



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
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OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY MIKT COUNTRIES IN RELATION TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2016-2020 FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AS INFERRED BY THE SCOREBOARD RESULTS 2018 & 2020 AND OTHER REPORTS
(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

Summary:

This document presents an overview of the progress achieved in relation to the Programme of Work 2016-2020, as inferred by the results of the Scoreboard 2018 & 2020 and other reports and data available.

MIKT countries are recommended to take note, review and amend the document as appropriate.



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.



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Background

1. The [MIKT Programme of Work \(POW\) 2016-2020](#), was adopted during the Meeting of the CMS Task Force held from 12 to 15 July 2016 in Cairo, Egypt.
2. The Programme of Work 2016-2020 is divided into the following main thematic areas of work:
 - i. Overarching issues
 - ii. Legal and enforcement aspects
 - iii. Conservation and monitoring
 - iv. Education and public awareness
3. One of the priorities of the POW was to adopt a method of measuring progress and allowing benchmarking in relation to the Programme of Work 2016-2020. This was achieved with the adoption of the [Scoreboard](#) to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB). The draft Scoreboard was developed and endorsed for the purpose of monitoring and as a voluntary self-assessment tool for countries to measure their own progress in addressing IKB at the Joint Meeting of the MIKT and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (SFPs), held from the 22 to 23 June 2017, in Sliema, Malta. Subsequently, the final draft of the Scoreboard was adopted by [CMS COP12](#) Annex 1 to Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP12), and by the 37th meeting of the Standing Committee (Strasbourg, 2017).

Overview of Progress

4. The overview of progress presented in the Annex to this document, was compiled using the information submitted by Parties to the Scoreboard in 2018 and 2020. It also used data reported in the MIKT meeting in 2019 in Rome and other available information.
5. Overall, it seems that progress is patchy. Some areas especially related to legislation seem to be doing better, while others like monitoring of IKB, increasing enforcement and developing National Action Plans are not doing so well. Additionally, there are areas in the Programme of Work that are not well represented in the Scoreboard so it's not possible to know how much progress there has been, if any.

Recommended actions:

6. The Members of CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds are recommended to:
 - a) take note of this document;
 - b) review, amend and finalise this document, as appropriate.

Overview of Progress achieved by MIKT countries in relation to the Programme of Work 2016-2020 as inferred by Scoreboard results from 2018 and 2020 and other reports

The Scoreboard was completed by 30 countries in 2018 and 24 countries in 2020

Programme of Work 2016-2020 for the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean						
1. Overarching Issues	Action	Target / indicator	Scope/Responsible bodies	Scoreboard indicators	Progress	Location of information
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	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	C14	Formal or informal plans exist in Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Montenegro and Serbia and no assessment as to the needs for one in other countries (6/22)	See Scoreboard results
	1.1.2 NAPs are integrated into NBSAPs (National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plans) and associated implementation mechanisms				No information (only Egypt confirms mention in NBSAP)	See Scoreboard results
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		Achieved	See Overview report
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		No information	See Scoreboard results
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	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 National authorities, EC, CMS Secretariat, NGOs	OK	Achieved	See Overview report
2. Legal and enforcement issues	Action	Target/ Indicator	Scope/Responsible bodies	Scoreboard indicators	Progress	Location of information
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	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:	Review of legal framework conducted for each country (and potentially also at international level for trade) Adaptation or enactment of legislation proposed by the review.	MED 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)	B5-B13	Most countries report that legislation is adequate, although some report that regulations and bylaws are missing	National Reports
	§ Is compliant with international and EU obligations (where applicable)			B13		See Scoreboard results
	§ 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)			B5-B13		See Scoreboard results
	§ addresses any administrative reforms or rearrangements which require legislative changes, to ensure adequate and sustained enforcement of the key offence provisions.			B9-B12	Many countries report legislation is missing regulations and bylaws for implementation	See Scoreboard results
2.2 Provide the judiciary sector with clear sentencing guidelines	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	D21	Very few countries have adopted gravity factors guidelines	See Scoreboard results
	2.2.2. Dissemination of existing sentencing guidelines and gravity factors developed under the TAP to non-European Mediterranean countries	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		No information	

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.	C15-C19	Gaps are identified by countries in Scoreboard	See Scoreboard results
	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 sections that can be adapted to the national situation	Review conducted, including of existing national or international materials. Manual with guidance/formats developed when needed	MED National authorities with support of INTERPOL, IMPEL		Unclear to what degree implemented	See Scoreboard results
	2.3.3. Develop cooperation between national enforcement institutions	Institutional coordination and cooperation is improved at national level	MED National authorities		Unclear to what degree implemented	See Scoreboard results
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	MED Existing networks/organizations (UNODC, APA, EnviCrimeNet, EUFJE, ENPE, IMPEL, INTERPOL, Europol, TRAFFIC), CMS Secretariat	D23, D24	Unclear to what degree implemented	See Scoreboard results
	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	MED National authorities (with support of international networks)		EU Twix, ENPE, but no pan-Mediterranean portal/database for exchange of enforcement related info	See Scoreboard results
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)		Very few countries reporting improvement since 2018 report	See Scoreboard results
	2.5.2 Organize regional and national training seminars on IKB on environmental crime for police officers, inspectors, rangers, prosecutors, judges.	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, EJT, UNEP, ENPE, IMPEL, Europol, INTERPOL, CMS Secretariat	C17 D23	Workshop organised for prosecutors in May 2018 in Spain	See Overview report
	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	E24	CMS MIKT Coordinator participated in more than 10 meetings/workshops and promoted MIKT	See Overview report
	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		Workshop organised, Strategy unclear	
3. Conservation and monitoring	Action	Target/ Indicator	Scope/Responsible bodies	Scoreboard indicators	Progress	Location of information
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	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	MED National authorities with support from CMS, CABS & BLI when needed, Tour du Valat	A1-A4	Very few countries have an agreed monitoring protocol	See Scoreboard results
	3.1.2. Disseminate example protocols and methodologies to capture data in a more standardised and comprehensive way	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		Not done	See Scoreboard results
	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.				BirdLife International Guidelines disseminated through MIKT meetings. No other guidelines developed	Disseminated in 2016

	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		MED National Authorities		Most countries report shortages in staff capacities	See Scoreboard results
3.2. Undertake research on the scale, drivers and modus operandi and impacts of IKB and the species affected	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	Data is properly collated in conjunction with relevant stakeholders to better focus on tackling IKB to the highest priority areas in the Mediterranean region	MED Relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders		IKB a priority for very few countries	See Scoreboard results
	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	Understanding is improved on how best to tackle IKB, including through prevention by means other than the enforcement deterrent Data on illegal trade is collected in the Mediterranean to measure the scale of this wildlife crime.	Range countries National authorities, EC and CMS in cooperation with range studies & relevant organizations (universities, independent researchers & institutions), RESSOURCE		Some initiatives and effort	See Scoreboard results
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		Very few countries have an agreed monitoring protocol	See Scoreboard results
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	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		No information	
	3.4.2. Promote alternative livelihoods projects/programmes	Local communities in relevant countries are engaged in livelihood activities that do not negatively impact on wildlife	NON-EUROPE National authorities, UNODC, NGOs		No information	
4. Education and public awareness	Action	Target/ Indicator	Scope/Responsible bodies	Scoreboard indicators	Progress	Location of information
4.1. Improve hunter education processes and raise awareness at national level by working together with hunting organizations and the wider hunting community	4.1.1. Increase the level of regulatory awareness amongst the hunting community, including through:	Achieve improved levels of understanding and compliance with the law and sustainable hunting through: Mobilize full support of hunting organizations / hunters in the fight against IKB	MED National authorities, FACE, IAF with the support of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation	E27	Some initiatives and effort (Montenegro)	MIKT -3 meeting report
	§ Encouraging hunting organizations to adopt codes of conduct including, where relevant, those based on traditional hunting principles, and by systematically condemning IKB;				Very little detailed information on actions relating to regulated community	See Scoreboard results
	§ Encouraging hunting organizations to reject membership to hunters who have been convicted of IKB;				Very little detailed information on actions relating to regulated community	See Scoreboard results
	§ Dissemination of principles of the Bern Convention Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity and other relevant guidance;				Promoted by FACE	MIKT -3 meeting report
	§ Encouraging states and hunting associations to organize national seminars to inform and train hunters on species identification, species protected by law, forbidden methods, etc.				Very little detailed information on actions relating to regulated community	See Scoreboard results
	§ Encouraging national administrations to improve regulatory systems concerning hunting education (e.g. licensing, examinations, hunter training, etc)				Very little detailed information on actions relating to regulated community	See Scoreboard results
	Encouraging hunters to continue to participate in surveillance effort and to assist the authorities in detecting IKB				Very little detailed information on actions relating to regulated community	See Scoreboard results
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	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		Mainly done by NGOs, and some governments	MIKT -3 meeting report
	4.2.2. Promote and facilitate the use of available hotlines and the creation of national hotlines to report IKB	Increased reporting of IKB by the community	MED National authorities, NGOs		No information	
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		Mainly done by NGOs, and some governments	Scoreboard results, MIKT-3 report, and Overview report

	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			CMS / Bern Convention Secretariats	See Overview report
4.4. To encourage countries to develop national communication strategies addressing national stakeholders to implement of national action plans.	4.4.1 Development of communication strategies at national level.	Communication strategies are in place at national level	MED National Authorities, CMS Secretariat		No information	See Scoreboard results