



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

(Valencia and Online 7 to 9 June 2022)

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OVERVIEW REPORT FROM THE CMS SECRETARIAT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2030: ERADICATING ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE IN WILD BIRDS IN EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

Summary:

This document outlines the main activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat in supporting the implementation of the *Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating illegal killing, taking and trade in wild birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region* and the *MIKT Workplan 2021-2025* since June 2021.



The European Union was 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 2018 - 2023. 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.



Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)



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Prepared in May 2022

By the CMS Secretariat

A. Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat and more specifically the Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) in support of the implementation of the *MIKT Workplan 2021-2025* and the *Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region*.

2. The mandate for the MIKT is provided through CMS [Resolution 11.16](#) (Rev.COP13) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*, and the CMS [Decisions](#) 13.27-13.31, adopted by the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CMS (CMS COP13, Gandhinagar, India, 2020). These Decisions include provisions directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), other stakeholders and the CMS Secretariat in aspects related to the implementation of the MIKT POW 2016-2020, the Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds (Scoreboard), and the Rome Strategic Plan. For the history of adoption and revisions of the relevant CMS Resolution since 2014, please refer to section A.5 of document [UNEP/CMS/MIKT4/Doc.5.1a](#) *Overview Report from the CMS Secretariat on the Implementation of the Programme of Work 2016 - 2020 for the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean*, submitted to the previous, third Joint IKB meeting.

3. The MIKT Workplan 2021-2025 and the Rome Strategic Plan have been contributing to the achievement and implementation of:

- the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15 *Life on Land*, which is related to biodiversity and sets a target to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;
- the UNEP/CMS/ Resolution 11.2 *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*;
- the CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*;
- the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (COM (2020) 380 final) [Bringing nature back into our lives](#), and, in particular, actions 3.2. on Stepping up implementation and enforcement of EU environmental legislation and 4.2.2. on Trade policy.

4. As of May 2022, the **Membership of the Task Force** consists of 22 CMS Parties. Additionally, three Interested Parties (CMS Parties which do not have a Mediterranean coast), and one Non-Party are Observers to the MIKT. Twelve multilateral environmental agreements (represented by their Secretariats), organizations and networks, and nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are Observers to MIKT. Focal points in eight advisory bodies provide advice to the MIKT as needed. A list of all Members and Observers is available on the [CMS MIKT website](#).

5. Geographic Scope of the Rome Strategic Plan

The geographic scope of the MIKT includes 57 countries and the European Union (countries in **bold** are Members of the MIKT, countries in *italics* are Observers to the MIKT): **Albania, Algeria**, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, **Croatia, Cyprus**, Czech Republic, Denmark, **Egypt**, Estonia, **European Union**, Finland, **France**, Georgia, *Germany*, **Greece**, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, **Israel, Italy, Jordan**, Latvia, **Lebanon, Libya**, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, **Malta**, Moldova, **Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco**, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, *Portugal*, North Macedonia, Romania,

Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, **Slovenia**, **Spain**, Sweden, Switzerland, **Syrian Arab Republic**, **Tunisia**, *Turkey*, Ukraine, **United Kingdom**.

B. MIKT meetings

6. Meetings of the Task Force

At the [first Meeting of the MIKT](#) (2016, Cairo), the [modus operandi](#) of the MIKT was adopted and Governments and observers agreed on the need for stricter penalties, increased surveillance and improved law enforcement, committing to a zero-tolerance approach to curb the massive illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean Region. As a result, the [Cairo Declaration](#) on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Region and the [Programme of Work](#) (POW) 2016- 2020 were adopted.

At the [second Meeting of MIKT](#) (and first Joint Meeting with Bern Convention SFPs; Sliema, Malta, June 2017), one of the main achievements was the development and endorsement of the draft Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds (the Scoreboard).

During the [third Meeting of MIKT](#) (and second Joint Meeting with Bern Convention SFPs; Rome, May 2019), the MIKT members and observers agreed on a joint strategic approach of CMS MIKT and Bern Convention to address IKB in the post-2020 period, and elaborated a draft for a strategic framework, which later led to the adoption of the [Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region](#). The overarching long-term goal of the Rome Strategic Plan is the eradication of IKB within the geographic extent of the Bern Convention and CMS MIKT. The Goal of the Rome Strategic Plan for 2030 is a 50 per cent reduction to the scale and scope of IKB compared to the 2020 baseline.

The [fourth Meeting of MIKT](#) (and third Joint Meeting of MIKT with Bern Convention SFPs) took place online on 9-11 June 2021. The meeting was attended by 128 participants from 27 Member countries, 10 MEAs, advisory bodies and invited experts, international organizations and networks, 5 international NGOs and 24 national NGOs. The key outcomes of this meeting were:

- a paper on [Future periodic assessment in the framework of the Rome Strategic Plan and frequency and format of future joint meetings](#)
- a paper on [Baseline and Methodology for Assessing Progress toward Achieving the Rome Strategic Plan 2020- 2030](#)
- the [MIKT workplan 2021-2025](#).

The [fifth Meeting of MIKT](#) (and fourth Joint Meeting of the MIKT with the Bern Convention SFPs) is scheduled to take place in Valencia, Spain and online (hybrid format) between 7-9 June 2022.

7. Meetings of the MIKT Consultative Group

The MIKT Consultative Group is an informal advisory body to share views and provide advice on specific issues as defined in the MIKT [modus operandi](#). The Group meetings are open to all interested members and observers and are usually held online.

The Consultative Group includes the following organizations:

- EU Commission;
- Bern Convention Secretariat;
- AEWAS Secretariat;
- Raptors MOU Secretariat;
- Chair of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP);

- Chair of the CMS Scientific Council;
- BirdLife International;
- European Hunters Federation (FACE).

The Consultative Group met twice since June 2021: once in October 2021 and once in January 2022. Several MIKT members participated in the meetings.

C. MIKT Workplan and Coordination

8. The MIKT Workplan 2021-2025 and the Rome Strategic Plan are divided into the following objectives:

Process Oriented Objective:

National IKB Action Plans

Result Oriented Objectives:

1. To understand the scope, scale and motivations behind illegal killing, taking and trade of birds;
2. To establish an active prevention of the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds;
3. To ensure that the illegal killing of birds is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation;
4. To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken;
5. To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences.

The paragraphs below explain how the actions undertaken by the CMS Secretariat contributed to the objectives of the Rome Strategic Plan.

9. MIKT Coordination

The CMS Secretariat, with generous support by the European Union, contracted a consultant as MIKT Coordinator. The consultant, Dr Claire (Foteini) Papazoglou, from Cyprus, has been under contract during the periods of December 2020 to October 2021, November 2021 to January 2022 and from April to September 2022. During the contract breaks, MIKT Coordination was undertaken by Dr Nora Weyer (JPO/P2) working in the CMS Avian Species Team.

10. Scoreboard reporting – Online data

Following the request of various stakeholders during 2021, the Bern Convention Secretariat and the CMS Secretariat inquired of the countries which had submitted the Scoreboard in 2018 and/or 2020 if they would agree to have their submissions published online at a website accessible to the public. Already during the 2020 Scoreboard submission, several countries had agreed to have their reports shared publicly. A total of 24 countries (out of a total of 35 contacted) agreed to have their data published. The Bern Convention hosted a table with the data on their website. [The webpage](#) is also accessible from the main MIKT webpage.

11. Scoreboard reporting – additional narrative

Following the adoption of a paper on the future periodic reporting in MIKT4, the Bern Convention Secretariat, together with the MIKT Coordinator, prepared a proposal on instructions for additional narrative reporting to be included as recommended answers within the next Scoreboard reporting, due to happen in 2023. Assessing progress through the Scoreboard is the main means of assessment mentioned in the Rome Strategic Plan. Additionally, the Rome Strategic Plan mentions the possible need of adjustment of the Scoreboard to ensure that it can be used

alongside the Rome Strategic Plan. The paper will be presented at the MIKT5 meeting for discussion and endorsement.

12. Meetings showcasing the work of MIKT and participation in other conferences

The MIKT Coordinator participated in an in-person meeting organized by BirdLife International between 25-29 October 2021 in Jordan. The aim of the meeting was to prepare a Roadmap to combat IKB in the Arabian Peninsula, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Iraq. The MIKT Coordinator presented the work of MIKT and contributed to the development of the Roadmap.

The Head of the Avian Team, Mr Iván Ramírez, participated in the Fourth Adriatic Flyway Conference *Reducing threats for migratory birds in the Mediterranean*, which took place from 25 to 29 April 2022 in Zadar, Croatia. He delivered a talk about the role and work of MIKT and spoke to various MIKT Members and Observers about advancing work on eradicating IKB in the Balkans.

13. National IKB Action Plans

In May 2022, the CMS Secretariat contracted a consultant, Ms Carmen Naves, to develop a draft Format and Guidance for the Development and Implementation of National IKB Action Plans. The work supports the implementation of action (a) under the objective on National IKB Action Plans of the Rome Strategic Plan and the MIKT Workplan. A preliminary version will be presented at the MIKT5 meeting for comments/endorsement.

Additionally, the CMS Secretariat commissioned the translation of two national Action Plans into English and French to provide a useful resource for other MIKT countries in their work to combat IKB and/or in developing National IKB Action Plans. Specifically, the CMS Secretariat translated the *Italian Action Plan to Combat Wild Bird Crime*, and the *Spanish Action Plan against Illegal Trafficking and International Poaching of Wildlife Species* into English and French. The translations will be presented at the MIKT5 meeting.

14. Guidance and best practice on monitoring motivations for IKB

The CMS Secretariat signed a Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with BirdLife International to produce a Common Format and Guidance for Monitoring Motivations for IKB, to be presented at MIKT5 for comments and discussion. The work supports implementing action (a) under target 1.2 and objective 1 - of the Rome Strategic Plan and the MIKT workplan.

15. Having effective and efficient national legislation

The CMS Secretariat signed an SSFA with the Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment (GLA) of the Lewis & Clark Law School to implement action (b) under Objective 3. Through this SSFA, the GLA produced draft legislative guidance on combating IKB and examples of model legislation. Additionally, the GLA undertook an analysis of the legislation in some countries and highlighted several model approaches that can be useful and interesting for other countries. The legislative guidance and model legislation examples will be presented for endorsement at the MIKT5 meeting. Finally, the GLA also provided advice and support to three countries on ways in which they can improve their national legislation to make combating IKB more efficient, following their requests.

16. Training materials for prosecutors disseminated in July 2021 to support enforcement and justice against IKB

MIKT, together with the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), had organized a successful workshop for government environmental prosecutors in 2018. A training package of four presentations including introductory material on IKB and international legislation as well as national examples were produced as outputs from this workshop. During 2021, the CMS Secretariat completed the translation of those English presentations into five languages (French,

Spanish, Italian, Greek and Arabic) and disseminated those amongst MIKT members in July 2021. Letters were sent to all MIKT members with instructions on how to access and download the training packages. Five countries positively responded and downloaded the packages stating that they were planning to use the materials for national training.

17. Website updates and social media

The CMS Secretariat has been using social media to disseminate information and updates on MIKT work. Several journalists approached the CMS Secretariat during and after MIKT4 in June 2021 for interviews on specific countries or issues related to IKB.

The CMS Secretariat has maintained the MIKT website, including updates of contact details and documents. A webpage was created for MIKT5, and all documents from MIKT4 have been uploaded to the MIKT4 webpage. A more substantial MIKT website update is planned for later in 2022.

18. Recommended action:

The CMS MIKT Members and the Bern Convention Network of SFPs on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds are recommended to:

- a) take note of this document;
- b) review this document, as appropriate.