



**BirdLife International**  
**Contributions to implementing**  
**the Rome Strategic Plan**

MIKT Taskforce meeting – June 9-11th 2021

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BirdLife International

Under the RSP we have committed to an **ambitious** goal and to taking **bolder action** to achieve zero-tolerance and to scaling up efforts to eradicate IKB

But **zero tolerance** needs to be put into practice across the board – in legislation, enforcement, judicial process, education, communication














**Promising signs** in some countries, but in some, **backward steps** are being taken and in many, action needs to be up-scaled with far **greater urgency**

**Multi-stakeholder National Action Plans** and committees are the best framework and vehicle for driving implementation of the RSP

NOW is the time to ACT

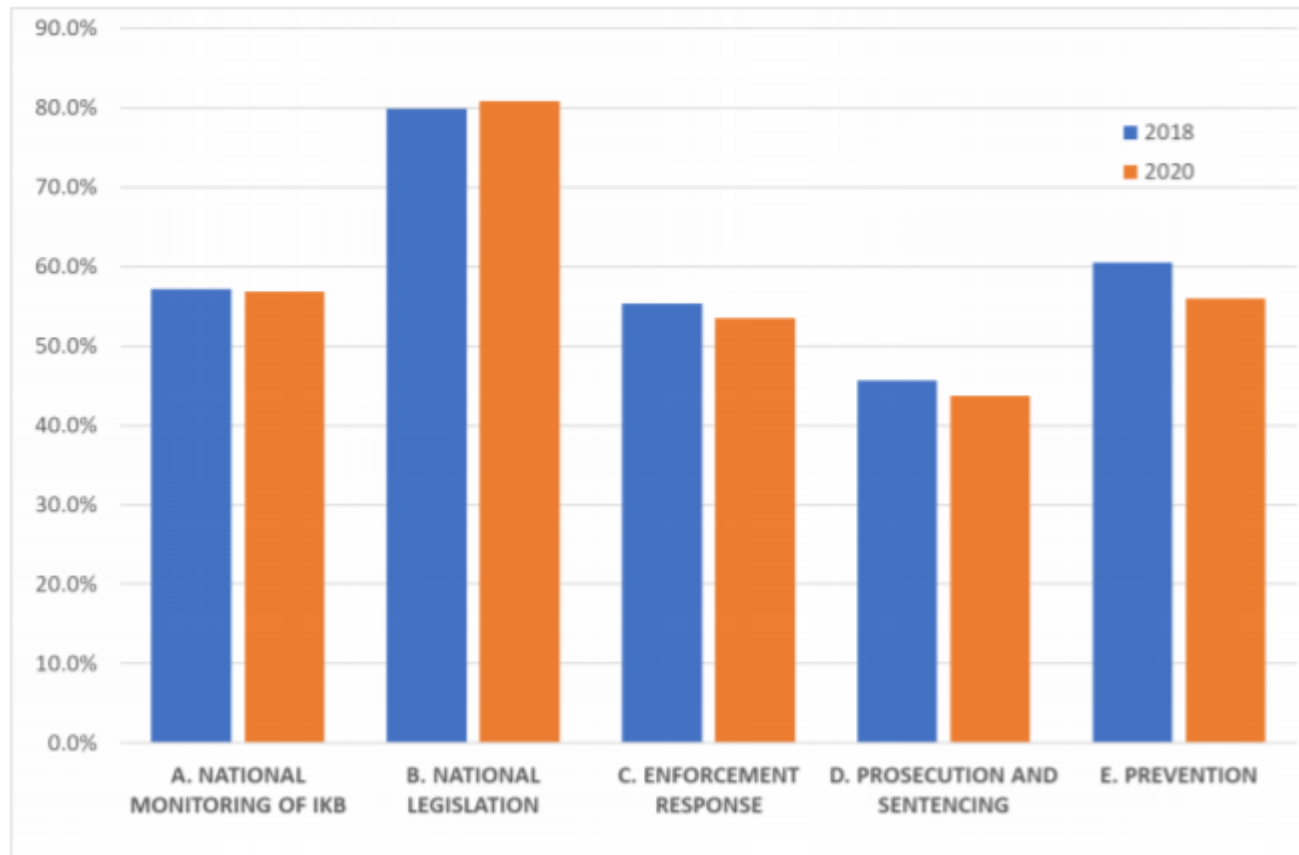


# NGO response to Government Scoreboard Assessment

Czechia	
Italy	
Slovenia	
Croatia	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Romania	
Montenegro	
Spain	
UK	
Lebanon	
Cyprus	
Greece	
Syria	
Tunisia	

- ✓ Scoreboard is a **unique process** in intergovernmental environmental monitoring - can be used as a best practice for other international fora
- ✓ **Overall positive engagement** with Scoreboard process – good consultation by Czechia, Cyprus, Croatia governments etc.
- ✓ **Room for improvement** – more governments engage with the process & involve stakeholders
- ✓ Pleased to see vast majority made info available – encourage the remaining few to make these reports public

Figure 3 –Average score (percentage of maximum possible score) for each indicators' group. Comparison from 2018 – 2020. Last available scores for each of the 35 countries with at least 1 score (not including the scoreboards completed by NGOs).



## Scoreboard shows progress has been negligible

Impact is poor – either stable or IKB increasing.

Only **4 countries reporting a decreasing trend** in IKB, 3 reporting increasing trend, 6 stable trend, 11 unknown trend.

This does not yet suggest the upscaling of effort envisaged in the vision and goal of the RSP.

It also underlines the **need for systematic monitoring** in order to **fill knowledge gaps** and reduce the number of countries with unknown trend.

More work needs to be done!!!

# How are NGOs contributing to the Rome Strategic Plan?

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BIRDLIFE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER NGOS ARE HERE TO HELP!



# BirdLife are working across all 5 of the objectives of the RSP

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**Data collection**, field monitoring, detection and surveillance, socio-economic studies

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Supporting **enforcement actions** (e.g. joint missions, providing expertise on identification, anti-poaching camps, volunteer work)

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**Capacity building** for authorities (professional trainings, knowledge sharing, materials, database management)

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**Knowledge sharing** (professional trainings, materials, guidance, database management)

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Advocating to ensure that there is **public support** for these measures (including IKB hotlines)

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Facilitating the **development of National Action Plans &** working closely with government authorities

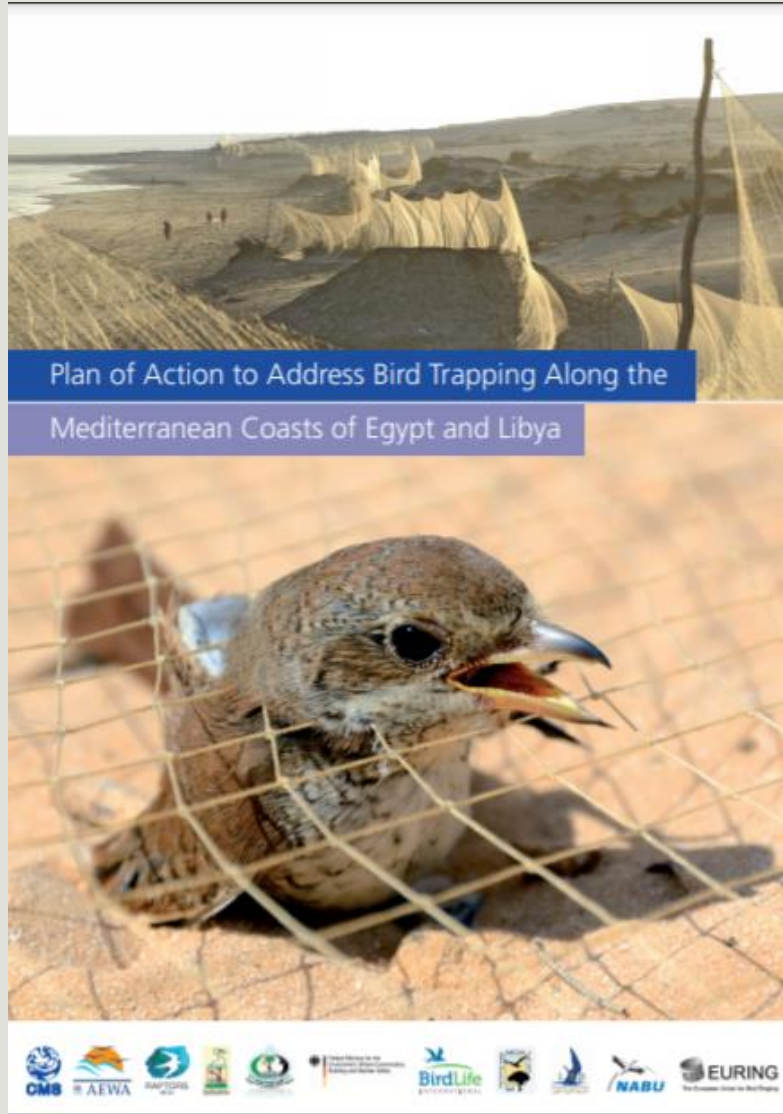
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**Awareness** raising among target groups (hunters, landowners, market traders, consumers etc.)

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Working with **communities** to develop **alternative livelihoods**

# National Action Plans



- National Action plans are the best method of delivering a reduction in IKB
- Government-led, multi-stakeholder process – ensures both legitimacy and buy-in from all parties
- BirdLife has developed **NGO guidance document** on how to help support governments to develop NAP
- **International workshop on National Action Plan development** and implementation was held in March 2021
- Several National Action Plans to tackle IKB are in place: Egypt, Libya, Cyprus, Lebanon, Italy, Montenegro – cannot be complacent!

**NAP is a process – not a document that sits on a shelf**

## A preliminary assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of wild birds in the Arabian peninsula, Iran and Iraq

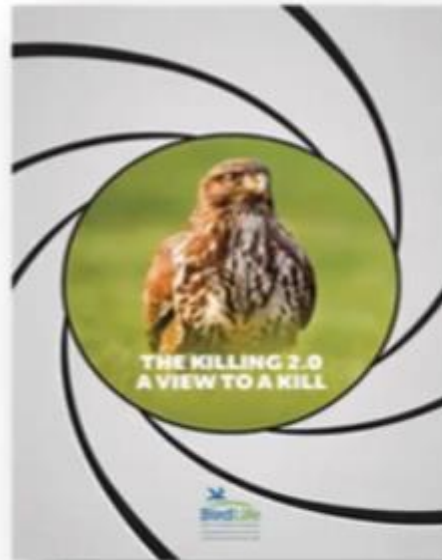
ANNE-LAURE BROCHET, SHARIF JBOUR, ROBERT D SHELDON, RICHARD PORTER, VICTORIA R JONES, WAHEED AL FAZARI, OMAR AL SAGHEER, SAIED ALKHUZAL LAITH ALI AL OBEIDI, RICHARD ANGWIN, KORSHI ASARAT, MIKE POPE, MOHAMMED Y SHORRAK, MAIA S WILLSON, SADEGH SADEGHI ZADEGAN & STUART H M BUTCHART

**Summary:** High levels of illegal killing and taking of wild birds were recently reported for eastern Mediterranean countries, and anecdotal information from other countries of the Middle East suggests this may be a significant conservation issue for the whole region. We quantified the approximate scale and scope of this threat in the Arabian peninsula, Iran and Iraq, using a diverse range of data sources and incorporating expert knowledge. We estimate that at least 1.7–4.6 million (best estimate: 3.2 million) birds of at least 413 species may be killed or taken illegally each year in this region, many of them on migration. This is likely to be an underestimate as data were unavailable for parts of the region. The highest estimated country



2015

2019



2017

# Data collection, socio-economic studies, field monitoring, detection and surveillance

Monitoring programmes are still running at national level in many countries – this information can be shared with governments

Ideally governments would focus on developing or continuing this systematic monitoring of IKB **along with other stakeholders.**

Sampling strategy can reflect capacity/ investment - doesn't have to be a huge undertaking if well designed.

[Best Practice Guidelines for Monitoring IKB](#)



# BirdLife support to LEAs - national enforcement activities

BirdLife partners are working directly with law enforcement authorities (LEAs) across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa to provide:

- Materials & equipment
- Joint surveillance missions & monitoring operations
- Guidance & information sharing
- Setting up and/or promoting wildlife crime hotlines for public
- Reporting incidents and following up on reported incidents
- Training volunteers
- Anti-poaching camps (alongside LEAs)
- Training (including organizing peer-to-peer international exchanges)





# Wildlife Crime Academy

## Basic

**SPECIALISATION IN FORENSIC AND POLICE INVESTIGATION OF WILDLIFE CRIME**

June (29<sup>th</sup>) 2021 & April 2022

## Advanced

**ADVANCED INVESTIGATION OF WILDLIFE CRIME**

October 2021 & October 2022

## Supreme

**WILDLIFE CRIME ANALYSIS AND INTELLIGENCE**

fall 2022

*Each course - 4 days of training, including practical sessions (11 hours) and theory classes (9 hours)*

MAVA Poisoning & BalkanDetoxLife 40-50 (AL, BG, BH, HR, GR, MK & RS)

MAVA IKB 6 (LB & EG) 2022

LIFE with Vulture 6 (CY)

LIFE Safe for Vultures 6 (IT – Sardinia)



# EU-wide IKB Database Feasibility Report First steps

Action outlined in MIKT  
Programme of Work 1.1.e

Deliverable under BirdLife-led  
'LIFE Against Bird Crime'  
project

**141** organizations were contacted that were known or expected to hold bird crime data

**26** agencies and organizations replied, covering 14 countries and 28 databases, mainly from the Mediterranean countries. 50-50% NGO vs. GOV, 50-50% offline vs. online

## Biggest challenges:

**DATA COLLECTION:** Only 6 of these databases are public. Willingness to share data could be even lower than the response rate.

**DATA HARMONIZATION:** Not clear how comparable the data are – standardization would be a massive undertaking.

# Key Challenges and Successes

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FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND NGOS

# We have some great success stories!!



The Lebanese Internal Security Forces

Strategic Advocacy for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Lebanon

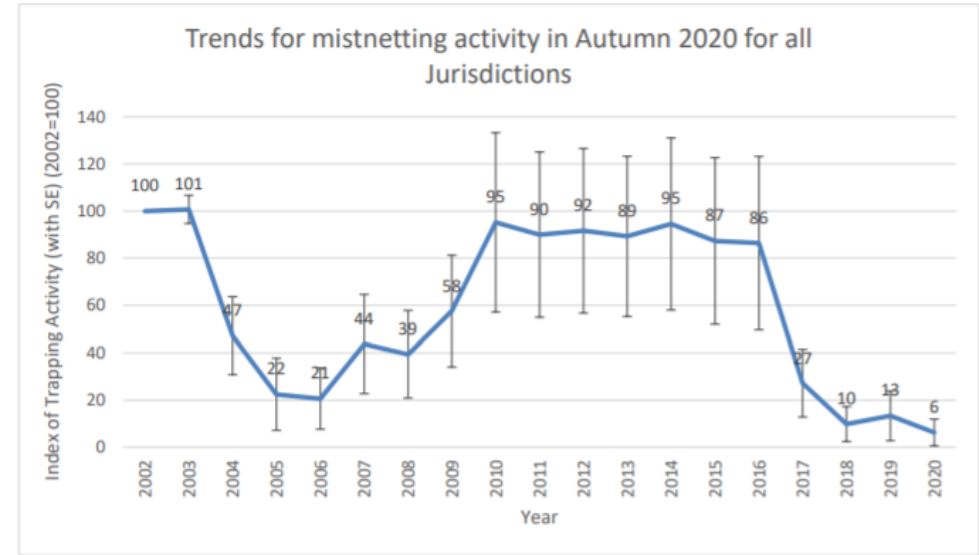
Success Stories in the Spring and Autumn Migration 2020

The Way Forward

Dr. Marwan Owaygen



Figure 2 Trends for autumn bird trapping activity with the use of mist nets in Cyprus, for all jurisdictions in the survey area





**Ornithology & Bird Conservation**

2 hrs · 🌐

BirdLife International BirdLife Middle East IUCN OSME What are plans? This is horrific.



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Science & Environment

## 'Surge' in illegal bird of prey killings since lockdown

By Claire Marshall  
Environment and Rural Affairs Correspondent

🕒 15 May 2020

🔗



**WORLD**

## For Migratory Birds, Lebanon Is A 'Black Hole' Where They Are Hunted, Trapped, Killed

February 3, 2019 • Every year, some 2.6 million birds are shot or die after being trapped in illegal nets in Lebanon. "This country is a black hole in terms of protection," says a conservationist.




We **cannot afford to back-slide** – some advances by governments are being eroded

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FinancialMirror

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Fan-tailed warbler trapped on limestick - BirdLife Cyprus

CYPRUS / LIFE & SOCIETY

**'Ludicrous' fines encourage limestick bird traps**

BY FM · 18TH MARCH 2021 · 1789 VIEWS · 3 MINS READ

Italy leading the world in development of multi-stakeholder National Action Plan, real commitment to tackling this issue by creating the necessary coordinating bodies. Italian NAP process is exemplary

However...

- Since the Rome meeting, progress on implementation of the NAP has been insufficient (this is reflected in the Scoreboard).
- Lack of progress on the needed legislative changes and a lack of momentum on some crucial aspects, such as enforcement on the ground.

Cyprus, excellent collaboration with the SBA authorities has led to some of the biggest reductions in IKB in the Mediterranean! Increase in fines.

- **94% reduction compared to 2002 baseline...**

But....

- Worrying reversals in previously strong anti-poaching legislation/fines which is leading to a documented increase in use of illegal lime-sticks and jeopardizing a 20-year effort to save migratory birds from being illegally killed in Cyprus

# Where do governments need to step up most?

- **Political will** to support LEAs to enforce the law and enforce sufficient penalties
- Adequate **investment and support** in enforcement
- **Specialized training** offered to enforcement officials and judiciary, creation of **specialised wildlife police or units**
- Tackle the **insufficient penalties** and **big delays in processing cases** (enforcement and judiciary)
- Need for government-led (or funded) **systematic monitoring & detection** combined with **adequate national databases** for both detection and prosecution
- Ensure **better cooperation between state institutions**, and/or between regional competencies





# Government needs to lead on building public compliance

- Public commitment to tackling IKB and government-led awareness campaigns at national and local level
- Need for governments to recognise the socio-economic drivers of poaching & need for alternative livelihoods
- Governments undertaking specific work with the hunting community to maximise compliance with the legislation
- Work needed with communities and other key stakeholder groups to encourage compliance at the same time as enforcement



Different interventions adapted to local contexts





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**The goal: 50% reduction of illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds by 2030**

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Tackling IKB is not easy - it is a **complex** social phenomenon that requires a multi-faceted approach

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The BirdLife International network of national NGOs continues to assist national authorities in achieving this goal

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We are committed to helping governments eradicate IKB and meet international commitments on this important issue