



FUTURE PERIODIC ASSESSMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN AND FREQUENCY AND FORMAT OF FUTURE JOINT MEETINGS

(Prepared by the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats)

Explanatory note:

During 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 held virtually from the 9th to the 11th of June 2021, the Secretariats presented discussion points for future reporting under the Rome Strategic Plan and frequency of future meetings. Following the Joint meeting, a written consultation has been held to gather additional ideas and viewpoints from participants to the Joint meeting. The present document is based on the results of the discussion held during the meeting and the feedback received in writing afterwards.

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 a legally non-binding common strategic framework of 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 second joint meeting which took place in Rome in May 2019.
2. The Rome Strategic Plan (RSP) was officially adopted by the Bern Convention Parties at the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee in December 2019. In June 2020, after consultation via electronic means, the latest version adopted by the Bern Convention was subsequently adopted by the MIKT Member States, with the understanding that a detailed and ambitious workplan would be developed for specific actions to be implemented by MIKT Members and Observers in the Mediterranean that will capture concerns raised during the consultation – including the possibility to agree on the use of an independent monitoring mechanism to assess progress made against the workplan and combating IKB under the MIKT.
3. The RSP foresees a periodic assessment using the IKB Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating IKB, a monitoring tool developed in 2017 and previously used as reporting tool for the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020, and the MIKT Programme of Work 2016-2020. The Scoreboard is a voluntary self-

assessment tool that enables national governments to measure their progress in implementing their commitments related to this area. To date, two rounds of Scoreboard assessments have been completed (in 2018 and 2020).

4. From 2021 onwards, the Strategic Framework for both CMS MIKT Countries and Bern Convention SFPs is the Rome Strategic Plan. Section 5.4 of the RSP indicates how to assess the progress toward the objectives of the plan.

The plan foresees two types of assessments:

- the periodic assessment based on the Scoreboard, which is planned to be completed in 2023, 2026 and 2029 (Section 5.4.(1)). The Plan also foresees that the Scoreboard *'may need to be adjusted as appropriate to ensure that countries can effectively use the Scoreboard alongside the Rome Strategic Plan.'*
 - a mid-term assessment of the plan in 2025 and a final assessment in 2030 (section 5.4.(2) of the RSP).
5. In addition to the Scoreboard, until 2020 and before the start of the RSP, periodic assessment on IKB also foresaw the completion by MIKT Members and Bern Convention IKB Focal Points of separate national reports, submitted ahead of joint meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs and the CMS MIKT. These reports were consolidated by the Secretariats and shared as a compilation document at the meetings in [Malta in 2017](#) and in [Rome in 2019](#). The template for the national reports was largely based on the [Tunis Action Plan](#), the first IKB plan for Mediterranean countries, adopted in 2013 for the period 2013-2020.
 6. When the RSP was developed, the Scoreboard already existed and was taken into consideration during the drafting of the RSP. Therefore, the Scoreboard indicators correspond closely with most of the RSP objectives and actions. Nevertheless, there are some elements of the RSP which would not be sufficiently reported through the Scoreboard, including fundraising, communication and awareness raising activities, capacity building initiatives and needs assessment, and participation in international cooperation meetings, trainings and other opportunities. In consequence, assessing the implementation and success of these elements would require some other forms of reporting or mechanisms of information sharing to support exchange of such information and therefore cooperation among the countries.

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MIKT Members and Bern Convention Special Focal Points.

7. Following the options presented during the meeting, in order to address the possible information gaps while solely relying on the Scoreboard, and to avoid creating another level of reporting, it is proposed that a more extensive and systematic usage of comment boxes be included in the Scoreboard for future periodic assessments for the implementation of the RSP. The inclusion of clearer guidance for the completion of the Scoreboard comment boxes will help ensure the provision of currently irregularly supplied data (such as information on capacity building, communication and awareness raising initiatives). Additional information concerning fundraising activities is suggested to be shared verbally by member states during Joint meetings.

Observers to the MIKT and to the Bern Convention

8. Currently, when filling in the Scoreboard, MIKT Members and Bern Convention SFPs are encouraged to involve a wide array of stakeholders at the national level to ensure a comprehensive and complete reporting and to capture the wide efforts undertaken by all stakeholders at national level to combat

IKB. International observers to the MIKT and to the Bern Convention, such as MEAs, international NGOs, and others, are invited to the joint meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs and the CMS MIKT, where they are welcome to make interventions on their activities contributing to the international commitments to combat IKB. Their oral reports can be found in the joint meeting reports and/or their presentations are posted online on the meeting website.

Frequency of future Joint meetings 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

9. 'In person' Joint meetings in principle will take place every three years, and will aim to align with the Scoreboard reporting (2023, 2026, 2029). Additionally, Joint meetings are envisaged to be organised in hybrid format to have a much broader spectrum of options to engage participation. Based on the current calendar, since the last 'in person' meeting was held in Rome in 2019, should the COVID-19 pandemic allow to do so, on an exceptional basis, an 'in person'/hybrid meeting will be held in 2022, kindly hosted by Spanish authorities. Finally, 'in person'/hybrid meetings are proposed to be complemented by more frequent, shorter virtual meetings on specific topics, based on the needs and the resources available.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

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) Approve the proposal for future periodic assessments on the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan, by using the comment boxes included in the Scoreboard more extensively and systematically, to include information on capacity building, communication and awareness raising) and sharing additional information concerning fundraising activities verbally during Joint meetings;
- c) Approve the proposal for an in principle, triennial frequency of 'in person' Joint meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs and the CMS MIKT, to be complemented by shorter virtual meetings on specific topics, based on the needs and the resources available.