

Elaborating a National IKB Action Plan in Montenegro: update and next steps

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Biodiversity Hotspot Montenegro

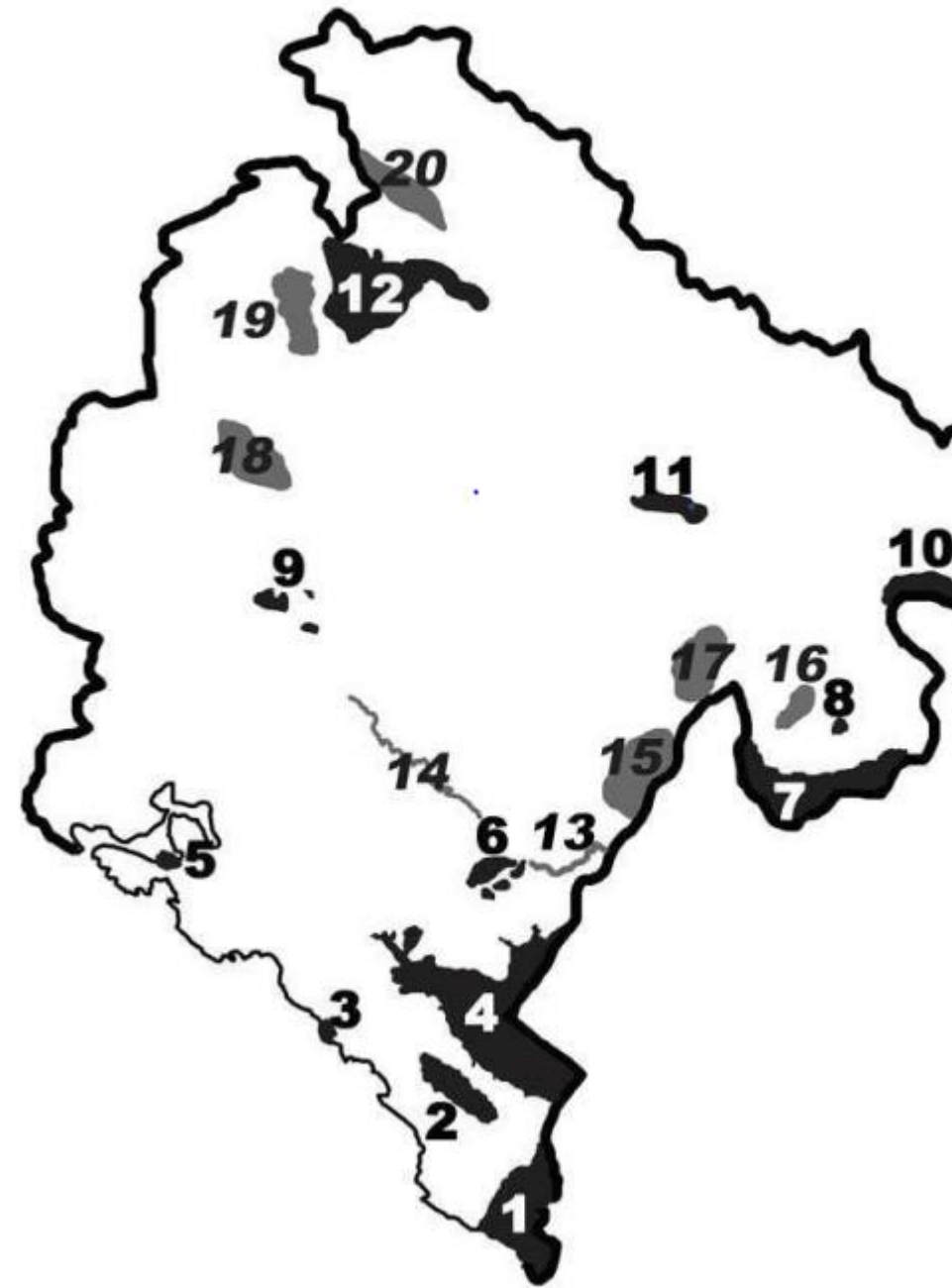
- Montenegro has almost 14% of the country's territory under national protection
- Biodiversity Hotspot:
 - over 3,200 plant species are found on the territory of Montenegro,
 - 60 percent of the country's territory is covered by high-quality forest,
 - 223 species of Balkan endemics are recorded in the flora,
 - the nesting bird density index for Montenegro is 0.557, and is higher than for the Balkans as a whole (0.435)
 - of the 533 registered species of birds in Europe, 353 have been observed in Montenegro: which is 65% of the European birdlife!



IBA Areas – Montenegro

- The most important centers of bird diversity in Montenegro are the areas of Lake Skadar and Ulcinj and the mountain massifs of Prokletija and Durmitor
- More than 30 percent of our territory deserves to be on the IBA list

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ 1. Delta Bojane | 11. Biogradska gora/Bjelasic |
| 2. Rumija | 12. Durmitor |
| 3. Buljarica | 13. Kanjon rijeke Cijevne |
| 4. Skadarsko jezero | 14. Dolina rijeke Zete |
| 5. Tivatska solila | 15. Kučke planine |
| 6. Ćemovsko polje | 16. Visitor |
| 7. Prokletije | 17. Komovi |
| 8. Plavsko jezero | 18. Golija |
| 9. Nikšićke akumulacije | 19. Pivska visoravan |
| 10. Hajla | 20. Ljubišnja |






Legal protection

- The first act that regulated the protection of birds in Montenegro was the Order on hunting game issued in Cetinje on May 5, 1892, which was adopted by the State Council, and then the hunting ban was established from "1. March until the 6. August,,
- Until the adoption of the first Nature Protection Law, the protection of birds was treated by laws on hunting,
- While the Decision on the protection of rare, endemic and endangered plant and animal species from 2006, Montenegro permanently protected 297 species of birds.

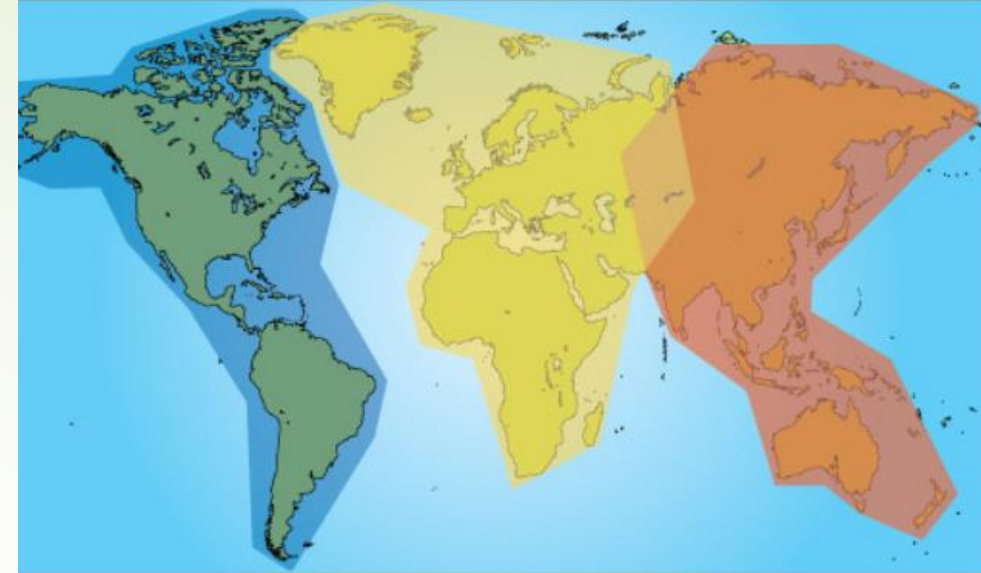


Risk factors


- ▶ The destruction and fragmentation of the habitat is a consequence of the long human history
 - ▶ Rapid population growth, construction, tourism, agriculture, grazing, anthropogenically caused fires...
 - ▶ Illegal hunting
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Illegal killing of birds

- ▶ Montenegro is located on the Adriatic migratory corridor that connects Europe and Africa (rare and protected species of birds such as raptors, vultures and migratory species)
- ▶ BirdLife International estimated in 2016 that as many as 25 million birds were illegally killed or caught in the Mediterranean on an annual basis
- ▶ BirdLife International estimated that every year between 64.000 and 197.000 birds are illegally killed in Montenegro
- ▶ Illegal killing of birds in the Balkans is not only a local problem, but also a European one



Americas flyway - blue; African-Eurasian flyway - yellow
East Asian-Australasian flyway - brown



Reasons for illegal killing of birds (poaching)

- Simply recreation,
- Tradition,
- Collecting trophies and
- Profit

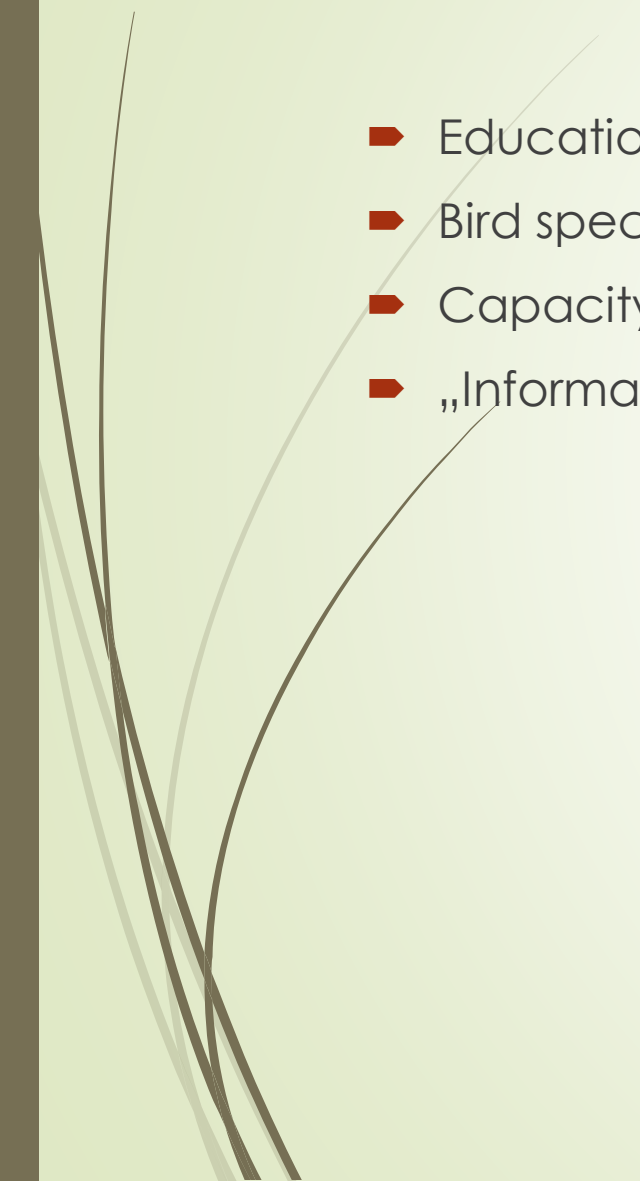


Using illegal means and tools

- Illegal means and tools are mostly used during illegal hunting despite the fact that they are prohibited because of the excessive impact they have or could have on the number of birds
- In each of the former republics of the SFRY, the use of bird decoys is a criminal offence
- In Montenegro, this is prescribed by Article 325 of the Criminal Law of Montenegro
- The main species killed using illegal methods and tools are the rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and waterfowl birds



Suppression of illegal hunting


- Education on poaching,
 - Bird species recognition education,
 - Capacity increase (game wardens, inspectors, police, security guards),
 - „Information leaks,,
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National IKB Action Plan in Montenegro

- Relate the NAP to the existing international and regional initiatives and action plans, in particular with:
- **Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030:** Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region³ and the related IKB
- **Scoreboard** to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade in wild birds (IKB)
- **EU Roadmap** towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds
- Various **recommendations** have been developed **under the Bern Convention:**
 - Recommendation No. 171 (2014) of the Bern Convention Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, on the setting-up of national policing/investigation priorities to tackle illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds
 - Recommendation No. 177 (2015) on the gravity factors and sentencing principles for the evaluation of offences against birds, and in particular the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.



Collaboration: Results

- ▶ Ministry of Ecology of Sustainable Development and the Northern Region Development with the Center for the Protection and Study of Birds has started the preparation of the NAP
 - ▶ The inclusion of all other interested parties whose focus is the protection and preservation of species and habitats
 - ▶ On the basis of shared experiences in the development and implementation of Action Plans of other countries, as a result, have a roadmap for our further preparation of the National Action Plan
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Thank you for your attention!



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