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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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**BERN CONVENTION STRATEGY ON ILLEGAL
KILLING OF BIRDS 2020-2030:**

**Bringing an end to Illegal Killing, Taking and
Trade in Wild Birds as a conservation concern
along the flyways**

- 2nd Draft -

*Document prepared by
Mr Sergei Golovkin (Malta) and the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

BACKGROUND

The Bern Convention has pioneered regional-scale policy action on IKB for over three decades. In 2018, a critical examination of progress achieved in the implementation of the latest strategic document of the Convention in the field, the Tunis Action Plan (TAP) 2013-2020¹ for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds (IKB), took place. Bern Convention Contracting Parties, observers, partners and stakeholders contributed to the exercise, through a structured consultation with a Concept Note (see document [T-PVS/Inf\(2018\)3](#)) which was taking stock and synthesising key information available on the implementation of the TAP. As part of the process of developing the Concept Note, a high-level situation analysis has been performed, to map out the main developments from the pre-TAP policy context of relevance to IKB, to key strategic inputs that shaped a post-2013 strategy response. In this process, key policy inputs were briefly examined, as well as Bern Convention's Contracting Parties' and other partners' response to the policy priorities. A strategic assessment of the state of implementation of the TAP has thus been performed, and, drawing also on the conclusions of recent IKB-related developments, such as the recommendations of the 2018 Global Summit for the Flyways, key lessons learned from experience of TAP implementation so far were deduced. A multi-stakeholder consultation exercise was also undertaken on the first draft of the Concept Note during the period between July and October 2018. A specially designed questionnaire was circulated in July 2018 amongst Bern Convention's Contracting Parties, Observers and members of the CMS Mediterranean Task Force on Eradication of IKB.

The lessons learned from the situation analysis were subjected to a high-level assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), based on which, a set of updated and revised conclusions and recommendations for post-2020 IKB-related policy priorities were proposed. A set of strategic parameters to guide the development of a vision, objectives and high-level targets has also been proposed, which deals with the future strategy considerations.

A ten-year post-2020 policy horizon was chosen as a strategic window during which the new objectives and targets are to be implemented. This strategic ten-year policy horizon is punctuated with a strong element of a mid-term independent and external assessment, to be performed within a five-year timeframe. An ambitious, yet realistic vision for the post-2020 period has been developed, with the view to inspire further strategic framework cascading down from strategic objectives to high-level targets and corresponding timeline.

STRATEGIC PARAMETERS USED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

Based on the factors identified in a SWOT analysis (see document [T-PVS/Inf\(2018\)3](#)), several strategic parameters guide the post-2020 IKB strategy priorities. The overarching ethos underpinning these parameters is the need to maximise on existing strengths, whilst addressing current weaknesses, as well as the need to capitalise on existing opportunities, whilst minimising or mitigating threats. In consideration of the above, the following guiding parameters are therefore proposed:

1. The time horizon for post-2020 framework must be sufficiently long-term to allow a sequential and incremental progress on specific priorities, and the possibility of long-term mobilisation and

¹ The Tunis Action Plan (2013-2020) was structured around three priority areas, loosely categorized as: "enforcement and legal aspects", "biological and institutional aspects" and "awareness aspects". Each priority area opens to a set of related objectives, actions and corresponding results.

The "enforcement and legal aspects" priority contains actions related to elaboration of national enforcement priorities against IKB, the development of "conservation impact statements" and adoption of standardized "gravity factors" and sentencing guidelines for IKB-related crime, as well as the establishment of relevant mechanisms for monitoring and reporting.

The "biological and institutional aspects" priority area seeks to ensure that aspects such as knowledge of bird mortality due to IKB and its drivers, information on legal harvest, and tools for prosecutors and judges on IKB is taken into consideration throughout the enforcement chain.

The "awareness" chapter of the TAP deals with building "positive and effective alliances with stakeholders" through opportunities for dialogue at the national level (including through decision-making "by consensus"), systematic publication of enforcement results, targeted communication and engagement with specific stakeholder groups as well as a sustained effort to improve education and awareness of IKB and its conservation impacts.

planning of the necessary financial, human and technical resources to achieve long term goals. A ten-year time horizon (i.e. 2020-2030) is therefore proposed. However, the ten-year horizon must be punctuated with a strong element of mid-term assessment, which is proposed to be undertaken on a 5-year basis. This would allow stakeholders to remain motivated and committed to long term goals, whilst ensuring that progress remains on track and the necessary corrective measures are taken if the mid-term assessment reveals the need for any revision.

2. The post-2020 policy framework must be guided by an ambitious vision, which must clearly spell out the overall aspirations of the Bern Convention, its Contracting Parties and Partners, in terms of the desired impact the Convention should make on the IKB problem in ten years' time.
3. The overall vision must be underpinned by specific objectives, which must be sufficiently ambitious to inspire long term action and transformation; yet be realistic and achievable within the timeframes and resources available.
4. The objectives must be accompanied by incremental targets, milestones and clear actions for their implementation.
5. There should be a common monitoring mechanism to enable assessment of progress. The IKB Scoreboard adopted by the 37th Standing Committee following extensive development and consultations appears to provide the most appropriate framework and structure for the monitoring effort. Beyond monitoring, the structure provided by the Scoreboard is useful in defining strategic objectives themselves.
6. There should be effort to integrate post-2020 IKB objectives of the Bern Convention and CMS into other key international policy instruments, both vertically and horizontally.
7. There should be increased effort to ensure no duplication of work and overlap of priorities with other mechanisms, particularly those that have proven to be effective in addressing similar aims. Rather than duplication of effort, spotlight should be directed on attaining higher levels of synergy between existing and emerging strategies, policy mechanisms and networks.
8. The post-2020 policy should seek to build upon and further develop existing measures and tools. It should not aim at a wholesale revision of existing definitions, terminology, or a fundamental re-think of existing approaches, but rather seek to fine-tune and better focus these approaches with the view to achieving more effective results in a more efficient manner.
9. The vision and objectives of the strategy must be simple, clear and unambiguous.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2020-2030 vision calls for maintaining and strengthening the zero-tolerance approach to IKB, to bring IKB to an end as a conservation concern along the flyways. It also calls for enhanced collaboration between Bern Convention and other regional and global MEAs, partners and networks, to promote eradication of IKB in all our planet's flyways. It is subsequently translated into five strategic objectives, which broadly mirror the strategic elements of the IKB Scoreboard adopted through Bern Convention Standing Committee [Recommendation No. 164 \(2017\)](#). The proposed strategic objectives comprehensively cover the entire spectrum of all possible measures necessary for the achievement of the proposed vision. The objectives range from improving understanding of the scale and extent of IKB and its contribution to mortality at flyway level (IKB assessments) to further improving IKB-related legislation, capacities to enforce the law, effectiveness of the justice system, as well as IKB prevention. A sixth objective deals specifically with the mid-term and final assessments of the performance of the strategy itself, which is necessary to ensure on-going relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the delivery of the strategy.

VISION 2030 OF THE BERN CONVENTION STRATEGY IN THE FIELD

The overall objective of Bern Convention's extensive work on IKB has always been the total eradication of this phenomenon. Therefore, the Bern Convention IKB Strategy for 2020-2030 will aim at bringing an end to Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds as a conservation concern along the flyways. It is translated into the following vision for IKB policy 2020 – 2030:

In the ten-year period between 2020 and 2030, Bern Convention, its Contracting Parties and other partners and stakeholders will continue to build upon the measures piloted under Tunis Action Plan and MIKT PoW, taking bolder action to achieve zero-tolerance and scaling up efforts as necessary, to ensure that by 2030, IKB shall no longer exist as a conservation concern within the flyways shared by Bern Convention's Contracting Parties. By 2030, Contracting Parties will strive to achieve a significant and measurable reduction in the scale and extent of IKB within their national territories, over a 2020 baseline, for the elimination of IKB as a conservation concern.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

A set of high-level strategic objectives and targets is necessary in order to translate the above vision into action. These high-level objectives and targets would subsequently need to be further elaborated in terms of intermediate milestones, specific measures, actions, projects and strategy for their achievement.

A set of high-level objectives that mirrors the logical structure adopted by IKB Scoreboard is being proposed for three principal reasons:

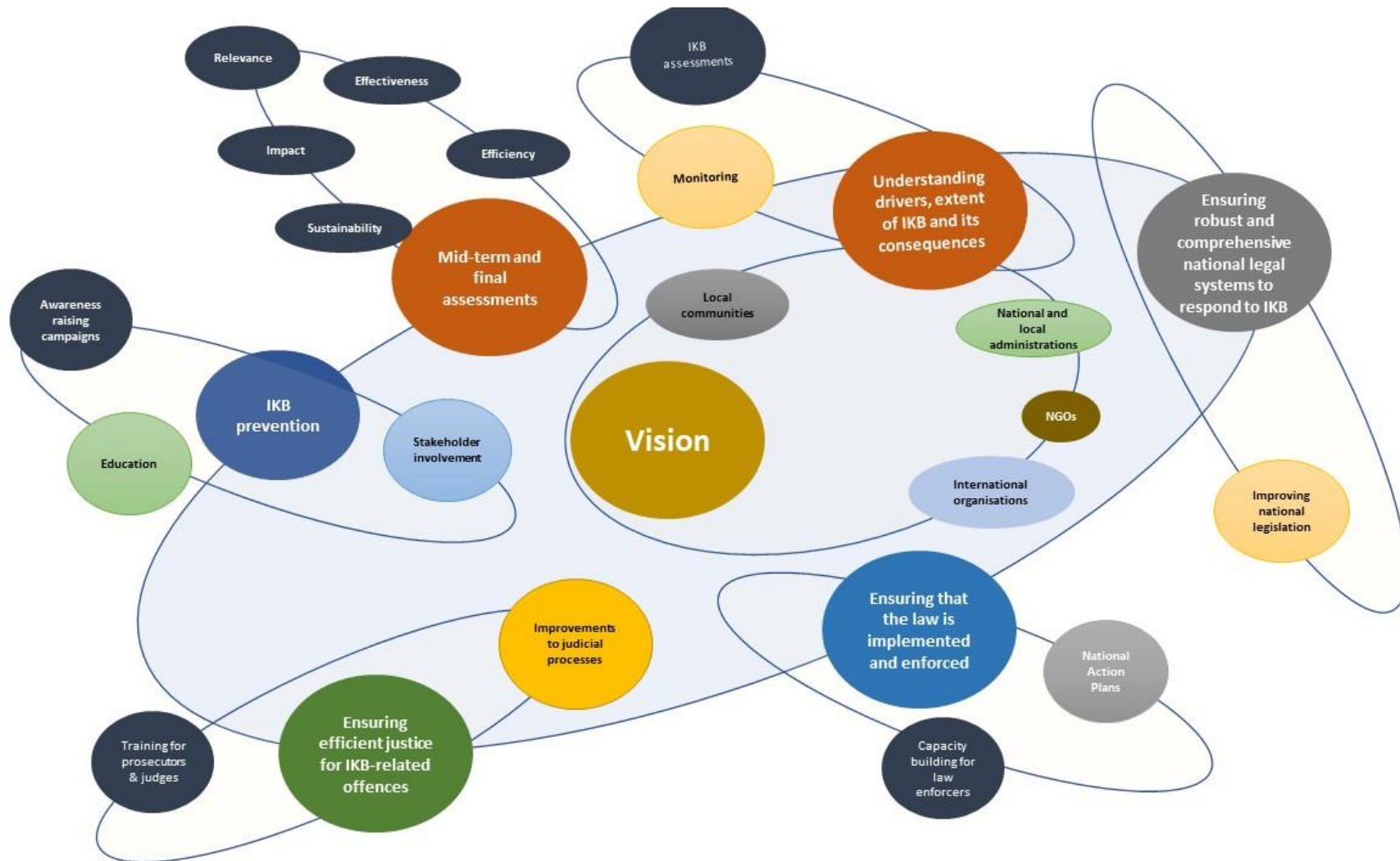
1. **Continuity.** For maximum effectiveness, objectives must build on existing strengths, mitigate weaknesses, capitalize on opportunities and neutralize threats identified in SWOT analysis. This calls for continuity in the sense that a future IKB policy must be a logical continuation and further evolution of the current policy. With this in mind, it is notable that the structure of the Scoreboard was developed on the basis of the existing priorities adopted under the TAP and subsequently further elaborated in MIKT PoW. Consequently, the use of the Scoreboard structure provides for continuity of the efforts initiated under the TAP and takes these beyond 2020.
2. **Logical sequence of priority areas in the fight against IKB.** The fact that the IKB Scoreboard structure is based on five elements², namely: monitoring, comprehensiveness of national legislation, enforcement response, prosecution and sentencing, and prevention, which are logically interlinked, ensures that any action against IKB would fall under one or more of the above five elements. The sequence is broadly consistent with other related approaches to environmental compliance, such as for instance those described in EU Commission Action Plan on Environmental Compliance and Governance³, where measures related to compliance monitoring are complemented by enforcement response in case of non-compliance as well as measures aiming at compliance promotion.
3. **Outlook.** Since the Scoreboard was conceived and developed as a self-assessment tool to be used periodically (in synch with other related obligations) to track progress, its purpose is inherently future-oriented. The monitoring tool that is meant to be used post-2020 can therefore help to shape the actual priorities that would be subject to periodic evaluation.

The interrelationship between the proposed high-level objectives and vision is depicted schematically on a diagram below.

² A sixth element, that of mid-term and final monitoring and assessment of the strategy itself has been added

³ COM(2018)10 and SWD(2018)10: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/compliance_en.htm

Figure 1: The “spiral galaxy” of strategic objectives, vision and stakeholders



The following **six high-level strategic objectives and corresponding targets**, mirroring IKB Scoreboard priority areas, are summarized in the table below:

Objective 1 - Understanding drivers behind and extent of IKB	
Description and link to vision	Noting that the Cairo Declaration has committed to a zero-tolerance approach to any deliberate IKB which contravenes national law and the commitments under international conventions and MEAs, effectively addressing IKB should be based on a thorough understanding of the drivers and reasons behind IKB in terms of motivations and potential incentives and disincentives, and the extent of IKB problem. It is essential that IKB assessments are performed periodically in all range states that are Contracting Parties of the Bern Convention, in a manner that would allow prioritisation of action.
High-level targets	<p>1.1 Common methodology and guidelines for carrying out external independent IKB assessments is developed and adopted by Bern Convention Standing Committee by 2021. Methodology should allow for systematic assessment of, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Drivers and motivation behind various IKB categories, including by undertaking national socio-economic studies; Scale of IKB, including mortality, trends, species, seasonal and geographic distribution; Typology, number and trends in prosecution of IKB cases⁴; Wherever feasible⁵, consideration of the potential impact of mortality due to IKB upon flyway populations. <p>The above methodology may be developed based on the methodology pioneered by BLI in its initial assessments⁶ or in other assessments; an essential prerequisite is that the methodology must ensure participative approach and full involvement of national administrations and other stakeholders including nature protection NGOs and representatives of the hunting community.</p> <p>1.2 Status and scale of IKB is systematically and regularly monitored and assessed in each Bern Convention Contracting Party⁷ at state level using a common methodology, developing a monitoring protocol (POW 3.1.1), as part of the Scoreboard requirement. Report the situation in each country under CMS national reporting to COP, and, as appropriate, reporting on the EU Nature Directives. Assessments are repeated periodically in sync with the IKB Scoreboard, i.e. in 2023, 2026, 2029. As part of this process, systematic, standardised, replicable monitoring of IKB and corresponding knowledge management is established in each Contracting Party at national level and where appropriate in collaboration</p>

⁴ Although at a first glance this appears to focus more on *response* to IKB problem as opposed to measuring and understanding the extent of the IKB problem itself, in fact, statistics related to IKB cases complements the overall analysis of the extent of IKB insofar as the typology and frequency of IKB cases known to justice is at least partially indicative of the typology and frequency of IKB itself. In other words, assessment of typologies of IKB cases (for instance poisoning) is often indicative of the existence of the particular category of IKB and hence should be included in the overall assessment. For example, an assessment that indicates mortality of raptors in a specific area may be positively correlated with the statistics of IKB cases related to illegal persecution of these species through shooting, taking of eggs or poisoning. The inclusion of this indicator within the “assessment” chapter of IKB Scoreboard was in fact guided by this rationale.

⁵ Whilst it is acknowledged that a conservation impact of IKB on flyway populations may be extremely difficult to assess in an objective and scientifically robust manner, there may be instances where conservation impact may be so clear and severe that an assessment is clearly warranted. For example, this may be the case where an extremely small, localised and vulnerable population is threatened with extinction due to IKB and where a documented loss of even several individuals could threaten the entire population.

⁶ Brochet et al. (2016) Bird Conservation International 26 (1):1-28 and Birdlife International (2015), “The Killing”, http://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/01-28_low.pdf.

⁷ Although the scope of this Concept Note is focused on Bern Convention, the Scoreboard monitoring and reporting is also a requirement of CMS MIKT as referenced in CMS Resolution 11.16 (rev COP12).

	<p>with other stakeholders making use of guidance to be further developed by Bern/MIKT.</p> <p>1.3 Beyond the area covered by Bern Convention Contracting Parties and MIKT, the Conventions shall work closely with stakeholders in other regions to support the implementation of IKB assessments in the East Asian Australasian Flyway, Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa [], South and Central America and the Caribbean to conduct an assessment of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in that region [by 2023].</p> <p>1.4 Whilst maintaining at all times a zero-tolerance approach towards IKB, Bern Convention Contracting Parties shall aim to achieve a significant and measurable reduction in the assessed scale of IKB within their national territory in comparison with a 2020 baseline, to the extent necessary for the elimination of IKB as a conservation concern.</p> <p>1.5 By 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention shall, together with relevant stakeholders, agencies and networks, develop and enact a programme of support to aid Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in the achievement of the above objectives.</p>
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Objective 2 - Ensuring robust and comprehensive national legal systems to respond to IKB	
Description and link to vision	<p>Robust national legislation and rigorous regulatory controls are essential prerequisites for eradication of IKB. It is expected that countries should strive to assess and improve their legal and regulatory framework, to ensure that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Correctly transposes applicable international commitments related to IKB under appropriate MEAs to which the state is a party; f. Contains clear and adequate provisions to combat IKB, including clarity on definitions of legal/illegal activities; g. Ensures that inspection and enforcement authorities have the sufficient legal powers necessary to effectively combat IKB; h. Is reviewed in conjunction with stakeholders to identify gaps and deficiencies in existing legislation (including with reference to relevant legislation in other countries) Provides for necessary regulations and controls over IKB-related activities, and ensures that legal activities that involve taking of birds are adequately regulated, controlled, monitored and reported to prevent IKB; i. Identify legal loopholes and clearly define illegal activities, and where exemptions are justified following the provisions of relevant MEAs and regional legal frameworks, provides for adequate regulatory controls for authorising, supervising, monitoring and reporting such exemptions; j. addresses any administrative reforms or rearrangements which require legislative changes, to ensure adequate and sustained enforcement of the key offence provisions; k. Provides adequate and sufficient deterrents and penalties for IKB [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 structure];
High-level targets	<p>2.1 By 2023, Contracting Parties shall ensure that their national legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has adequate provisions to deter and combat IKB; b. Is supported by necessary legal instruments, regulations, and institutional frameworks for implementation and enforcement; c. Integrates clear regulations in relation to legal hunting to ensure enforceability and clarity on what constitutes IKB d. Insofar as relevant for combatting IKB, lays down comprehensive provisions concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establishment and definition of hunting seasons to ensure clear delineation between legal hunting and IKB outside of the legal hunting seasons ii. Listing species that can be hunted to ensure that taking of any bird species not so listed is prohibited iii. Definition of hunting areas to ensure enforceability against any taking of bird species outside of such areas iv. Regulation and definition of which methods are allowed for hunting to ensure enforceability against taking of bird species by any other methods that constitute IKB v. Provision for appropriate authorisation mechanism and criteria for obtaining a hunting license, including where relevant, requirements for compulsory education and examination of hunting license applicants vi. Where relevant and applicable, enable appropriate provisions for enforceability of compliance with harvest bag limits or quotas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">vii. Legal powers for carrying out effective controls, investigations and other enforcement activities (for instance providing enforcement powers to game wardens, park rangers) e. Generally, prohibits:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Deliberate killing or capture of wild birds by any method, except for the species for which hunting is legalii. Killing or capture of species for which hunting is legal by using illegal means such as nets, traps, lime sticks, live or artificial decoysiii. Hunting of species to which hunting regulations apply, which does not comply with the principles of wise use and ecologically balanced control of the species of birds concernediv. Killing or capture of species to which hunting regulations apply during the rearing season or during the various stages of reproduction and, in the case of migratory species, during their period of reproduction or during their return to their rearing groundsv. Sale, transport for sale, keeping for sale and the offering for sale of live or dead wild birds or their parts, unless authorised by lawvi. Importation or export of wild birds or their derivatives, unless authorised by lawAll points above (under e) are without prejudice to lawfully granted derogations f. Where authorisation of specific exceptions from the above prohibitions is possible, these should define comprehensive criteria upon which such exemptions can be granted by the responsible authority, which criteria must correspond to criteria for exemptions stipulated in the relevant applicable legislation and / or agreements/licences; g. Establishes, for each exemption granted on an annual basis, a specific regulatory mechanism that ensures strict supervision of compliance, monitoring and public reporting; h. Requires that data on all exemptions granted, is compiled on an annual basis and is publicly available including information on affected species, number of specimens, justification, the responsible authorities, permitting and licensing procedures, compliance monitoring; i. Provides a comprehensive description(s) of specific IKB-related offences that encompass illegal killing, trapping, trade, possession, transport, importation and taxidermy of wild birds; j. Where feasible, stipulates both the minimum and a maximum penalty for all offence categories except those where a level of penalty is fixed permanently in the law; k. Provides for a wide spectrum of criminal and administrative sanctions including as may be appropriate: fines, imprisonment (both effective and suspended jail terms are usually automatic for the most severe cases of IKB), suspension of license, confiscation of corpus delicti, permanent revocation of license in the case of IKB involving highly protected birds, and, where these may be relevant and appropriate - restoration or remedial measures; l. Ensures that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Penalties for IKB are prescribed in legislation and provide for criminal prosecution for the most serious offences;ii. Penalties for IKB fully reflect severity of offences based on gravity factors recommended as part of Bern Convention Tunis Action Plan and MIKT POW;iii. Penalties for IKB are generally seen as providing an adequate and proportionate deterrent for all IKB cases, as evidenced through
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	<p>sustained IKB crime decline (sustained decline in IKB cases observed over at least 3 years);</p> <p>iv. Wildlife crime offences involving organized criminal groups are treated as serious crime.</p> <p>m. Ensures applicability of criminal law in most serious IKB cases, in addition to administrative and other liability regimes;</p> <p>n. Clearly describes offence categories that are subject to criminal as opposed to administrative liability;</p> <p>o. Is supported by mechanisms that harmonize wildlife and other key domestic legislation such as police laws, firearms laws, other criminal laws;</p> <p>p. Fully and correctly transposes Bern Convention and CMS commitments related to IKB.</p> <p>2.2 By 2023, Contracting Parties shall undertake all measures necessary to ensure that there are no pending / unresolved case files / complaints under Bern Convention related to incorrect transposition of the provisions of the Convention into national law, or their implementation.</p> <p>2.3 By 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention shall, together with relevant stakeholders, agencies and networks, develop and implement a programme of support for Contracting Parties aiming to facilitate achievement of the above objectives.</p>
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Objective 3 - Ensuring that the law is implemented and enforced	
Description and link to vision	Even the best law needs to be properly enforced and implemented in order to be effective. To achieve the vision of zero-tolerance and putting an end to IKB, Bern Convention Contracting Parties must work in cooperation with the necessary stakeholders and partners to ensure that they have necessary detection/ surveillance, enforcement and implementation mechanisms in place, backed by clear national enforcement priorities and action plans, underpinned by adequate enforcement capacities, including human, material and financial resources.
High-level targets	<p>3.1 By not later than 2023, all Contracting Parties that have a significant IKB problem within their national territories (including, where relevant – transboundary IKB⁸) should have developed, adopted, published, commenced implementation, regular monitoring and review of their National Action Plans (NAPs) to address IKB at the national level in a concerted manner with the involvement of the necessary stakeholders, fostering collaboration and a joined up approach between civil society and governments, including in terms of monitoring, law enforcement and capacity building. The NAPs should comprehensively address all aspects of the fight against IKB. and be coordinated where possible with relevant processes under CBD and the African Union).</p> <p>3.2 By not later than 2021, Contracting Parties should ensure that IKB is afforded the highest level of enforcement priority on a national level, in proportion to with the extent of IKB problem in the country, and, where relevant - <i>on par</i> with other forms of serious wildlife crime.</p> <p>3.3 Since concerted action drawing on the support and resources of a broad range of stakeholders is, in the long term, more effective in producing results, than a unilateral action, Contracting Parties should strive to enact appropriate mechanisms at the national level, which would ensure stakeholders’ participation in policy decisions concerning IKB. Such mechanisms may take the form of, <i>inter alia</i>, formal stakeholder structures and committees at national level, or legal provisions requiring the authorities to ensure stakeholder consultation and involvement in decision-making processes.</p> <p>3.4 By 2023, Contracting Parties shall ensure that the designated law enforcement agencies tasked with IKB-related detection/ surveillance and enforcement duties have a sufficient number of specialised staff and sufficient material resources to tackle identified IKB trends in the country. States shall furthermore ensure that such enforcement entities have appropriate recruitment and training processes in place that result in the selection, retention, continuous development and training of appropriately qualified personnel possessing the right mix of skills, knowledge and expertise to effectively tackle IKB challenge in the country.</p> <p>3.5 By 2023, the Contracting Parties shall ensure that at least 50% of enforcement personnel deployed within the law enforcement agencies which are regularly tasked with IKB-related enforcement, would have undergone appropriate specialised training on IKB-related issues, where appropriate partnering with stakeholder organisations with specialist expertise. Contracting Parties shall strive to maintain and further improve this training ration thereafter, so as to reach a target of 80% of officers so trained by 2029.</p> <p>3.6 By 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention shall, together with other stakeholders such as INTERPOL, Europol, IMPEL, EJTN, ENPE, EUFJE, TRAFFIC and other relevant enforcement agencies and networks, develop and enact a programme of support for Contracting Parties in facilitating exchange of enforcement expertise, training for enforcement personnel, capacity-building,</p>

⁸ For example, a country which might not have a significant indigenous IKB problem within its national territory, but which may have a direct or indirect transboundary contribution to IKB problem in another state (such as through “IKB tourism” or as a transshipment base for IKB-related trade or through demand for IKB-related articles and proceeds) should focus its National Action Plan on addressing the problem at source.

	<p>and similar activities, in the areas of relevance to overall capacity building for enforcement against IKB.</p> <p>3.7. By [] the Secretariats should 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</p>
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Objective 4 - Ensuring efficient justice for IKB-related offences	
Description and link to vision	<p>The mere existence of elaborate legislation, even when backed by sufficient enforcement in the field, would not, in itself, guarantee success against IKB, unless complemented by an effective and efficient justice system and credible deterrents against IKB-related crime. Consequently, Contracting Parties and other partners must further develop their capacities to improve prosecution procedures, sentencing processes, ensure adequacy, deterrence and proportionality of penalties against IKB that reflect appropriate gravity factors, including conservation impact of IKB by considering species' conservation listing status as part of the judicial processes.</p>
High-level targets	<p>4.1 By 2023, Contracting Parties shall implement requisite measures to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of prosecution and justice to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Majority of all criminal proceedings (excluding appeals) in IKB cases are concluded within one year from initiation;b. Majority of all administrative proceedings (excluding appeals) in IKB cases are concluded within 3 months from initiation;c. Majority of all criminal or administrative proceedings in IKB cases where conviction is achieved result in imposition of penalties that are exemplary and dissuasive;d. Where feasible, criminal or administrative proceedings in IKB cases are handled by specialised prosecutors and judges;e. Information on prosecution and sentences / sanctions applied in the case of IKB-related criminal or administrative proceedings is recorded and made publicly accessible;f. Sentencing guidelines for IKB cases are finalised and adopted and disseminated to non-European Mediterranean countries;g. The judiciary sector is provided with clear sentencing guidelines;h. Information on the above judicial processes should be recorded in appropriate databases and made public. <p>4.2 By 2025, Contracting Parties shall ensure that more than 50% of all environmental prosecutors and judges who deal with wildlife crime have received training in IKB-related aspects. As a result, prosecutors and judges should become well aware of the nature and prevalence of wildlife crime, and the impact and potential profits of wildlife crime; have a high level of awareness of wildlife crime-related charges; should collaborate to deliver verdicts that are appropriate to the nature and severity of the crime and should routinely adhere to sentencing guidelines. The setting up of specialized environmental prosecution and policing bodies dedicated to IKB shall be strongly encouraged, 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</p> <p>4.3 By 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention shall, together with other stakeholders such as Interpol, Europol, ENPE, EUFJE, IMPEL and other relevant enforcement agencies and networks, develop and enact a programme of support for Contracting Parties in facilitating exchange of expertise amongst prosecutors and judges, training, capacity-building, and similar activities, in the areas of relevance to overall capacity building for justice against IKB.</p>

Objective 5 - Preventing IKB	
Description and link to vision	<p>Whilst robust legislation, effective enforcement, efficient justice system are necessary for the <i>reduction</i> of IKB, the ultimate elimination of this phenomenon as a conservation concern at the flyway level would only be possible through a lasting change in attitudes towards IKB, and behaviour of communities and actors engaged in IKB. For this reason, significant effort needs to be directed at prevention of IKB, through enhanced cooperation between stakeholders, through awareness raising, education, and investment in non-ICKB alternative livelihoods and culture change.</p>
High-level targets	<p>5.1 By 2023, Contracting Parties shall ensure that all action against IKB at the national / regional / local levels is informed by in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the local drivers behind IKB. This understanding should have emerged as a result of IKB assessments (Objective 1) and necessary scientific research feeding into the development of National Action Plans (Objective 3.1).</p> <p>5.2 Contracting Parties, in collaboration with stakeholders shall ensure that there is a concerted and sustained effort to address IKB drivers and demand through appropriate combination of measures ranging from legislative (regulation of specific activities), enforcement and judicial action to economic incentives, as well as educational and awareness raising programmes specifically targeting communities engaged in IKB.</p> <p>5.3 By 2023, Contracting Parties in collaboration with stakeholders shall adopt national communication strategies (as part of national action plans, where relevant) focusing on promoting elimination of IKB. After 2023, Contracting Parties shall ensure adequate allocation of necessary resources to ensure implementation of these communication strategies. The communication strategies should aim at fostering lasting change of attitude towards greater respect for migratory birds and nature in general and should be developed in cooperation with behavioural scientists, local communities and hunting communities and target young generations and community leaders.</p> <p>5.4 By not later than 2023, Contracting Parties in collaboration with stakeholders shall establish national education programmes to promote awareness and appreciation of the ecological, cultural and economic value of avifauna, and to promote a culture of zero-tolerance against IKB. Depending on local priorities and contexts, such educational programmes may be specifically tailored towards young people, school children, students, women as well as specific stakeholder groups: e.g. local farmers, hunters, game managers, community leaders, elders, etc.</p> <p>5.5 [By] Alternative sources of income are identified for communities that depend on illegal killing and trapping of birds for subsistence.</p> <p>5.6 By 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention shall, together with other stakeholders such as Birdlife International and FACE and other relevant NGOs and networks, develop and enact a programme of support for Contracting Parties in facilitating the development and implementation of national communication, information, awareness raising and educational initiatives, through provision of multimedia materials, toolkits, training for communicators, marketing support, media packs and similar initiatives.</p>

Objective 6 – Ensuring relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the Strategy through mid-term and ex-post assessments	
Description and link to vision	<p>Taking into consideration the overall ten-year time horizon for the present Strategy, it is necessary to ensure that the Strategy’s implementation is punctuated with a robust and comprehensive mid-term assessment, to be undertaken at the end of the first five-year period. This would ensure that the Strategy’s objectives and targets remain relevant within an evolving context, and that their implementation remains efficient, effective, and produces the desired impact. On the other hand, this would also ensure continuous improvement, better prioritization and commitment of the necessary resources, and motivation of the stakeholders. A final assessment of the performance of the strategy at the end of the ten-year period is also essential to draw lessons learned.</p>
High-level targets	<p>6.1 By the end of 2025, the Secretariat of the Convention shall, together with the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, carry out a mid-term assessment of the delivery of the present Strategy, focusing on the following parameters⁹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Relevance: Have the overall objectives, goals and targets of the Strategy remained relevant or necessitate a revision in the light of changing context and circumstances? b. Effectiveness: Are the objectives listed in the Strategy being achieved and to what extent? Is there scope for fine-tuning or amending the objectives or measures of delivery to optimize effectiveness and results achieved? c. Efficiency: Are the objectives being attained economically, with the optimum ratio of resources used? Is there a need for better prioritization to ensure optimum impact with the least resources possible? d. Impact: Does the implementation of the Strategy produce the desired impact in terms of the overarching aim of eradication of IKB? Are the results and progress attained contributing to improved conservation of the species within the flyways? e. Sustainability: Are the positive effects or results sustainable? How can the sustainability and permanence of the intervention be maintained? <p>Necessary corrections and revisions should be affected depending on the outcome of this assessment.</p> <p>6.2 A final assessment following similar parameters as may be appropriate shall also be performed by the end of 2029, the final year of the Strategy’s implementation. This final assessment should yield necessary direction to guide the development of the relevant policies and strategies in the post 2030 period.</p>

⁹ The parameters of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability are based on a widely used monitoring model for strategies and programmes, adopted by several international institutions and bodies, such as for example OECD: <https://www.oecd.org/development/evaluation/dcdndep/47069197.pdf>