

Lessons learnt on implementing a National IKB Action Plan: experience from Italy

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In Italy killing and keeping of birds were legal and widespread practices until late 70's



- shooting
- trapping
- netting
- trading
- detention in captivity

very few restrictions on periods, areas and methods



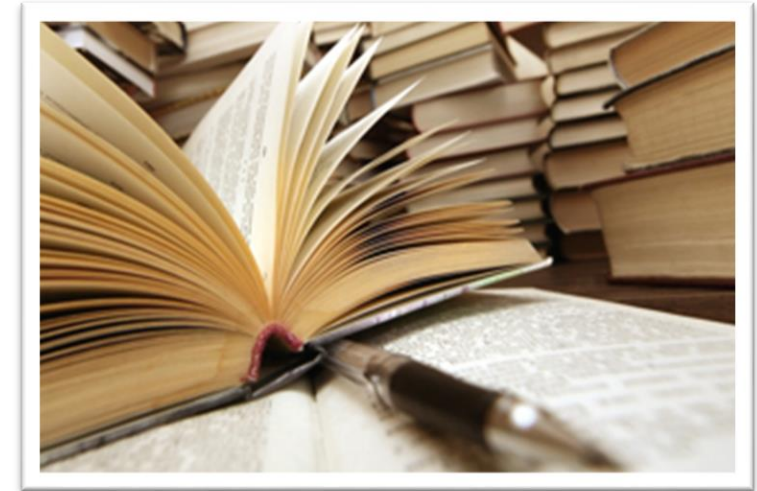
The approach towards wild birds has changed considerably over time

-Law 968/1977

[General principles and provisions for the protection and conservation of wildlife and the discipline of hunting]:

“The Italian wildlife is protected as a national heritage”

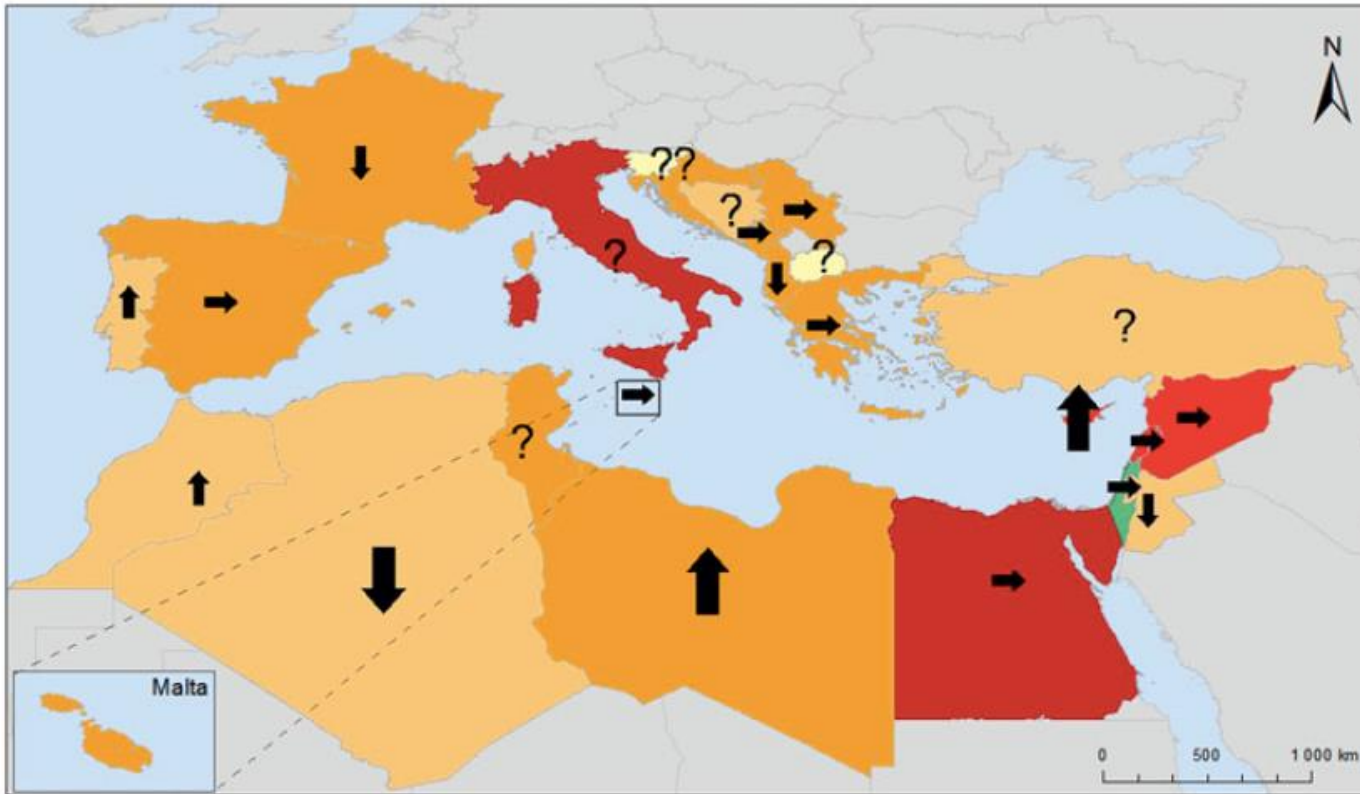
-Law 157/1992 [Rules for the protection of homeothermal wildlife and hunting] (transposition of EU birds directive 79/409/CEE)



Progressively more restrictions on:

- hunting season
- list of huntable species
- list of admitted means
- administrative and criminal sanctions

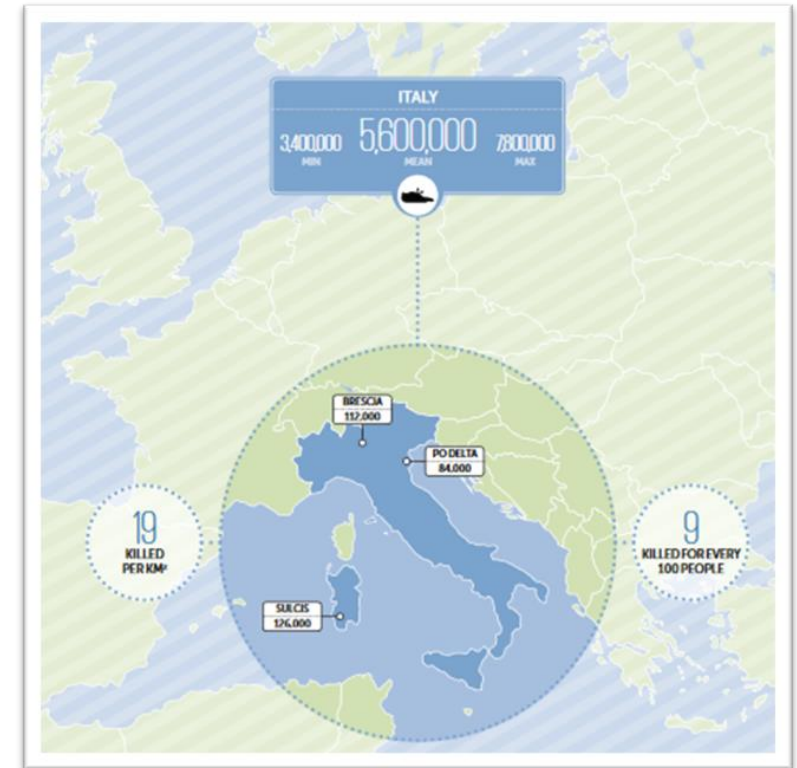
11-36 million individuals per year are estimated to be killed/taken illegally in the Mediterranean region¹



Mean estimated number of birds killed/taken illegally per country per year



Mean trend of the illegal killing over last 10 years per country



¹Brochet et al. "Preliminary assessment of the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds in the Mediterranean." *Bird Conservation International* 26.1 (2016): 1-28.

EU Pilot 5283/13/ENVI 2013*



Poaching activities in Italy, in addition to representing a violation of the [...] provisions of Directive [2009/147/EC], undermine the conservation status of many bird species, with possible negative impacts in other countries of the European Union (in relation to the key role played by Italy for its geographical position along the migratory routes of many species).



Data source: ISPRA (Italian Ringing Centre data)

***closed in 2020**

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME

In **2014** the Italian Ministry of the Environment decided to

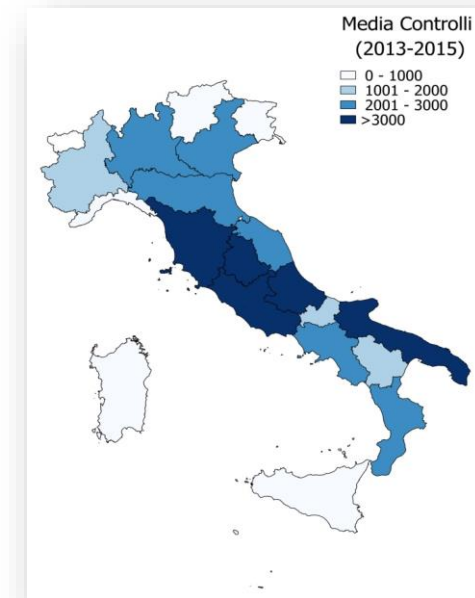
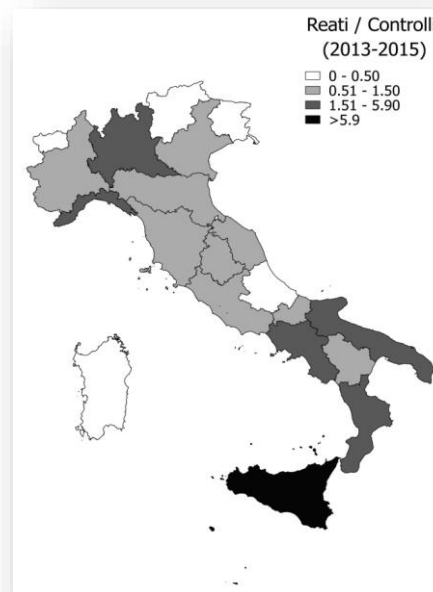
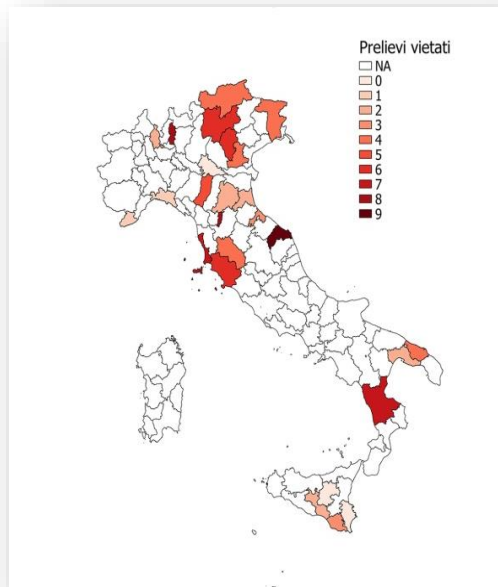
- Join the international initiatives on IKB



- Promote a National Action Plan on IKB

Main steps toward the implementation of a National Action Plan in Italy

-Ministry of Environment commissioned ISPRA a NAP draft in 2015 following the Tunis Action Plan (2013-2020) including information on type and frequency of offences; geographical and temporal distribution; black spots; IKB's reasons; weaknesses in the enforcement of legislation



Main steps toward the implementation of a National Action Plan in Italy

1. Main illegal activities and target species / groups of species



- Trapping - **songbirds**
- Nest poaching - **raptors, songbirds**
- Illegal shooting - **raptors, huntable species, songbirds**
- poisoning - **raptors**
- Illegal trade (& illegal import) - **raptors, huntable species, songbirds**

Main steps toward the implementation of a National Action Plan in Italy

2. Main drivers

Songbird trapping: illegal business (delicacies, use as living decoys for hunting, caging for song)

Nest poaching of raptors and songbirds: illegal business (use as living decoys, caging for song, falconry)

Illegal shooting of raptors, huntable species and songbirds: local traditions, vandalism, taxidermy, “pest” control

Raptors poisoning: poison baits targeted at fox and wolf

Illegal import of raptors, huntable species and songbirds: business



Main steps toward the implementation of a National Action Plan in Italy

3. Seven black-spots identified

- Areas where tradition to kill/trap birds
- Areas which are important for stopover and wintering of migrants
- Areas where law enforcement is difficult



Main steps toward the implementation of a National Action Plan in Italy

-Circulate the draft among stakeholders;

-Discusse the draft in a technical workshop and a public conference involving all main actors and stakeholders held in a known black spot (Po Delta) in June 2016;



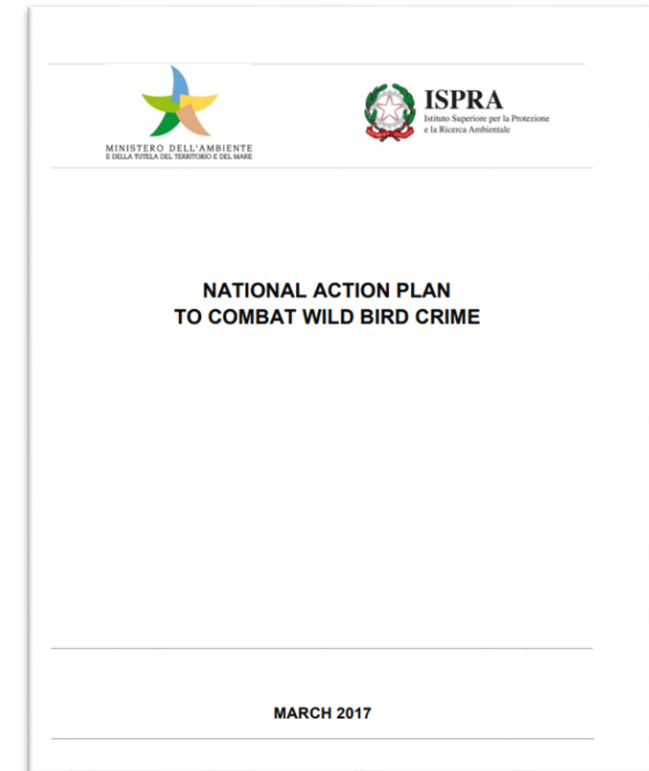
National Action Plan in Italy

-Italy **approved the NAP** during a “Conference State - Region” in March 2017.

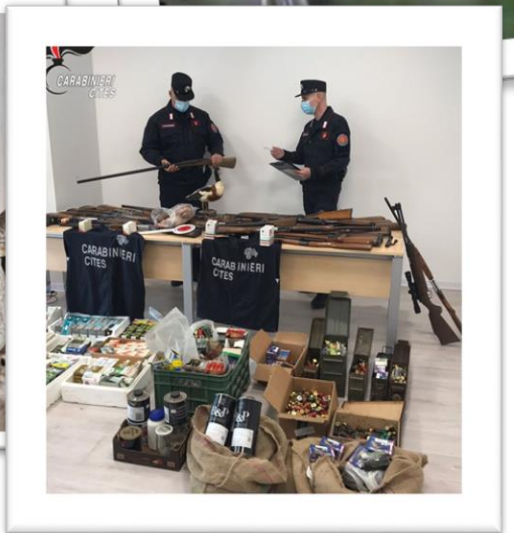
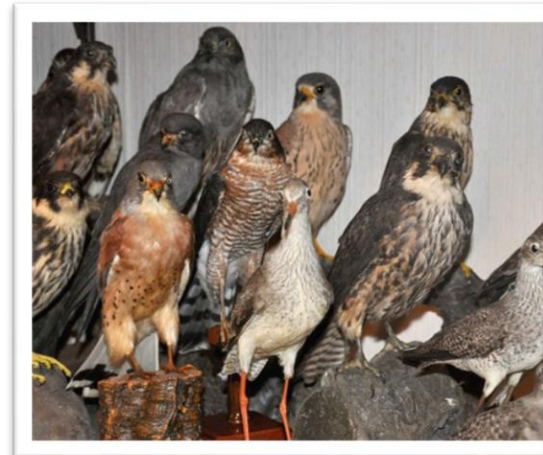
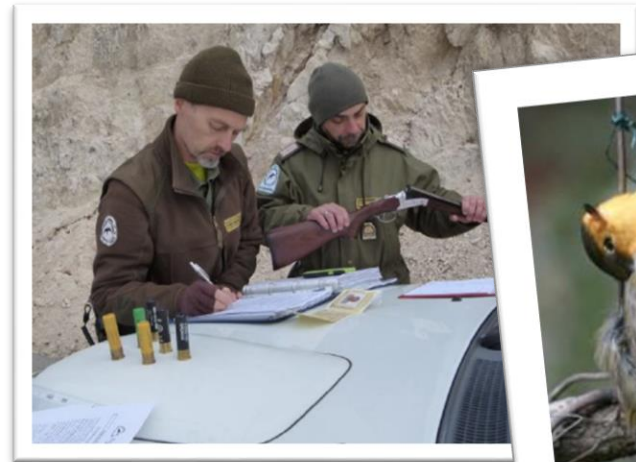


Conferenza Permanente per i rapporti tra lo Stato, le Regioni e le Province Autonome di Trento e Bolzano

The Permanent Conference for relations between the State, the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces (also called **Conference State-Regions**) is an Italian collegial body aimed at institutional cooperation between the State and the regions.



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME

General objective 1 – strengthening direct law enforcement

Specific objective 1.1: strengthening the central structures responsible for prosecuting offences against wild birds – CUFAA and CITES need more resources, in both economic and personnel terms, so that they can take direct action against illegal activity against birds at all black spots in Italy, coordinate supra-regional action and intervene effectively to stop illegal trade.

Action 1.1.1: Strengthening of CUFAA

Priority: high

Timeframe: within 12 months

Responsible: CUFAA

Programme: Increase the number of personnel, etc...



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME

Steering Committee

INSTITUTIONAL BOARD

LEAD: Ministry of Environment MASE

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

MEETINGS

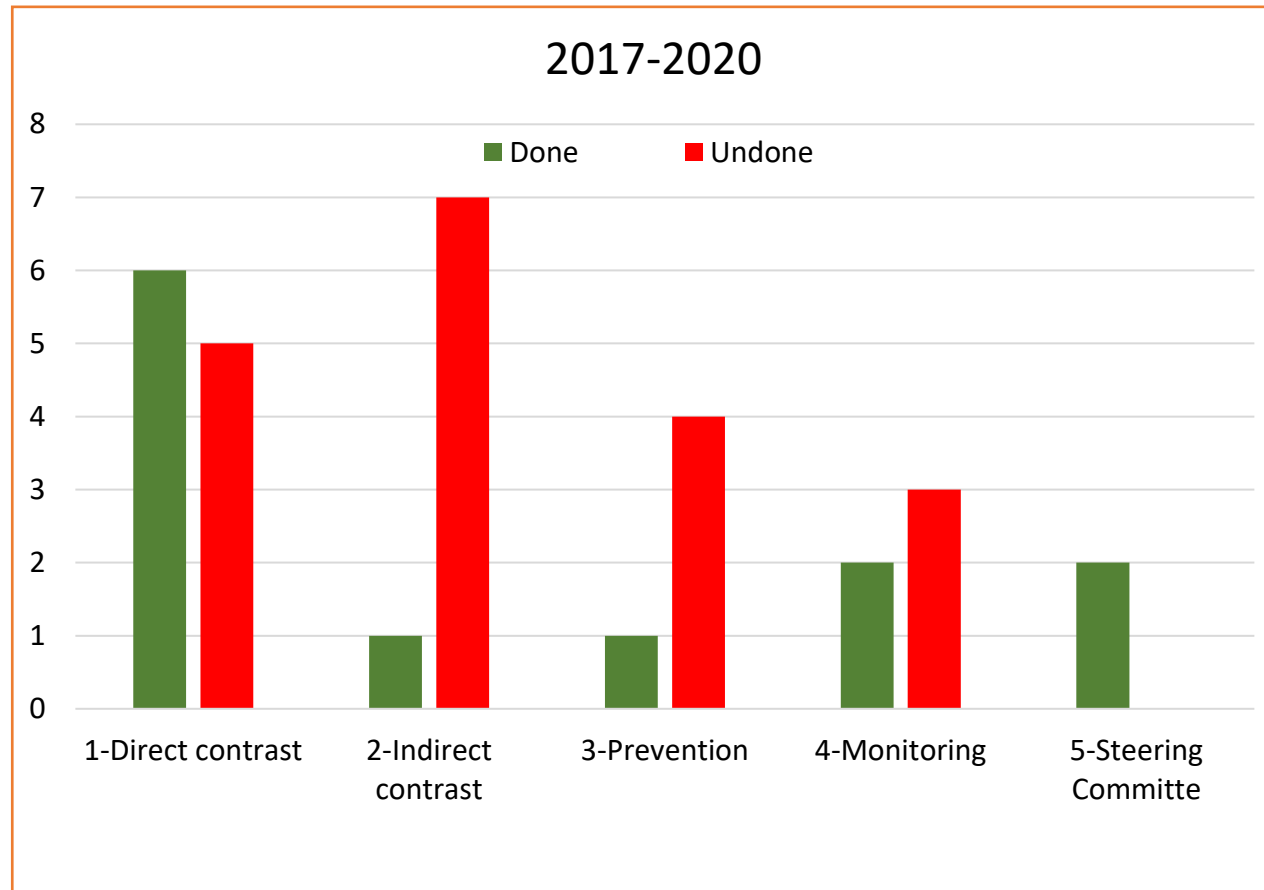
2017: 3
2018: 3
2019: 1
2020: 2
2021: 1
2022: 0
2023: 1



4 REPORTS

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

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME



Summary of
implementing the
31 actions

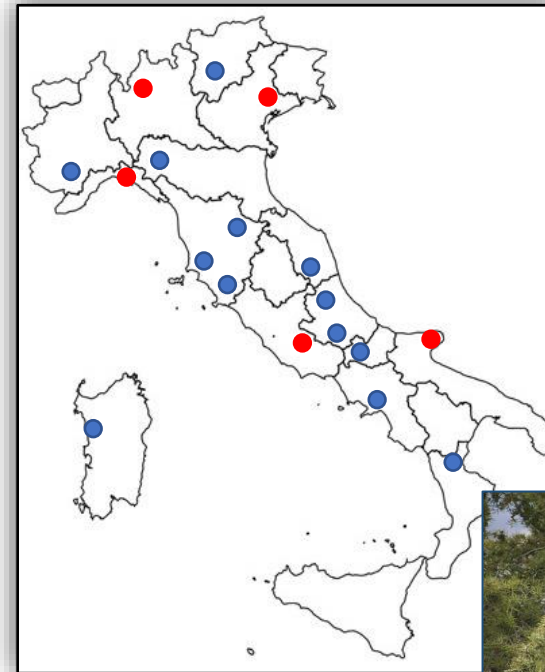
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME

ITALIAN ILLIGAL WILDLIFE POISONING DATABASE



<https://avvelenamenti.izslt.it/>

ANTI-POISON DOG UNITS



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME

Action 2.1.2: Training of magistrates

Priority: medium

Timeframe: within 36 months

Responsible body: Ministry of Justice

Programme: Through the coordination of the General Prosecutor's Office at the Court of Cassation and the General Prosecutors' Offices of the individual Districts, as well as through the training activities of the Scuola Superiore della Magistratura (School of the Judiciary), promote greater awareness among prosecutors and judges of wildlife crime, with particular reference to the various illegal practices and the repercussions they may have on the state of conservation of the ornithological species involved.



Crimes against wild birds. Thematic insights to tackle the illegal killing of birds – IKB (published on December 2022)

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Chapter 1 – Assessment of IKB at national level

Chapter 2 – Overview of legislation

Chapter 3 – Overview of penalties

Chapter 4 – Actions to tackle IKB at international level

Chapter 5 – Actions to tackle IKB at national level

Chapter 6 – Conclusions



Crimes against wild birds. Thematic insights to tackle the illegal killing of birds - IKB



Annexes

- The migration of birds
- The impact of illegal harvesting on birds
- Common species and threatened species
- Damage caused by the illegal removal of birds of prey
- Veterinary forensic medicine to combat illegal killings of wild birds

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME

- The NAP is formally expired in April 2020 (following the deadline of Tunis Action Plan).
- Some NAP actions have been carried out in 2020, 2021, 2022.
- On going agreement between the Ministry of the Environment and CUFA to realize "Activities aimed at providing collaboration and technical-operational support in the fight against poaching and in the performance of its institutional tasks".

Future steps: CONTINUITY IS A TOP PRIORITY



Thanks

