



Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the UN-Environment/CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean

(Rome, Italy 8 – 10 May 2019)

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OPTIONS FOR COLLABORATION ON THE POST-2020 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ERADICATION OF ILLEGAL KILLING OF WILD BIRDS UNDER THE BERN CONVENTION SFP NETWORK AND CMS MIKT

(Prepared by the CMS and Bern Convention Secretariats)

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The European Commission were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2019-2020. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.



Background

1. Among crucial biodiversity targets and deadlines, in 2020, the Bern Convention Tunis Action Plan (TAP) and the Programme of Work (POW) of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) will also reach their completion dates.
2. In 2013, the Bern Convention, at its second International Conference on Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB), in Tunis, adopted the Tunis Action Plan 2013 - 2020 (TAP), included in Recommendation 164 (2013). Subsequently the Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) for IKB was established to implement and supervise the activities against IKB under the Bern Convention.
3. In 2016, at its first meeting, MIKT adopted the Cairo Declaration on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Region as well as its Programme of Work¹ (POW) 2016 -2020.
4. The initiatives under both Conventions have made joint efforts in the past years to maximize efficiency and available resources. The close coordination has greatly contributed to avoiding both duplication of work and inconsistencies. Meetings have been organized jointly since 2017 and the common discussions have led to the adoption and implementation of the Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (the Scoreboard) by both Conventions.
5. Among other international and regional strategic plans, initiatives and programmes of work, the POW contributes to the achievement of the Bern Convention TAP. The main thematic work areas of the POW are in line with the Tunis Action Plan and the POW has specific references to the TAP within the relevant objectives and actions.
6. The year 2020 is a milestone for the SFPs and MIKT, which represents both an opportunity and a challenge to take stock of the progress achieved and, on this basis, further develop the strategic priorities and needed actions beyond 2020.
7. 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 UN-Environment/CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, will discuss the options for IKB policy priorities and action post 2020 in Europe and the Mediterranean region within the framework of the Conventions.
8. The decision on the priorities beyond 2020 is to be supported by the critical information at the national level, compiled by countries and other stakeholders through the Scoreboard, adopted by both Conventions in 2017, and implemented in 2018. The results of the first assessment of the Scoreboard are being presented at this joint meeting as Agenda Item 5 (UNEP/CMS/MIKT/Doc 5.1 / T-PVS/Inf(2019)10). The results of this self-assessment constitute an analysis that defines the current state of play of the progress made towards ending IKB for the countries that submitted a response. The next reporting phase on the Scoreboard is planned for 2020.
9. In 2018, the Bern Convention prepared and circulated a concept note and questionnaire on Post-2020 policy priorities on eradication of illegal killing, taking and trade in wild birds. The concept note and questionnaire were circulated by the CMS Secretariat to MIKT members and observers to request their views on the priorities to be established, in preparation for a common discussion at the present joint meeting.

¹ https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/uploads/unep_cms_mikt1_doc-04_program-of-work_FINAL.pdf

10. The questionnaire and concept note are contained in document UNEP/CMS/MIKT3/Doc.6.1, corresponding Bern Convention document symbol T-PVS/Inf(2018)2 (questionnaire) and T-PVS/Inf(2018)3 (concept note).
11. The document “*Strategy on Illegal Killing of Birds 2020-2030: Bringing an End to Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds as a Conservation Concern for the Flyways*” was prepared on the basis of the responses to the questionnaire and was circulated in 2019 to SFPs and MIKT Members and Observers, requesting comments. The document is presented at this meeting under Agenda Item 6 as document UNEP/CMS/MIKT/Doc 6.2 /T-PVS(2019)03.
12. This document outlines the two possible scenarios identified, on the basis of which the IKB framework could be taken forward in the region beyond 2020. The document has been prepared based on the feedback received from various Parties, observers and stakeholders during the consultation process on the Bern Convention strategy. During the consultations, support has been offered towards the idea of developing and adopting a joint strategy for the two bodies that will guide the actions towards eradication of IKB after the TAP and MIKT POW draw to a close in 2020. In order to allow for an informed discussion and subsequent decision at the joint meeting in May, both scenarios are outlined below.
13. The following options are proposed:

Option A: A common strategy is adopted by the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) for IKB.

Option B: The Strategy on Illegal Killing of Birds 2020-2030 is adopted by the Bern Convention and the current CMS MIKT POW is critically reviewed to include strategic priorities and corresponding actions for the post 2020 period. This option involves two separate documents guiding the actions of the Bern Convention SFPs Network and the CMS MIKT POW.

Option A

14. Under this option, a common framework is adopted by both Conventions, to be jointly implemented. The Strategy on Illegal Killing of Birds 2020-2030, prepared by the Bern Convention, including comments and modifications formulated by Parties, other stakeholders and the CMS Secretariat is discussed at the Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Point on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the UN-Environment/CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, taking place from 8 to 10 May 2019.
15. Taking as a basis the results of the first assessment of the Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds, implemented in 2018, and other relevant situation analyses such as the review undertaken by BirdLife International, a potential way to implement Option A would be as follows:
 - The high-level objectives of the strategy are agreed at the present joint meeting, considering the core areas, priorities and crucial policy measures at the national level.
 - Distribution of work is agreed on and organized for the intersessional period until the next joint meeting in 2020 to further develop the strategy at the operational level, elaborating the strategic objectives to identify actionable tasks and actions needed to deliver the desired outputs, building on the self-assessment conducted under the Scoreboard and other available, relevant and up-to-date information.

16. As has been the practice for the last few years, meetings of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) for IKB and the CMS MIKT are held as joint meetings to maximize efficiency and available resources. Measurement tools, such as the Scoreboard, and other actions as relevant, are implemented jointly by both Conventions. Communications with IKB SFPs and MIKT Members and Observers are coordinated by the Bern and CMS Secretariats, providing timely information and updates to all actors.
17. Option A presents a valuable opportunity to rationalize and unify scenario building on IKB work beyond 2020 in the Mediterranean and European with scope for avoiding duplication of effort and inconsistencies. This option ensures streamlining of the reporting requirements and obligations, effectively reducing the burden for Parties and other stakeholders. Most importantly, having one unique process common to both Conventions, might contribute to facilitate implementation and measurement of progress achieved.

Timeline for Option A

May 2019: The Joint Meeting agrees on the common strategy that will guide the activities under both Conventions for the period beyond 2020.

May 2019 to November 2019: The document is further developed and circulated to MIKT Members and Observers and the Network of SFPs.

December 2019: the document on the strategy is adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee at its 39th meeting, from 3 to 6 December 2019, through a dedicated Recommendation.

February 2020: Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12)²: The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds, is revised to include the reference to the strategy adopted. The Resolution is considered by the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS for its adoption. Related Decisions encouraging the implementation of the strategy and the identified activities, as agreed by the MIKT in the intersessional period are proposed for adoption, in connection with modifications to the current CMS COP Decisions 12.26, 12.27 and 12.28³, as appropriate.

Third quarter of 2020, next Joint Meeting on IKB: The Joint Meeting reviews the implementation of the TAP and MIKT POW and discusses implementation of the new adopted strategy.

Option B

18. Option B is a continuation of the status quo, where the two Conventions collaborate closely to implement the activities identified within their separate frameworks. Under this option, the Strategy on Illegal Killing of Birds 2020-2030 would be adopted for the Bern Convention and the MIKT POW would be critically reviewed to integrate the crucial information obtained in the first assessment of the Scoreboard, to guide the development of the priorities to be established for the period beyond 2020. Both documents would be aligned to maximize synergies and avoid duplication and overlapping.
19. Continuing with the current best practices for minimizing reporting requirements, efforts are made by the Secretariats to provide Parties and other stakeholders with a common template for the progress report on implementation on the Bern SFPs Strategy and CMS MIKT POW.
20. Should Option B be selected as the preferred option at the present meeting, the decision would be subsequently translated into the distribution of intersessional work. In the period

² https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop12_res.11.16%28rev.cop12%29_e.pdf

³ <https://www.cms.int/en/page/decisions-1226-1228-task-force-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory-birds-mediterranean>

between the present joint meeting and the next, to take place in 2020, the high-level priorities would be translated to the operational level for both SFPs and MIKT.

21. As for Option A, meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs for IKB and the CMS MIKT would be held as joint meetings to maximize efficiency and available resources. The future assessments of the Scoreboard, and other actions as relevant, would be implemented jointly by both Conventions. Communications from the Secretariats with IKB SPF and MIKT Members and Observers continue to take place in a coordinated manner to ensure all actors are duly updated.
22. The dedicated section created under the CMS online Scientific Council Workspace could be used intersessionally to advance the work in further developing the operational level for both the Strategy and the review of the MIKT POW.

Timeline for Option B

May 2019:

Network of SFPs: The Joint Meeting discusses and adopts the Strategy produced by the Bern Convention only as the strategic guiding document for the Bern Convention Network of SFPs.

CMS MIKT: The Joint Meeting agrees on the review of the current MIKT POW to cover the period beyond 2020.

May 2019 to November 2019:

Network of SFPs: The document is further developed and circulated to the Network of SFPs.

CMS MIKT: The POW is reviewed and aligned with the strategy proposed by the Bern Convention.

December 2019:

Network of SFPs: the strategy is adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee at its 39th meeting, from 3 to 6 December 2019, through a dedicated Recommendation.

CMS MIKT: the review of the POW ensures maximum synergies with the strategy adopted by the Bern Convention.

February 2020:

Network of SFPs: The review of the MIKT POW is considered to ensure the alignment in the implementation of the Bern Strategy and the reviewed POW.

CMS MIKT: Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12)⁴: The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds is revised to include a reference to the reviewed POW, the Resolution will be considered by the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS for adoption. Related Decisions encouraging the implementation of the reviewed POW, as soon as agreed by the MIKT in the intersessional period, are proposed for adoption at CMS COP13, in connection with modifications to the current CMS COP Decisions 12.26, 12.27 and 12.28⁵, as appropriate.

Third quarter of 2020, next Joint Meeting on IKB:

Network of SFPs: The operational level of the Strategy, developed intersessionally is discussed and adopted.

⁵ <https://www.cms.int/en/page/decisions-1226-1228-task-force-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory-birds-mediterranean>

CMS MIKT: The reviewed MIKT POW and its revised objectives, actions and timeline are discussed and adopted.

Conclusion

23. Advantages and limitations can be identified for the two options, both seeking to ensure coordinated work across the main initiatives in the region to eradicate illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds. The Secretariats will continue to make every effort to achieve optimal synergies and to avoid overlaps regardless of which of the two Options is chosen.
24. As described above, under any of the options, meetings are foreseen to continue taking place as a joint exercise, as a result of the positive experience in maximizing resources and increasing opportunities for collaboration in the meetings hold to date. Likewise, communications from the Secretariats to SFPs and MIKT members and observers will continue to be coordinated. The future assessments and analysis of the Scoreboard are a common initiative, as such it will be implemented jointly by CMS and the Bern Convention. In every other aspect, frequent consultations, close coordination and consistent communications between both Secretariats will continue to ensure optimal overall coherence.

Recommended actions:

25. The Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Point on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the UN-Environment/CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean is recommended to:
 - a) review this document and make comments, as appropriate;
 - b) decide for Option A or Option B, as described above, including potential agreed modifications.