



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



1st Meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean *Cairo, Egypt, 12 – 15 July 2016*

UNEP/CMS/MIKT1/Doc.4b
20 June 2016

Compilation of recommended priority actions for the Task Force's Programme of Work *Prepared by the Secretariat*

In April 2016 the Secretariat requested Task Force members to indicate the recommended top three priority actions that should be undertaken in order to mitigate the problem of illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean Region. This request was done in order to gather some basic information for the development of a draft Programme of Work for the Task Force for the period 2016-2020 (UNEP/CMS/MIKT1/Doc.4), a document which aims to provide a basis for discussion of the POW during the Task Force meeting in Cairo.

Overall six responses have been received which are compiled in the Annex to this cover note. This information has been taken into account in the process to develop the draft POW.

Action requested:

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT1) is requested to take into account these recommended priorities in the discussion and adoption of the Programme of Work of the Task Force.

PRIORITY ACTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CMS SECRETARIAT

June 2016

Prepared by the Secretariat

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

1. At the level of the Mediterranean countries:

To draw up Individual, bilateral or multilateral programmes and plans focused on the development of:

- Identifying important areas for birds, especially endangered ones.
- Creating a database of endangered local birds related to each country.
- Developing local laws pertaining to hunting and in conformity with each country's local laws and international obligations, with the focus on toughening sanctions on hunters and illegal traders.
- Developing alternative projects for people or communities that depend on hunting for income.

2. Monitoring illegal trade of wild species:

In coordination with the application of CITES, a cooperation may start between the convergent and divergent borders states in developing programs of control and surveillance of illegal trade of species in each country through advent informing.

3. Educating community and hunters:

Approving an integrated qualitative plan to educate related people involving non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and focusing on:

- Threatened Species, locally and internationally.
- The environmental importance of birds, especially birds of prey.
- Risk of Lead in cartridges and the use of poisons on public health, especially in humid areas.

MOROCCO

1. Identification of stakeholders

Crimes against wild birds are common, but often those involved in law enforcement and judicial system are not quite aware of it. These stakeholders must be identified and systematically informed to raise their awareness on all aspects of the fight against crimes against wild birds. In some cases, these crimes are the result of a population group composed of citizens most of whom are law-abiding. Sometimes it is possible to mobilize the civil society in order to report crimes against birds to the Authorities.

2. Communication and preventive education

Communication is a very important part of prevention of crimes against wild birds. A priority is to raise awareness of the impact of these crimes on biodiversity in general and endangered species in particular. These impacts are observable at international, national and regional level.

3. Monitoring, inspections and investigations

Inspections, monitoring, enforcement and handling cases in court costs time and money. We must seek and consider measures to improve the effectiveness of all inspection and enforcement processes and include these discussions within the programmes of workshops with the participation of the relevant stakeholders.

TOUR DU VALAT

1. Protocols and methodologies to monitor the trends in illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean
2. Legal aspects, implications and gaps, improvement of law enforcement and training needs for the judiciary
3. Knowledge management platforms to promote mutual communication, the exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how.

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

1. Ensure development, implementation and effectiveness-monitoring of Strategic Action Plans to address illegal bird killing (cf. Cyprus) at national level for all countries, (including a communication plan following guidelines of the Bern convention – Tunis Action Plan documents)
 - Follow-up in specific countries including Egypt on implementation of action plan for Egypt and Lebanon, on piloting Responsible Hunting Areas - to explore where CMS might provide technical support
2. Ensure prompt national action to address illegal killing at the worst ‘blackspots’ in the Mediterranean (the BirdLife review identified that almost 8 million birds a year are killed at just 20 sites, all in the eastern Mediterranean; just tackling this could reduce total illegal killing in the Mediterranean by one third).
3. Lead on systematic monitoring of IKB and periodically repeated Med-wide review to track whether things are improving or not. Ensure countries clearly state how they will monitor the issue. This could include the development through the Task Force of guidelines for Parties on monitoring/ tackling illegal killing (possibly building on BL guidance) and assessing suitability of existing protocols in place.

FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (FACE)

1. Increasing stakeholder consultation: Local communities can play a major role in reducing IKB. In this regard it is important to recognise the text of CMS Resolution 11.16: “Acknowledging the role of legal and sustainable hunting of birds in sustainable livelihoods and conservation of habitats and the role of the hunting community in promoting and encouraging compliance with the law and sustainable hunting practices”.
2. Defining the problem of IKB: Understanding the scale of IKB, the motivations behind it, the species affected, the methods used and the national legislation that prevents it; Noting that this is about the illegal killing of birds, not legal hunting;
3. Increasing awareness and enforcement (not necessarily stricter regulation): Stronger collaboration between local communities and law enforcement bodies; Ensure that regulations are understood; Promote the adoption of a zero tolerance policy towards IKB.

BERN CONVENTION

1. The need to strengthen national legislation. Weak or inconsistent legislation, poor or insufficient legal deterrents against bird crime, inadequate regulatory controls over certain activities would effectively nullify all other efforts to combat IKB. Therefore, improvements to legislation are absolutely necessary for progress on IKB to be made. International cooperation, networking, sharing of experience, exchange of information on legislation, compilation of relevant statistics at wider regional level and similar actions envisaged in Tunis Action Plan can help states improve their legal systems.
2. The need to improve enforcement and compliance with the law on the ground. Achieving this aim would involve training and capacity building for enforcement personnel, better networking and information sharing at national and international levels (e.g. through platforms like EnviCrime Net, Interpol, etc.), development of national enforcement and policing priorities related to IKB, publication of enforcement statistics, and similar actions. Identification of specific black spots, understanding root causes of IKB, awareness raising and education are also very important components that ultimately underpin enforcement.
3. The need to improve effectiveness of judiciary processes. Irrespective of the soundness of the legal system, or effectiveness of enforcement on the ground, a weak judicial system would be a major stumbling block on the way to eradication of IKB. The Tunis Action Plan envisages several actions that are directly relevant in this respect, such as application of gravity factors and sentencing guidelines, developing expert networks and raising judiciary's awareness on issues that are specific to IKB, and similar actions.