



RAPTORS
MOU

Review of the Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade (IKB) of Birds of Prey in the Mediterranean

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CMS Raptors MoU

- Multilateral MoU under CMS
- Entered into effect 1 Nov 2008
- Co-ordinating Unit (Abu Dhabi)
- 131 Range States (Afr-Eurasia)
- 93 species listed (3 Categories)
- List of critical sites
- Action Plan – timescale



Overall Aim – to conserve migratory raptors

Background

Illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds (IKB) is a growing issue of concern, especially across the **Mediterranean region**

- *Indiscriminate/killing protected species, using illegal devices and poisons, out of legal season, in prohibited areas*

Many countries are struggling to tackle the issue

Little quantitative information available on which species are most affected or which countries are facing the most serious problems

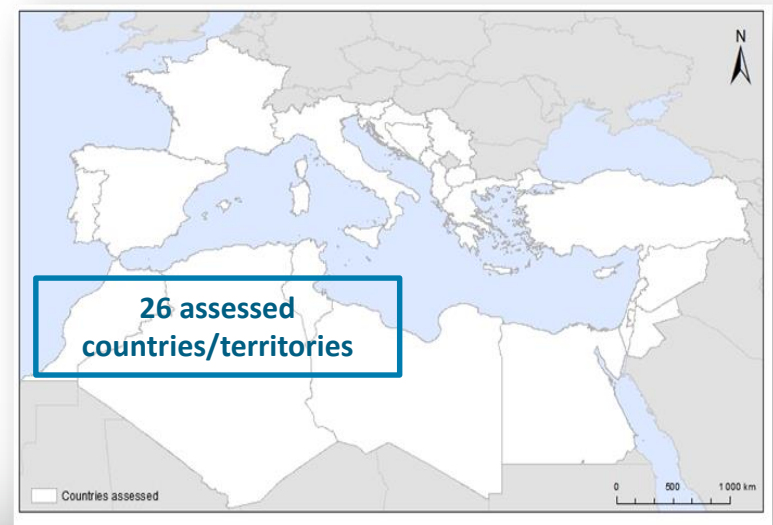


Review of IKB in the Mediterranean region

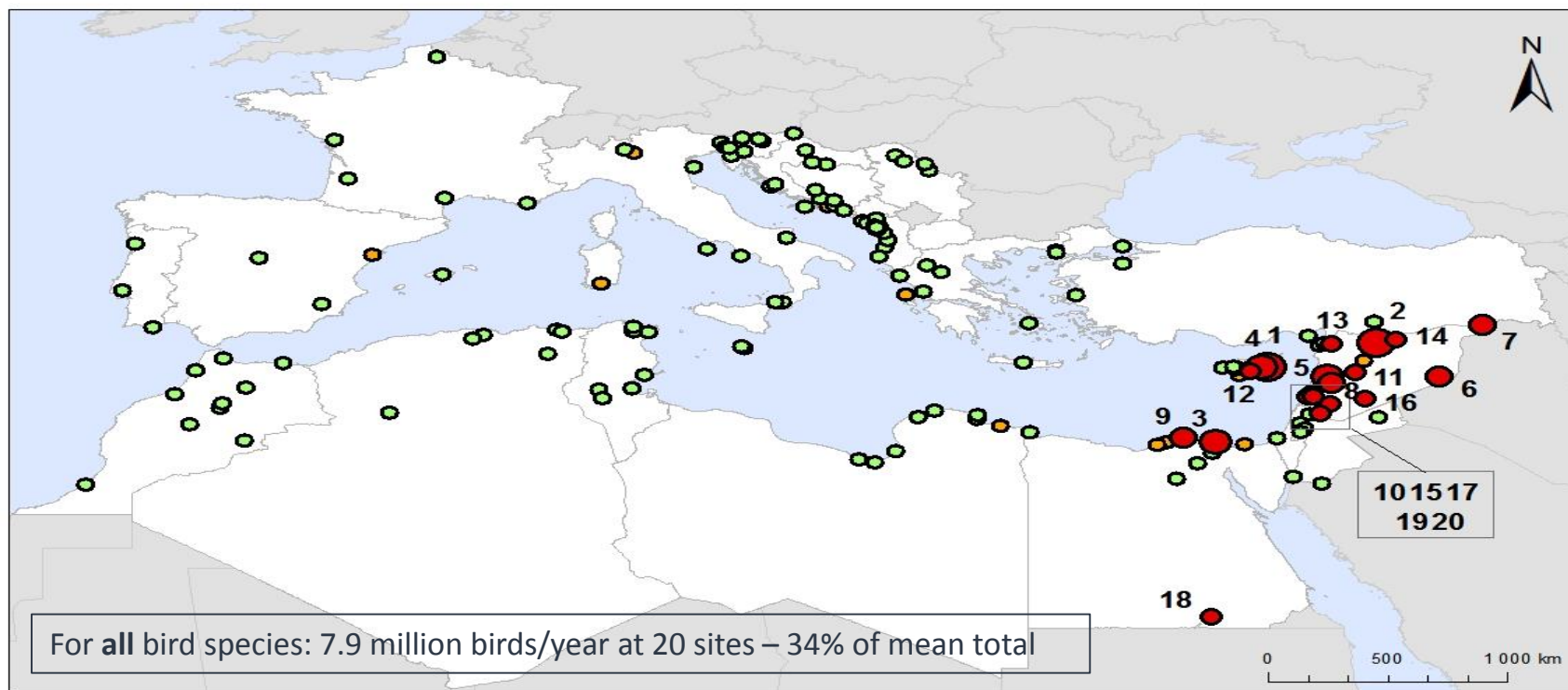
First Pan-Mediterranean analysis providing detailed quantitative estimates of the scope and scale of IKB – BirdLife International 2014-15

- Assessment covered **all native bird species** regularly present in any season in at least one of the 26 assessed countries
- Compilation of information on the **species affected, numbers of individuals, worst locations** and **illegal practices**
- Analysis of 47 (of 93) species of birds of prey covered by the Raptors MoU

Bird group	Mean estimated no. of individual birds illegally killed/taken per year (min – max) (millions)
Passerines	19.9 (9.4 – 30.3)
Waterbirds	1.0 (0.5 – 1.6)
Pigeons & Doves	0.7 (0.4 – 1.0)
Raptors	0.08 (0.04 – 0.1)
Others	1.8 (1.1 – 2.5)
TOTAL	23.5 (11.4 – 35.5)



Map of reported worst IKB hotspots



Mean estimated number of birds killed/taken illegally per location per year

● <100,000 ● > 100,000 □ Countries assessed

The 20 locations at which potentially the largest number of individual birds are reported to be illegally killed/taken per year

● < 400,000 ● 400,001 - 500,000 ● 500,001 - 600,000 ● > 600,000

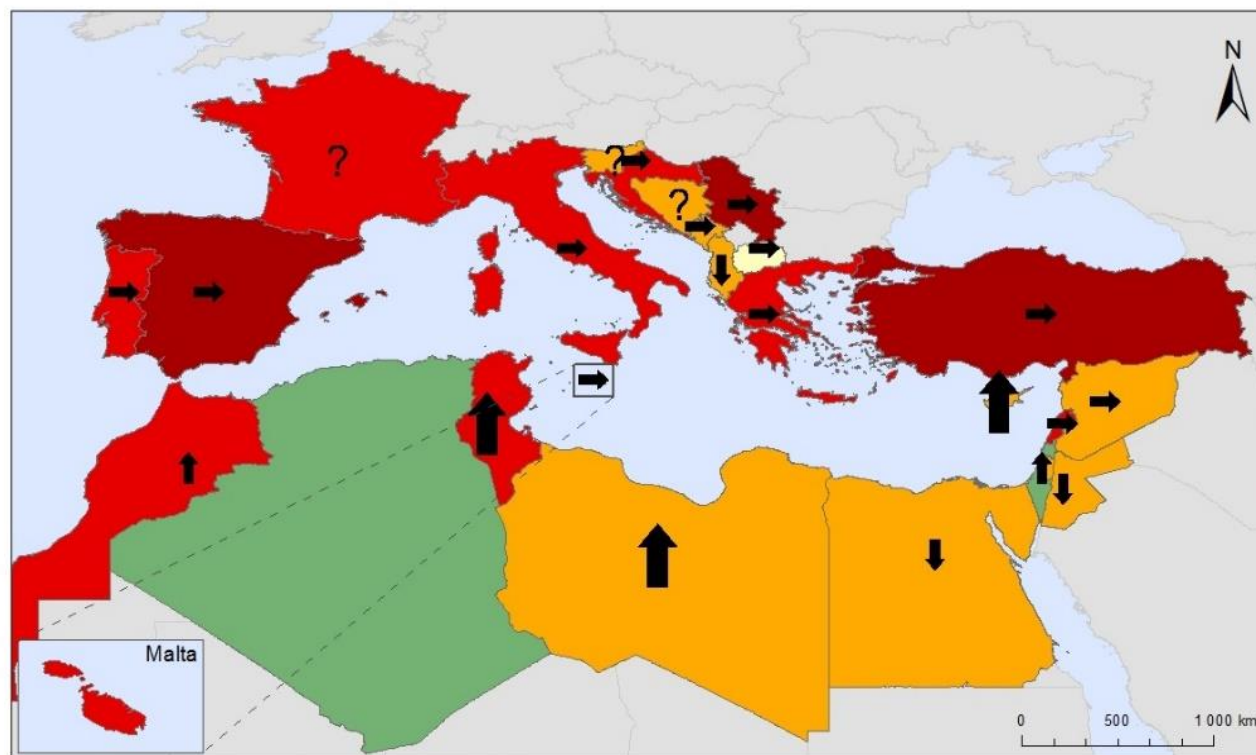
All 20 potential worst locations reported were in Eastern Mediterranean

Number of birds of prey illegally killed/taken

Est. 75,600 (37,500 – 113,700) raptors may be illegally killed/taken each year

1. Spain*
2. Serbia
3. Turkey
4. Croatia*
5. Lebanon*
6. Italy*
7. Portugal*
8. Tunisia*
9. Malta*
10. France*

(* Signatory to Raptors MoU)



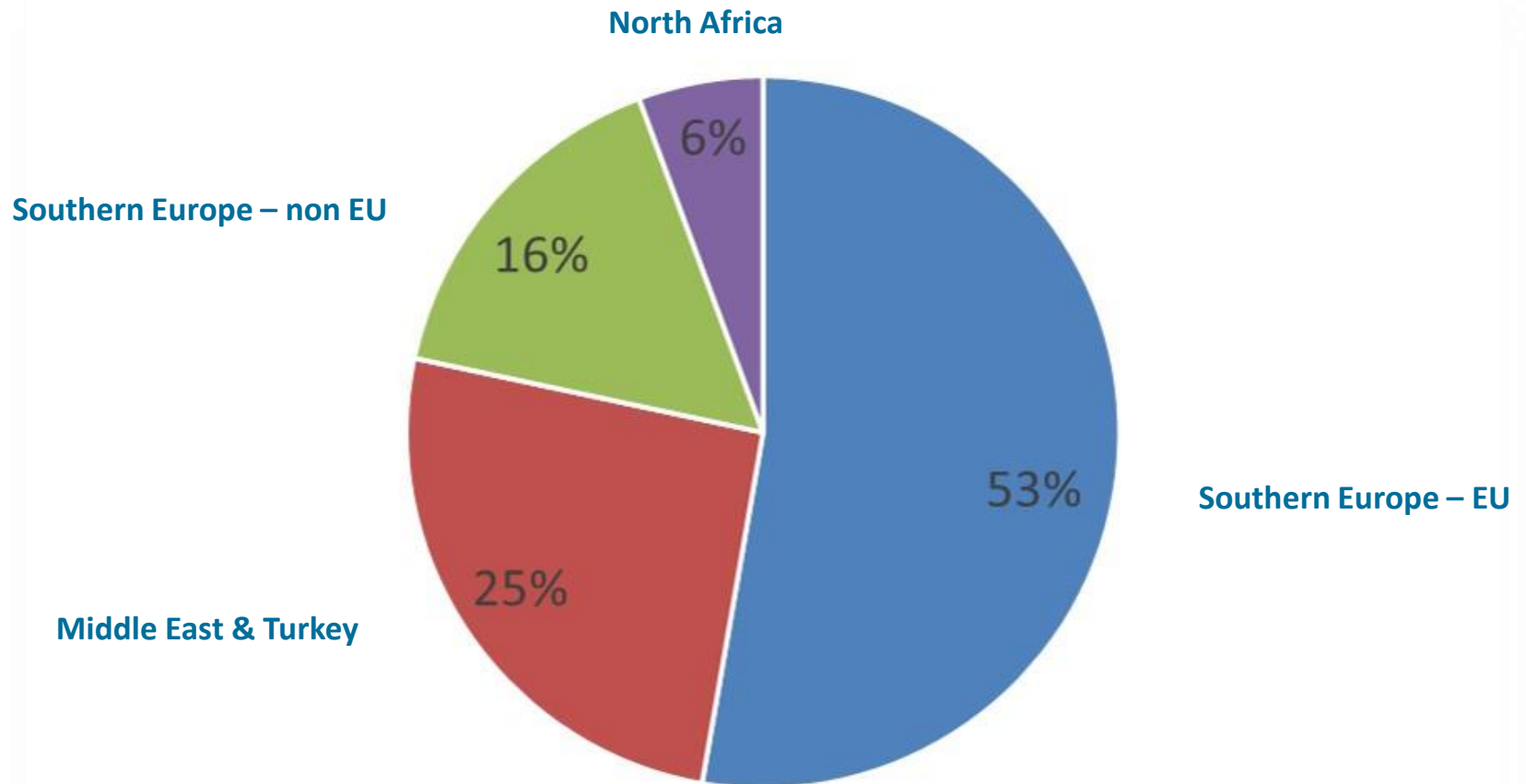
Mean estimated number of raptors killed/taken illegally per country per year



Mean trend of the illegal killing over last 10 years per country



Number of birds of prey illegally killed/taken



53% of raptors reported to be illegally killed/taken - within EU Member States

Species of birds of prey impacted by IKB

40 species (85%) affected with > 50 individuals illegally killed/taken per year

4 species (9%) affected with < 50 individuals illegally killed/taken per year

Family	% of the mean estimated no. of individual birds illegally killed/taken per year
Hawks, Eagles (29 spp)	78%
Falcons (10 spp)	17%
Owls (7 spp)	5%
Osprey (1 spp)	<1%

IUCN 'threat' category	% of the mean estimated no. of individual birds illegally killed/taken per year
LC (33 spp)	96%
NT (6 spp)	3%
VU (3 spp)	<1%
EN (4 spp)	<1%
CR (1 spp)	0%

Species of birds of prey impacted

Species	Mean estimated no. of individual birds illegally killed/taken per year (min – max)
Eurasian Buzzard	22,800 (13,900 – 31,700)
Common Kestrel	8,000 (2,800 – 13,400)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	7,200 (4,800 – 9,500)
European Honey-buzzard	6,800 (3,200 – 10,400)
Lesser Spotted Eagle	3,500 (740 – 6,200)
Northern Long-eared Owl	2,800 (1,600 – 4,100)
Northern Goshawk	2,500 (1,200 – 3,800)
Western Marsh-harrier	2,100 (1,300 – 3,000)
Black Kite	2,050 (770 – 3,300)
Short-toed Snake-eagle	2,000 (310 – 3,600)

Eurasian Buzzard - largest est. number of birds illegally killed/taken per year

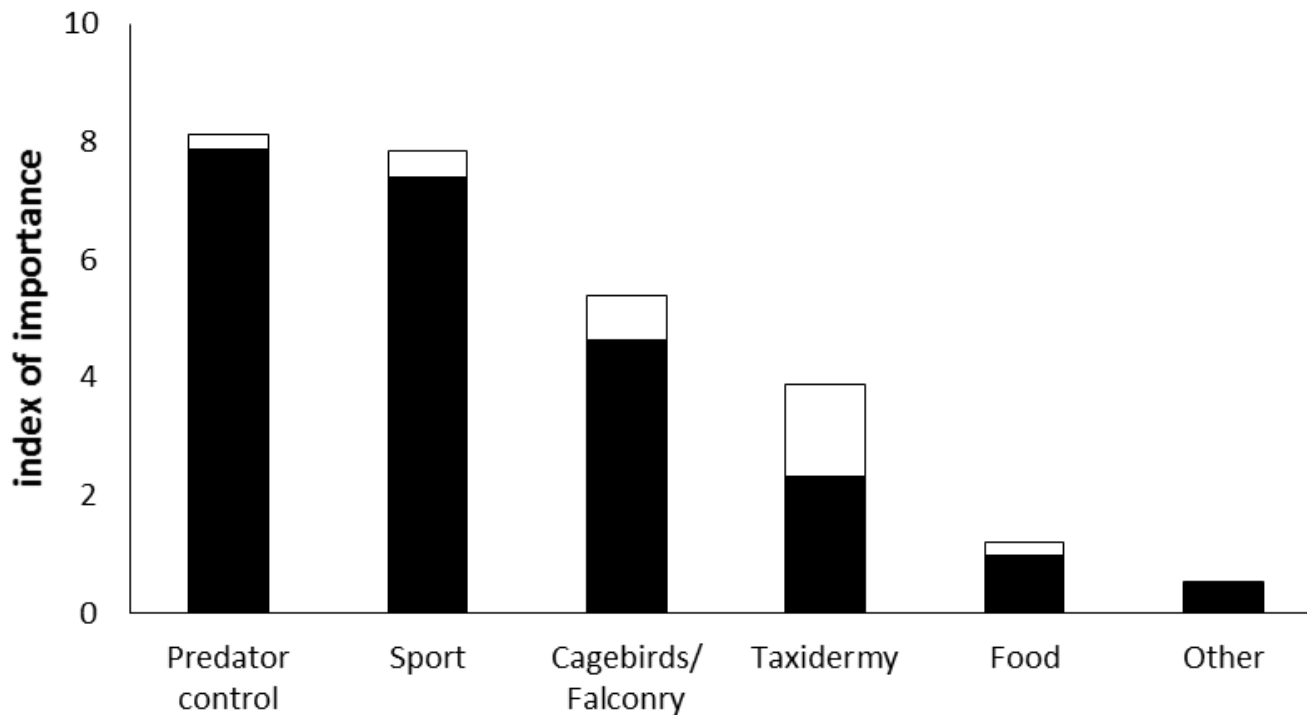
Threatened species of birds of prey impacted by IKB

Species	Ratio of estimated no. of individual birds illegally killed/taken to the global population (min – max)
Spanish Imperial Eagle (VU)	0.087 (0.021 – 0.152)
Red Kite (NT)	0.030 (0.010 – 0.054)
Egyptian Vulture (EN)	0.009 (0.002 – 0.031)
Pallid Harrier (NT)	0.008 (0.004 – 0.015)
Cinereous Vulture (NT)	0.008 (0.004 – 0.013)
Eastern Imperial Eagle (VU)	0.006 (0.001 – 0.028)
Bearded Vulture (NT)	0.003 (0.0001 – 0.020)
Greater Spotted Eagle (VU)	0.003 (0.001 – 0.008)
Sooty Falcon (NT)	0.002 (0.0004 – 0.007)
Saker Falcon (EN)	0.002 (0.001 – 0.006)

Several globally threatened or Near Threatened species are being affected

Drivers for IKB of birds of prey in Mediterranean Region

Birds of prey were illegally killed/taken primarily for **predator control** and **sport**

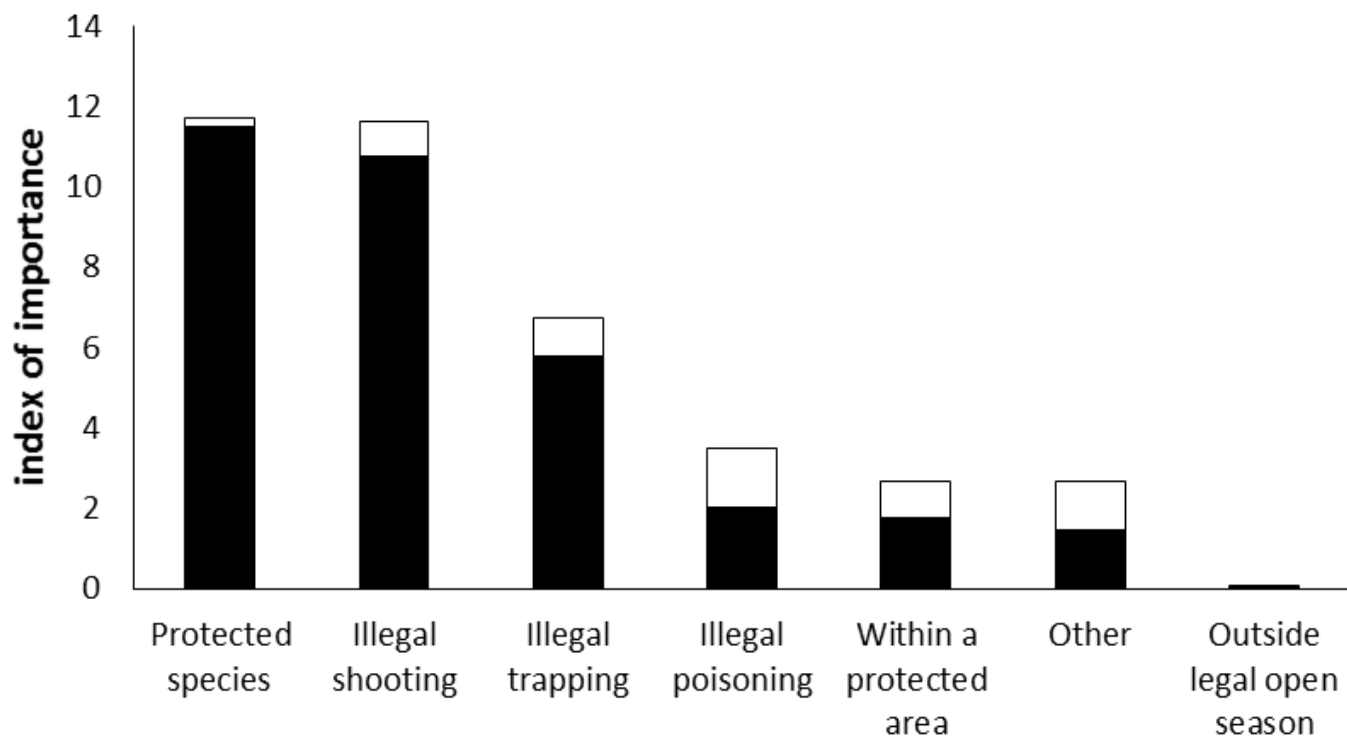


Index of importance of the potential reasons for illegally killing/taking raptors in the Mediterranean region. Solid bars = primary reason, Open bars = secondary reasons.



Types of IKB in the Mediterranean Region

Killing/taking of protected species and illegal shooting were the most reported



Index of importance of the potential types of illegality for killing/taking raptors in the Mediterranean region. Solid bars = primary reason; Open bars = secondary reason.

Potential legislative gaps for birds of prey species

Birds or prey are protected by law in majority of Mediterranean states

But in five countries, some species can be legally killed/taken:

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Bearded Vulture, Eurasian Sparrowhawk and Northern Goshawk are currently listed as game species.
- **Macedonia (FYROM):** Northern Goshawk can be hunted all-year round, apparently to minimise any negative effects on certain protected species.
- **Serbia:** Northern Goshawk can be hunted all-year round, exclusively in order to prevent damage to certain huntable quarry species.
- **Tunisia:** Trapping is authorised for female Eurasian Sparrowhawk for falconry purposes [Also 4 young falcons (no species mentioned in the legislation, but mainly Peregrine) can be taken from the nest, annually]
- **Turkey:** Eurasian Sparrowhawk can be legally trapped for falconry purposes.

Illegal trapping of birds of prey for trade

- Several national experts raised **issue of illegal trade in raptors for falconry in North Africa and Middle East**
- Confirmed by socio-economic survey of bird hunting and illegal trapping along the Med coast of Egypt

Species and prices recorded at the markets along the Mediterranean coast of Egypt during an Autumn Survey in 2015

Species	Price Each (USD)	Buyers
Common Kestrel	2.5	Local
Red-footed Falcon	5	Local
Eurasian Hobby	5	Local
Peregrine Falcon	6,500 - 33,500	Gulf States
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	15	Local



IKB observed in other regions of the world



Poisoning of
Hawks and
Eagles in
Europe



Mass trapping of
Falcons in Asia



Shooting of
raptors in
the Arabian
Peninsula



Poisoning of
Vultures in
Africa

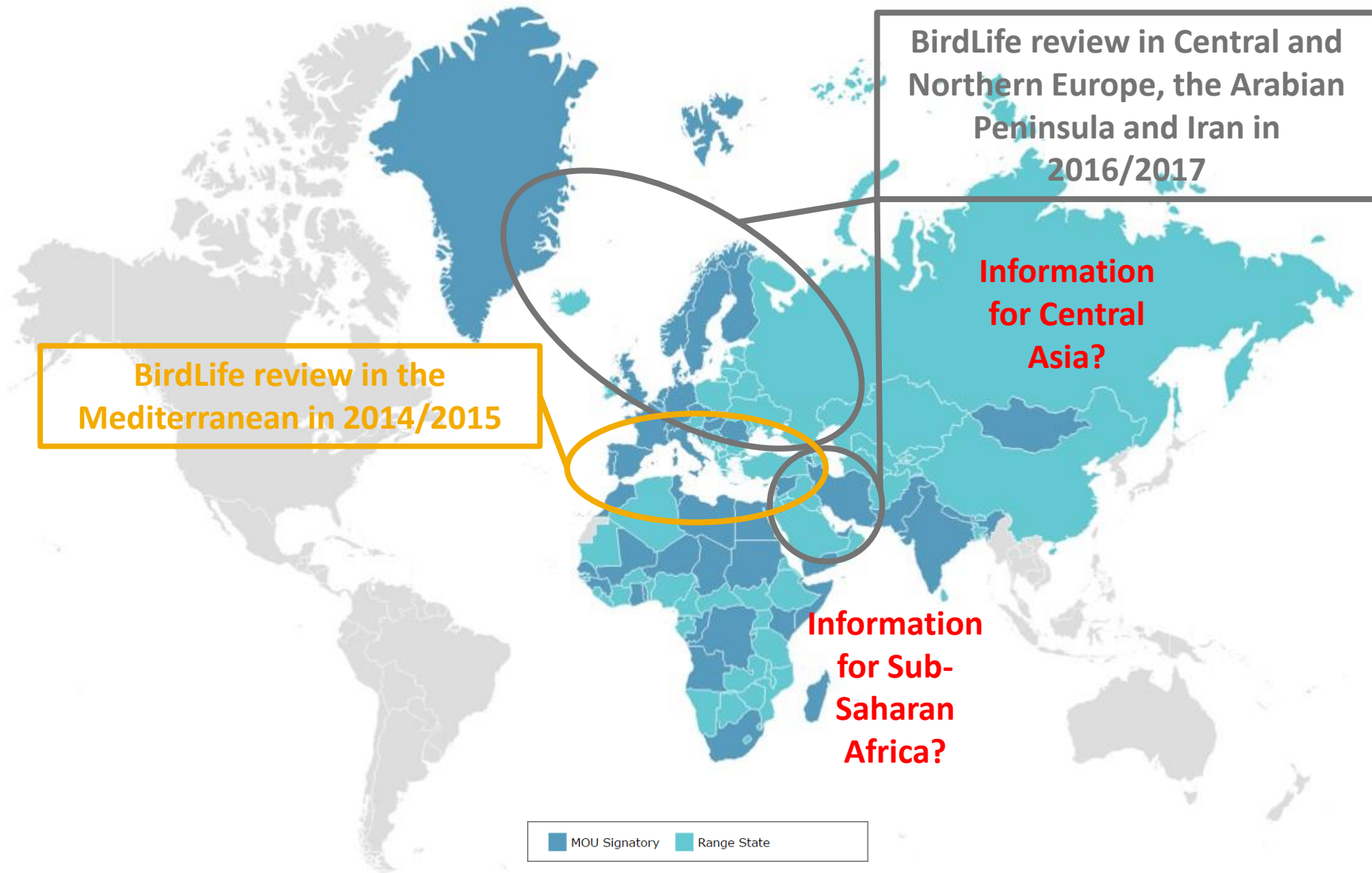


Boom of the
national and
international
wild bird
black market



MOU Signatory Range State

Flyway-scale picture needed to tackle the issue



Summary of key points

- 1) First comprehensive quantitative assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing, trapping and trade in birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean region
- 2) Important baseline study – provides a useful indication of the overall magnitude of the problem, but paucity of data means most estimates have wide intervals
- 3) Worryingly high numbers (c80,000 individuals) of migratory birds or prey are being taken annually, including virtually all (44 of 47) species that occur in the region
- 4) Eurasian Buzzard was reported as the most highly persecuted (c22,800 individuals) but several globally or Near Threatened species also affected
- 5) Worst IKB hotspots for birds of prey differ somewhat from other species, with 53% of IKB reported within several southern EU Member States
- 6) Predator control and sporting shooting appear to be the most serious threat for most birds of prey but trapping and use of poisons are also of significant concern
- 7) Study confirms that birds or prey are generally protected by law within most of the 26 countries surveyed but also highlights a few potential legislative gaps
- 8) Information emerging from Egypt suggests further investigation may be warranted concerning the trapping and illegal trade for falconry in North Africa and Middle East

Thank you for your attention!



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