



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

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REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION FROM THE CMS SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring your own copy.



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Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat since the previous Joint Meeting of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (SFPs), held from 22 to 23 June 2017, in Sliema, Malta.

Membership of the Task Force

2. As of April 2019, twenty-one CMS Contracting Parties are Members of the MIKT. Three Interested Parties and three Non-Parties are Observers to the Task Force. Thirteen multilateral environmental agreements and networks, and nine NGOs are also Observers to MIKT. Focal points in eight advisory bodies from MEAS Observers to the Task Force provide advice to the Task Force as needed.

Activities

Meetings of the Task Force

3. During the reporting period, the second meeting of the MIKT took place from 22 to 23 June, in Sliema, Malta, organized jointly with the Bern Convention as the first Joint Meeting of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds. The report and outcomes of the meeting were posted on the dedicated [website](#) shortly after the meeting.

CMS Conference of the Parties

4. [Resolution 11.16](#): The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds, which was first adopted in 2014 by CMS COP11, was revised by COP12 ([Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP12\)](#)) to include relevant developments, reflecting amendments or new documents in the process and update the content to correctly depict the status quo of the initiative.
5. In addition, draft decisions related to MIKT were submitted to CMS COP12, and were adopted by COP as [Decisions 12.26, 12.27 and 12.28](#). The Decisions address Parties, IGOs, NGOs, other stakeholders and the Secretariat in respect of aspects related to the implementation of the Programme of Work of MIKT 2016-2020 (POW) and the Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds (the Scoreboard).

Workshops

6. Under the Legal and Enforcement component of the MIKT Programme of Work (POW), a Workshop for Government Prosecutors on the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade (IKB) of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Region was organized in cooperation with the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) at Valsaín, Segovia, Spain, from 9 to 11 May 2018. The workshop was aimed at investigators, prosecutors and specialists involved in the enforcement of the laws combating environmental crimes against migratory birds in Europe and brought together 37 delegates from 17 countries. The training covered presentations on the research into the size and extent of the problem, the various motives of offenders, the techniques and equipment used in illegal killing of birds (IKB), the expertise and international

assistance available, the EU Wildlife Trade (CITES) Regulations and, most importantly, case studies of significant prosecutions and investigations into IKB from different countries, mainly from the Mediterranean Region. Addressing wildlife crime requires specific training as identified by POW Objective 2.5 *Capacity-building along enforcement chain and judiciary*, and Action 2.5.2 *Organize regional and national training seminars on IKB on environmental crime for police officers, inspectors, rangers, prosecutors, judges*. The workshop was crucial in the implementation of this thematic area of the POW.

7. The [report of the workshop](#) was published on the ENPE and CMS websites, including the dedicated [website](#) for the workshop, circulated to stakeholders and distributed at the ENPE Annual Conference in October 2018. As an output of this workshop, a training package is being compiled by ENPE and CMS, which will enable prosecutors and investigators to transfer the messages and findings to the national level. Once finalized, the Secretariat is considering using e-learning to promote the package within the target groups.
8. The very positive feedback included several participants declaring that they would develop and propose changes to their national legislation to the relevant ministries and authorities in their countries to increase the effectiveness in the prosecution of IKB. The delegates were also in favour of intensifying international cooperation beyond the European network. MIKT was perceived as a very successful initiative which can play a vital role in this process, and the successful cooperation with the Bern Convention was highlighted.

Participation and contribution to meetings and conferences

9. In the reporting period, since June 2017, the MIKT Coordinator has represented the Task Force and contributed to relevant processes on IKB.
10. The MIKT Coordinator presented the work of the Task Force at the Technical meeting of experts to discuss the call of IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) Resolution 70, organized by the Environmental Law Centre of the IUCN, in July 2018.
11. The Coordinator attended the meeting of the “EU roadmap towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping, and trade of birds”, organized by the European Commission in September 2018. The MIKT Coordinator presented the latest activities of the Task Force and obtained important feedback. Synergies and potential collaborations were discussed with the different projects and initiatives addressing IKB in the MIKT geographic scope. She contributed to the updated version of the Roadmap, ensuring the links to the MIKT Objectives to maximize efficiency.
12. In October 2018, the MIKT Coordinator attended the Annual Conference of the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE): “Protecting habitats and endangered species in Europe through tackling environmental crime”. She gave a presentation on the MIKT work, including the Workshop for Prosecutors organized jointly with ENPE, recent activities of the Task Force and the first implementation of the Scoreboard. She participated in the sessions and discussions on environmental crime, providing the perspective from the MIKT experience. The Conference represented a valuable opportunity for networking and the identification of potential partners in the region.
13. In December 2018, the MIKT Coordinator attended the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) implementation workshop and the Tenth Meeting of Partners to the Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway, EAAFP MOP10. In the meetings, the MIKT Coordinator presented the work of the Task Force, best practices, lessons learned and possibilities for replicating the format and activities in the EAAF, according to the mandate of CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) on The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds.

14. In March 2019, the Coordinator presented the work of MIKT at the Flyways Conservation Planning Workshop, giving a presentation remotely. The Workshop provided an update on the situation analysis of IKB in Southeast Asia and relevant updates on the progress in combatting IKB. The presentation from the MIKT coordinator focused on the Scoreboard, which is deemed a very useful tool that could be replicated in other regions beyond the Mediterranean.

Monitoring

15. The Action 1.4.1 *Create a scoreboard to measure and allow benchmarking of concrete progress on eradication of IKB at national level* under Objective 1.4. *Measure progress*, of the MIKT POW was implemented through the adoption of the Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds (IKB) as Annex 1 to Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) during CMS COP 12 in 2017. The Scoreboard was launched in June 2018 and circulated to MIKT Members and Observers as well as the Bern Convention Network of SFPs. Aiming to launch the Scoreboard at the earliest practicable time, to ensure that countries and other stakeholders had sufficient time to compile the requested information, the Secretariats of CMS and the Bern Convention opted for using an online tool. The option selected was a pre-made template which ensured user-friendliness and flexibility in the data collection.
16. The Secretariats collected the information submitted by countries and other stakeholders, providing rapid and effective support to the respondents as needed. The MIKT Coordinator collaborated closely with the Bern Convention in these tasks and provided support to the consultant elaborating the report of the first assessment of the Scoreboard, presented at this Joint Meeting.
17. Furthermore, the Secretariats collected feedback on the user experience from the respondents and identified the online system that could better fit the needs in coming assessments. The CMS Online Reporting System is proposed at the present Joint Meeting as the online platform to implement the second assessment of the Scoreboard in 2020.

Facilitation of collaboration and sharing of experience

18. To facilitate the collaboration among Members and Observers of the Task Force, and potential contributions from experts, a section dedicated to the Task Force on IKB has been created under the CMS Scientific Council Workspace, an online platform managed by the CMS Secretariat. The Workspace can be used intersessionally by Members, Observers and invited experts and it is moderated by the MIKT Coordinator.

Support to countries

19. Following the European Court of Justice (ECJ) decision regarding trapping in Malta, CMS and the Bern Convention sent a letter in August 2018 to the Government of Malta offering support to the country to implement the ECJ decision and encouraging the country to continue its zero-tolerance stance towards wildlife crime.

Collaboration with partners

20. Under the MIKT POW Objective 2.5 *Capacity-building along enforcement chain and judiciary*, collaboration with the Environmental Security Programme (ENS) of INTERPOL, Observer to MIKT, was envisaged for 2018 and 2019 to address the illegal trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean through various activities related to advocacy, capacity-building and information exchange and law enforcement. Several joint training activities had been planned for 2018 onwards. Due to changes in personnel in INTERPOL, cooperation has to be re-coordinated

and the Secretariat is currently awaiting the feedback from INTERPOL in this regard. Discussions on how to move forward on the joint activities are ongoing.

Presence at relevant fora

21. MIKT's work was showcased at well attended side events at major conferences, the Ramsar COP13 in October 2018, two side events at CBD COP14 in November 2018, and the AEWA MOP7 in December 2018. The Secretariat collaborated closely with Parties and partners to ensure the contribution of MIKT in relevant discussions and raise the profile of the Task Force.

Outreach

22. During the reporting period, the Secretariat has used the CMS media channels to disseminate information on various platforms. MIKT has been active on social media, using CMS channels (@BonnConvention) to post updates on the work of the Task Force, for example, including daily tweets during the ENPE-CMS Workshop for Government Prosecutors on IKB, held in Spain. In addition, the Secretariat made efforts towards raising awareness on IKB by posting relevant news on digital media regarding illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean region in several languages.

23. The webpage dedicated to the Task Force under the CMS website has been constantly updated as relevant documents, studies or news became available. Dedicated webpages have been created to support communication on the Workshop for Government Prosecutors on IKB of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Region, and the present Joint Meeting.

24. The Secretariat is advancing the production of a documentary, as identified by Action 4.3.1 *Design, produce and disseminate a multi-media toolkit on eradication of IKB including a documentary*, under Objective 4.3 *Public Awareness of the MIKT Programme of Work*. Written commitments of participation in the documentary were obtained from Italy's Carabinieri and the Spanish Environmental Police (SEPRONA). Both police forces will show on the ground how investigation and prosecution of cases of IKB are done on the ground, and how international crime networks are combatted. The administrative procedure is being prepared to open an international competitive process to identify the production company.

Recommended actions:

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 is recommended to take note of this document and make comments, as appropriate.