



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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CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE WAY FORWARD ON PREPARING A FORMAT AND GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL IKB ACTION PLANS

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

Summary:

The document presents an outline proposal for the preparation of a format and guidance for the development and implementation of National IKB Action Plans, as per the corresponding objective of the Rome Strategic Plan.

MIKT members and Bern Convention SFPs are invited to review the document and propose a possible way forward.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE WAY FORWARD ON PREPARING A FORMAT AND GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL IKB ACTION PLANS

Background

1. The [Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region](#) was developed as the common strategic framework of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (SFPs) at the Joint meeting which took place in Rome in May 2019, and was subsequently formally adopted by on the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and the MIKT.
2. The Rome Strategic Plan includes a process-oriented objective on National Action Plans against illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB). Specifically, the objective states:

National IKB Action Plans

2030 Target: National Action Plans are developed and adopted and are being implemented in all countries

Actions:

- a) **By September 2021**, provide a format including guidance for the development and implementation of National IKB Action Plans. (*Main actors: Bern Convention and MIKT Coordinator in consultation with countries and relevant stakeholders*)
- b) **By December 2021** based on the scoreboard or other relevant source of information, each Contracting Party assesses the need to develop and adopt a NAP, taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats (*Main actors: Range state governments and respective national stakeholders*)

Development of a National Action Plan on IKB (IKB NAP)

3. Considering the timelines outlined under the above-mentioned actions a) and b), they appear among the priority activities to be undertaken in a timely manner in the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan. The development of an IKB NAP is considered as an opportunity for a wide collaboration of government agencies and stakeholders in a Range State and a means to encourage ownership of the process of combating IKB.
4. Additionally, the development of an IKB NAP offers ways to coordinate action of different agencies and stakeholders, monitor and report on action, and measure success against objectives and targets. It can also help organise international cooperation and collaboration.
5. The 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 provides an opportunity for consultation among the Bern and CMS Secretariats, countries and other relevant stakeholders with a view to the development of the format including guidance foreseen by action a) above. While the main responsibility for the development of the format lies with the MIKT Coordinator and the Bern Convention Secretariat, any guidance from countries and stakeholder about its scope, desirable content and level of detail as well as recommendations on possible models to be followed would be welcome with a view to the production of a tool that could provide best support to countries in the development of IKB NAPs. The meeting should also discuss and agree on a process towards the development and finalization of the format.

6. In the Annex of this document a compilation of possible elements of a process for the development of the NAP and of the possible contents of an IKB NAP is presented as a basis for discussion at the meeting. It is expected to be developed further based on the input received at the meeting.

Recommended actions:

7. The Members of CMS MIKT and the Bern Convention Network of SFPs are recommended to:
 - a) discuss and agree on the scope of the format including guidance for the development and implementation of National IKB Action Plans;
 - b) review and further develop the elements of the development process and content of a National IKB Action Plan presented in the annex of this document;
 - c) discuss and agree on a process towards the development and finalization of the format.

Possible elements of the Development Process and Content of a National IKB Action Plan

Process for developing a National Action Plan

- A first step in the process is to assess the need for a National IKB Action Plan (IKB NAP) or other relevant document, implementation tools or mechanisms which include actions to address IKB
- Countries with other existing policy means to structure their work on IKB are encouraged to align their policy and implementation tools to achieve the goals of the Rome Strategic Plan. That can include undertaking a prioritization exercise.
- While ensuring a transparent process that includes all relevant stakeholders, establish a national process for the development and adoption of an IKB NAP (as applicable), including the identification of a coordinating agency or body, other government agencies and other key stakeholders to be involved, aiming to enhance ownership, approval of the process and ultimately implementation and success.
- The main qualitative indicators mentioned in the Rome Strategic Plan in relation to IKB NAPs are:
 - Establishment of National Action Plan committee with appropriate multi-stakeholder structure and a remit covering development of the NAP and guidance of its implementation
 - The scale (number and severity) of species of wild birds impacted by IKB is identified in the National IKB Action Plans
 - Comprehensiveness of National IKB Action Plans in covering action to address all IKB issues in a country, as assessed by the corresponding country and other stakeholders
 - Funding is dedicated or/and secured by countries to address IKB by implementing the NAPs

Content of a National Action Plan

- Presentation of the problem (scale and scope), including species impacted, numbers and means, and motivations and assessment for need for an IKB NAP
- Description of the process to develop the countries' IKB NAP
- Presentation of the different agencies and stakeholders involved, the roles and the process agreed for the implementation of the IKB NAP (e.g. establishment of an IKB NAP committee/working group)
- Objective and targets to tackle the problem described (link to Rome Strategic Plan objectives as much as possible and identify the objectives and actions which are most relevant to the country)

The five main objectives of the Rome Strategic Plan are:

- To understand the scope, scale and motivations behind illegal killing, taking and trade of birds
- To establish an active prevention of the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds
- To ensure that the illegal killing of birds is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation
- To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken
- To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences

- Outlining of actions (consider prioritization, allocating responsible actors for each action, budget needed, resources available, and timeline for implementation)

It is also important to consider the following:

- The training and capacity building needed at all relevant levels and for all stakeholders (e.g. monitoring and assessment of the IKB problem, enforcement, courts, communication etc)
- The funds available and funds that need to be raised
- Consider the international dimension, in terms of participation in regular meetings, fora, but also in relation to capacity building, access to training, and information
- Monitoring of the implementation of the IKB NAP and regular review (can incorporate the completion of the Scoreboard, and other regular international reporting obligations, in the regular reviews)