



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša  
i zelene tranzicije



# SITUATION ON IKB IN CROATIA

Difficulties and successes

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**Ministry of Environmental Protection and  
Green Transition**

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Workshop on National Action Plans on the Illegal Killing, Taking  
and Trade of Migratory Birds: Podgorica, 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2024



# Wildlife crime in Croatia

## Illegal killing and trapping of wildlife by motivation

### Illegal shooting and trapping:

- Self-interest (commercial, non-essential)
  - Illegal killing linked to hunting tourism
    - **Quail poaching with tape lures:** 40,000\* per year illegally killed in Croatia; **Waterfowl poaching; Breaching of quotas for woodcocks and snipes; Trophies**
  - Illegal killing linked to sell of game meat and trophies
  - Non-existential meat source
- Recreational poaching (illegal killing for trophies, random killing events)
- Traditional use of wildlife
  - Song birds caging
  - Song birds killing
  - Waterfowl poaching in the Neretva delta (50,000\* per year illegally killed)
- Conflict with predators (hawks, falcons, owls, herons, bee-eaters...)

### Illegal poisoning:

- Intentional wildlife poisoning
  - Conflict with predators
  - Conflict with game
- Unintentional poisoning
  - Misuse of rodenticide
  - No compliance with a lead ban

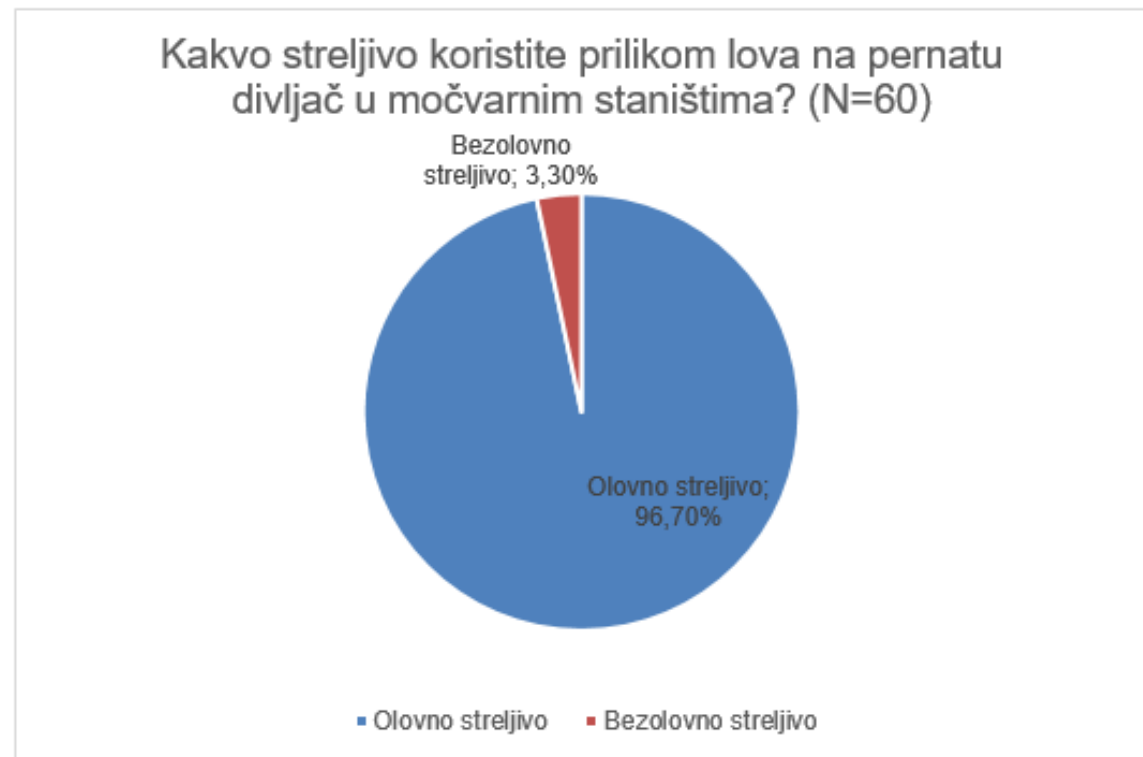


# Lead ban breach

Disregard to lead ban; ignorance to risks of lead poisoning



Biom (2022): *Survey of preferences and attitudes of hunters in the selection of ammunition used in waterfowl hunting*



# IKB - Wildlife crime in Croatia

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## Challenges

- Stronghold of IKB in the Neretva delta
- Still strong tradition of illegal trapping of song birds for caging
- High motivation and demand of hunting tourists
- Conflicts with wolves seem to escalate and are being enlarged by the media
- National law enforcement agencies usually experience staffing and/or skills shortages
- Field law enforcement is not sufficient
- Coordination between law enforcement and governmental institutions' actions needs improvement
- Low WC awareness in judiciaries

## Achievements

- Unofficial national anti-wildlife crime working group which coordinates when wildlife crime cases occur
- Wildlife crime got a higher priority in Croatian Police, which has a strong deterrence effect on poachers.
- WC education was provided to smaller number of law enforcement employees (mainly project related)
- In 2023, 50% less Quail poaching was recorded in comparison to 2018
- The process of development of National action plan against wildlife crime has started



# Development of NAP against wildlife crime – the process:

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- Rising capacities workshops about writing NAP (LIFE against bird crime, Adriatic Flyway 4)
- Project (LIFE SWIPE, BalkanDetox LIFE) working groups have been established and working on wildlife crime issues
- BalkanDetox LIFE project:
  - *Standard operational protocol for coordination in case of illegal use of poison and other illegal actions against wildlife, ver. 1* was finalized in **November 2023** – operational part of the problem tree has already been discussed
  - Ministry proposes development of National Action Plan against Wildlife Crime in **January 2024**
- in **August 2024** an official invitation letter for designation of relevant institutions' representatives has been sent for the establishment of the NAP Committee (lead authority – Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition; representatives of the State Inspectorate, General Police Directorate, State Attorney's Office, Ministry of Agriculture)
- Association Biom to ensure logistical support and assistance during the process
- First draft of the NAP structure and problem analysis has been made and awaits NAP Committee's first meeting (expected in **early autumn** Sept/Nov)
- NAP will include current priorities – illegal killing, trapping and poisoning of birds and mammals



# Actions to follow:

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- First meeting of the (IKB) NAP Committee
  - reaching agreement on stakeholder engagement plan, work flow (periodicity of meetings) etc.
  - finalizing other stakeholder analysis and working groups
  - reaching agreement on the structure of the document and objectives
  - reaching agreement on NAP timeline
  - considering international and/or regional collaborations
- sharing knowledge gained on this workshop

# Expectations from this Workshop:

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- identifying the most appropriate structure of the NAP document
- how to motivate certain stakeholders to take a more active role in NAP development process and gain ownership (and responsibility)
- gather NAP development and implementation advice from best practice examples
- gather advice on establishing systematic monitoring and data management
- gather newest information on funding possibilities and possible international cooperation

# Thank you!



## Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition

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