, & species permitted to be killed or taken; permitted and prohibited methods of hunting; gaps or inconsistencies in national legislation;

The datasets were put online so that they could be examined by external experts, including national government experts, NGOs and hunting associations. Feedback was used to revise or confirm data.

These factsheets are publically available on the Birdlife Website – data zone/country profiles.



IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [e]

- Of the estimated 26.2 million IKB birds p.a. approx. 20 million are small song birds.
- Several globally “Threatened” or “Near Threatened” species are subject to IKB, as well as species in very severe decline in a number of regions or countries.
- The Mediterranean Region accounts for 90% of total IKB in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. 43% (10 million) occurs in EU.
- Dr Jones referred to the importance of the work of NGOs in the field, including national BirdLife partners. She instanced their work in Cyprus and Malta.
- Dr Jones outlined many impediments that Birdlife found for the effective combatting of IKB. They included legislative, governance and funding problems. They also included the lack of specialisation in the investigative and enforcement (including prosecution and judicial) areas.



IKB IN THE MED REGION - BIRDLIFE RESEARCH – VICKY JONES [f]

Dr JONES HAD 4 “TAKE HOME MESSAGES” FOR PROSECUTORS:

- IKB in the Med Region is at a scale that can have real impacts on the conservation status of individual species and groups of species. IKB often undermines expensive conservation action taken elsewhere.
- Tackling IKB requires action at local, national and international levels and from a range of stakeholders.
- What prosecutors see is a tiny fragment of the IKB that is occurring.
- Far greater effort and far more resources must be committed to the enforcement of existing legislation.

HER MESSAGE TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IS THAT IKB IS A
“SHARED RESPONSIBILITY”



IKB IN THE MED REGION

THE MOTIVES AND METHODS OF IKB IN THE REGION

**A SELECTION OF IMAGES FROM PRESENTATIONS IN SEGOVIA
(AND A COUPLE FROM THE CAIRO MIKT MEETING)**

**[WE ARE GRATEFUL TO CMS, IMPEL-ESIX, ENFORCEMENT
AUTHORITIES FROM ITALY, SPAIN, CYPRUS, MALTA, EGYPT,
LEBANON, ROMANIA & BELGIUM, AND NGOs BIRDLIFE
INTERNATIONAL (AND ITS NATIONAL PARTNERS) AND CABS FOR
THE FOLLOWING IMAGES]**



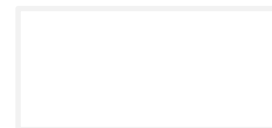
IKB IN THE MED REGION - MOTIVES FOR IKB SUMMARISED

- **FOOD** – for subsistence and as a delicacy (cultural factors).
- **SPORT SHOOTING** – including **TOURIST HUNTING** in other countries of the Region which have more birds, lax laws or poor enforcement.
- **CAPTURE OF LIVE BIRDS** – caged birds, aviaries and for live lures.
- **FALCONRY** – in the Middle East and Caucasus, falconry has been traditionally practiced and live birds or eggs are sought for this purpose.
- **TAXIDERMY** (particularly of rarer birds).
- **TRADING** – sale for food, for falconry and for caged birds.
- **PREDATOR/PEST CONTROL** – Raptors, Pigeons, etc.



IKB IN THE MED REGION – METHODS OF IKB SUMMARISED

- **SHOOTING**
- **MIST-NETTING** – these nets are strung between poles within known migration landfall areas. Cheap and very effective.
- **TRAPPING** – many types of traps and snares etc.
- **LURES: ELECTRONIC BIRD CALLERS, LOUDSPEAKERS & THE USE OF LIVE BIRDS** (tethered or caged, sometimes mutilated to prevent flight) - for trapping, netting or shooting.
- **LIME STICKS/ LIME GLUE** – sticks covered with home made adhesive substances which trap perched birds – often a slow death.
- **CITES OFFENDING** – equipment used to hide CITES (convention) offending.



IKB IN THE MED REGION - THE FOOD MOTIVE



Ambelopoulia



Ortolans

CYPRUS – Ambelopoulia (Blackcaps) – business worth €15 million p.a.
FRANCE – Ortolans – 30,000 trapped p.a. and fattened up – up to €150.
ITALY – Polenta with birds, a traditional dish.



IKB IN THE MED REGION - FOOD & SPORT MOTIVE



Pipits and Larks – shot by Italian hunters in Romania – sold to the restaurant trade in Italy (partly to defray ammunition costs)



Offences involved included breaches of hunting and firearms laws and corruption of local officials



IKB IN THE MED. REGION – THE FALCONRY MOTIVE



THIS IS NOT A PHOTO OF ILLEGALITY – THESE FALCONS ARE LEGAL, OBVIOUSLY PRIZED, AND KEPT AND TRAVEL IN LUXURY (SOME 80 OF THEM). THE PHOTO SHOWS HOW IMPORTANT THE SPORT IS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WHAT A MAGNET IT MAKES FOR UNSCRUPULOUS OPERATORS TO PASS OFF ILLEGALLY SOURCED BIRDS (e.g. FOR BREEDING PURPOSES) AS LEGALLY SOURCED.

IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (1) - NETTING



EGYPT – MIST NETTING – ON A GRAND SCALE



IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (2) – NETTING & ELECTRONIC LURES



**THE DEADLY MODERN COMBINATION – LARGE CHEAP NETS
AND ELECTRONIC BIRD CALLERS**



NOTES TO TRAINER/ TRANSLATOR - IKB IN THE MED REGION – COMMENT ON THE LAST TWO SLIDES

They illustrate an important point – how “tradition” interfaces with the modern world. For hundreds of years, fishermen on the Mediterranean Coast of Egypt became bird trappers at the time of the “autumn” migration. They sold their captives, mainly dead - for food in the local markets. The birds, with numbers newly boosted by the current year’s juveniles, seek rest and food, after flying south over the Mediterranean.

Previously, birds were caught in relatively small nets, made by the fishermen themselves, which were placed over shrubs or stonework. Today, kilometres of cheap, Chinese-made, nets are strung along the coastline and the calls of their own species, from loudspeakers projecting electronically recorded calls, lures them to their death – ON A SCALE NEVER PREVIOUSLY SEEN - AN INDUSTRIAL SCALE.

**THE MOTIVE MAY BE TRADITIONAL, THE
METHODS ARE NOT.**



IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (3) – NETTING & SHOOTING

THE MIDDLE EAST



SHOOTING OF SOARING BIRDS - STORKS



NETTING OF HUNDREDS OF SMALL SONG BIRDS - FOR SALE



IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (4) - SHOOTING

SHOOTING HIDES/PLATFORMS – TOP TWO LEGAL, BOTTOM TWO ILLEGAL



← This platform will feature later - in the Bald Ibis case



IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (5) – LIVE LURES & TRAPS



ABOVE – live lures

(Goldfinches)

ABOVE RIGHT – Bow traps

(Robin)

BOTTOM RIGHT – Spring

Traps (Robin)

ITALY 2017 – Op Robin

301 Spring Traps & 252

Bow Traps seized.



IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (6) – LIVE LURES AND MASKS



Live decoys are used to attract wild birds



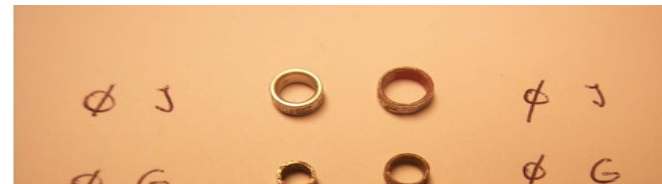
Masks are regularly encountered



IKB IN THE MED REGION - METHODS OF IKB (7) – GLUE STICKS & CITES OFFENCES KIT



ABOVE (CYPRUS) - two victims of Lime Sticks –Blackcap (Left) & Lesser Whitethroat (Right)



ABOVE – equipment used for CITES offending - false rings & ringing kit to pretend birds are bred in captivity

