

Monitoring illegal killing of birds in Italy

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Online Workshop on Monitoring Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of wild birds (IKB) Scoreboard 2023: Choosing a methodology and setting a baseline.

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In 2014 Ministry for Ecological Transition - MiTE promoted a **National Action Plan**

- drafted in 2015 by ISPRA (Bird Migration Research Area)
- discussed during 2016
- approved **30 March 2017**



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (2017-2020)



FIVE MAIN TARGETS (32 ACTIONS)



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (2017-2020)

STEERING COMMITTEE

INSTITUTIONAL BOARD

Lead: MiTE

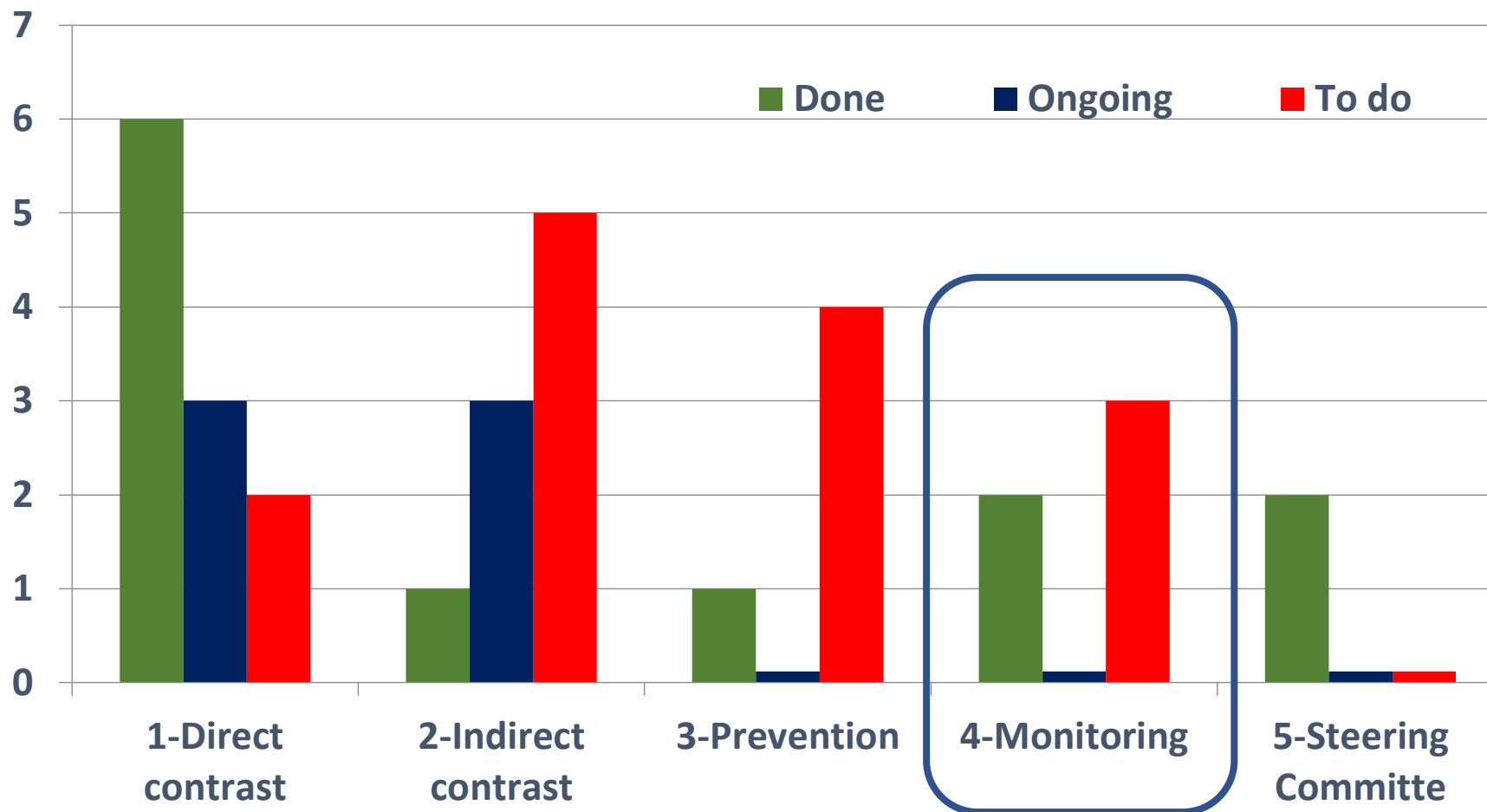
Members: Ministries of Agriculture, Human Health, Justice, Interior, Education, University and Research, Regional Administrations, Independent Provinces

TECHNICAL PANEL

Lead: Carabinieri Forestali, CUFAA

Members: ISPRA, Regional Forestry Corps, Regional Administrations, Independent Provinces, CITES National Committee, IZSLT, EUROPOL, INTERPOL, High School of Judiciary, Environmental and Hunting NGOs

SUMMARY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS



General Objective 4	Monitoring the implementation of the Plan	Priority	Status
Specific Object 4.1	Create and/or implement databases on wild bird crime and law enforcement		
Action 4.1.1	Implementation of the CUFAA database on wildlife crime	M	(-)
Action 4.1.2	Creation of a national database on birds handed over to wildlife rehabilitation centres (CRAS)	M	(-)
Action 4.1.3	Standardisation of regional databases on wildlife crime	M	(-)
Action 4.1.4	Standardisation of databases at CUFAA headquarters	M	(+)
Specific Object 4.2	Preparation of annual reports		
Action 4.2.1	Preparation of annual reports		(+)

(+): activities done; (-): activities to do; M=medium

Action 4.1.1	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CUFAA DATABASE ON WILDLIFE CRIME
Action 4.1.4	STANDARDISATION OF DATABASES AT CUFAA REGIONAL/LOCAL QUARTERS
Responsible	Carabinieri forestali - CUFAA

Weaknesses	Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Difficulties to populate the database due to lack of trained staff; ▪ Lack of standardised protocols for data collection; ▪ Concerns about privacy and confidentiality to analyze data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information referred to the whole nation; ▪ All IKB crimes included; ▪ Detailed information (on species, type of crime, etc.).

Action 4.1.2

CREATION OF A NATIONAL DATABASE ON BIRDS RESCUED IN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTRES (CRAS)

Responsible

ISPRA

Weaknesses

- Difficulties in collecting data from CRAS managed by a variety of Institutions/ONG;
- Lack of standardised protocols for data collection;
- Lack of a national network to share best practice;
- Lack of trained staff to populate the database;
- Useful information only for few species (raptors);
- Useful information only for illegal shooting and poisoning.

Strengths

- Information referred to the whole nation or representative areas;
- Detailed information (on species, type of crime, etc.)



Year 2017 / Data from Region



At least 44 active centres

Northern Italy: 28

Central Italy: 7

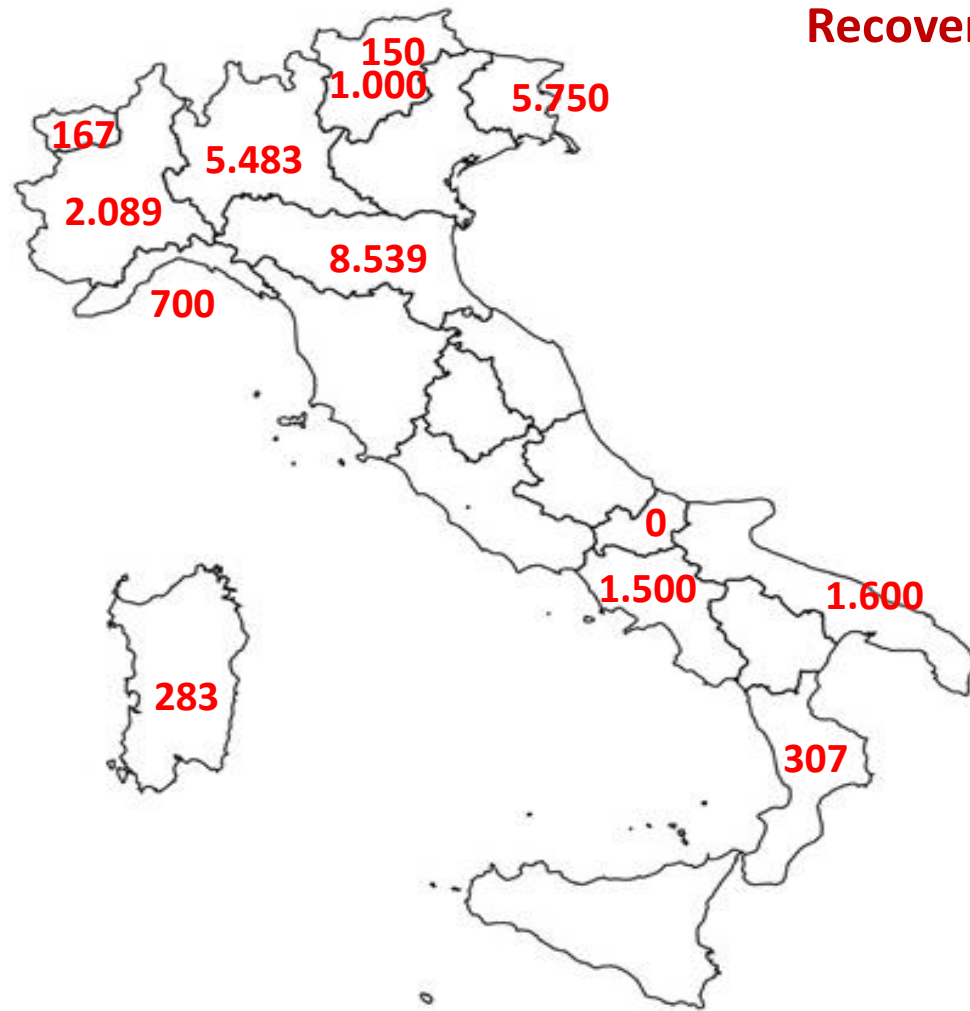
Southern Italy: 5

Sardinia and Sicily: 4



Year 2017 / Data from Region

Recovered more than 27.568 birds each year



Northern Italy: 23.878

Central Italy: 0

Southern Italy: 3.407

Sardinia and Sicily: 283





Species Shot/Poisoned birds Rescued birds % Shot/Poisoned birds

Specie	N. esemplari ricoverati per cause di bracconaggio	N. totale ricoveri 2019	% di ricoveri per bracconaggio /totale ricoveri
Airone cenerino	3	5	60.0%
Colombaccio	1	12	8.3%
Colombo torraio	1	324	0.3%
Falco di palude	2	2	100.0%
Gallinella d'acqua	1	2	50.0%
Gheppio	1	70	1.4%
Grillaio	1	187	0.5%
Occhione	1	3	33.3%
Pellegrino	1	5	20.0%
Poiana	3	38	7.9%
Smeriglio	1	2	50.0%
Sparviere	3	12	25.0%
Tarabusino	2	12	16.7%
Tortora dal collare	1	64	1.6%

Year 2019

Action 4.1.3

STANDARDISATION OF REGIONAL DATABASES ON WILDLIFE CRIME (ART.33 MIPAF)

Responsible

Ministry for Agriculture

Weaknesses

- Lack of political commitment of the Ministry and some regions;
- Lack of standardised protocols for data collection;
- Lack of information on species and locality.

Strengths

- Information referred to the whole nation;
- All IKB crimes included;
- Required by national law (n 157/1992, art.33).



Weaknesses

- Lack of standardised data on crimes and surveillance activities;
- Lack of political commitment of some regions.



Strengths

- Information referred to the whole nation;
- All IKB crimes included;
- Monitoring the NAP implementation.

<https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/piano-di-azione-il-contrasto-degli-illeciti-contro-gli-uccelli-selvatici>

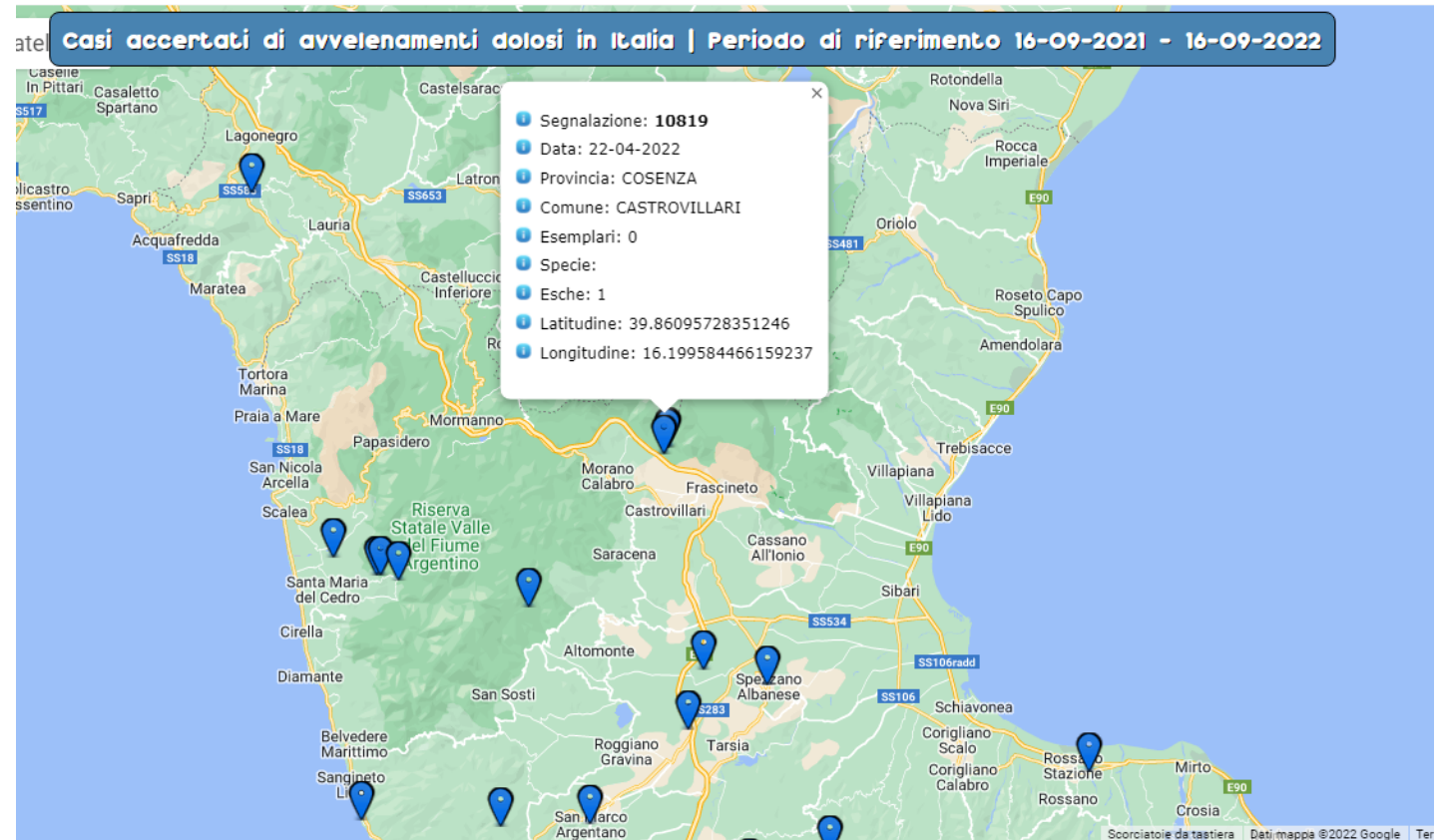
Action 1.1.4

DEVELOP A NATIONAL DATABASE ON ILLEGAL POISONING OF ANIMALS

Responsible

Ministry of Health

ITALIAN ILLIGAL WILDLIFE POISONING DATABASE



IKB MONITORING AND INFORMATION TO UPDATE THE NEXT SCOREBOARD

- In a first step, ISPRA fill out the Scoreboard using all the available information;
- Then the document is examined and approved by the Steering Committee.

Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB) A self-assessment framework for national use



Question 1: What is the quality of national data about IKB?



SCOREBOARD 2018/2020

0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Data and information on number of totals of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB are not available.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimate of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based on expert opinion and anecdotal information.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimate of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based partially on quantitative data and records and partially on estimates and extrapolation.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimates of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based largely on quantitative data and records.

Comments: Brief written justification of the choice (recommended)

The issue is significant; it is hence important that a National action plan has been gazetted and coordination activities have been launched with the involvement of all relevant Authorities and NGOs. Specific actions are foreseen within the Plan to quantify the situation at the national scale and monitor trends.

^[1] Expert Opinion is defined as: the knowledge of whom by virtue of special knowledge, skill, training, or experience is qualified to provide information in matters that exceed the common knowledge of ordinary people.

Question 2. *Number, distribution and trend of illegally killed, trapped or traded birds*

The extent, trend, seasonal and geographic distribution of illegally killed, trapped or traded birds in your country including relevant overseas territories.

	March / May	June / August	September / November	December / February	Total
National level					
National level (Baseline)					
(region/area/territory)					
[add lines for each region from which data or estimate is available]					
IKB trend over past 3 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

•To be discussed in the next Steering Committee;

•Data will be based by expert opinion;

•Trend are available only locally;

•Different trends in different areas.

Question 3: Are data on the status and scale of IKB cases available?



0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Data on IKB cases number and distribution are not available . <input type="checkbox"/> Data on IKB cases number and distribution are available but have not been used to assess IKB scale and distribution.	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimate on numbers and distribution of cases of IKB is based entirely on expert opinion / modelling / other indirect methods	<input type="checkbox"/> National estimates on the scale and distribution of cases of IKB are extrapolated on the basis of partial IKB disclosed crime statistics	<input type="checkbox"/> National data on IKB cases are available and is based on official and comprehensive IKB crime disclosure statistics.

Thanks!



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