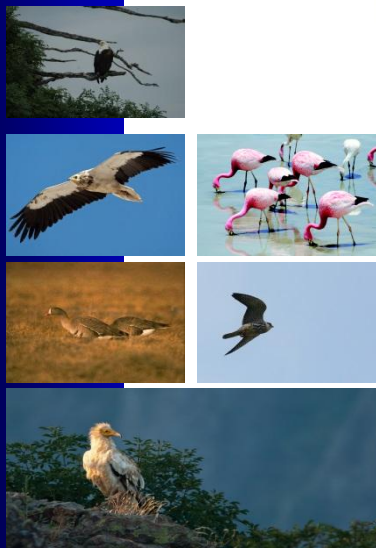


Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS)

Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

CMS Resolution 11.15 and Guidelines



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UNEP/CMS Secretariat

Nicola Crockford
BirdLife International

Resolution 11.15 on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

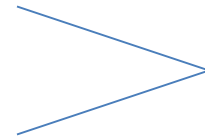
At CMS COP 11 in Quito (Ecuador), Resolution 11.15 was adopted including:

- ❖ Taking note of the “Review of the ecological effects of poisoning on migratory birds”
- ❖ Adopting the “Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds
- ❖ Proposing the continuation of the open-ended Preventing Poisoning Working Group until COP12

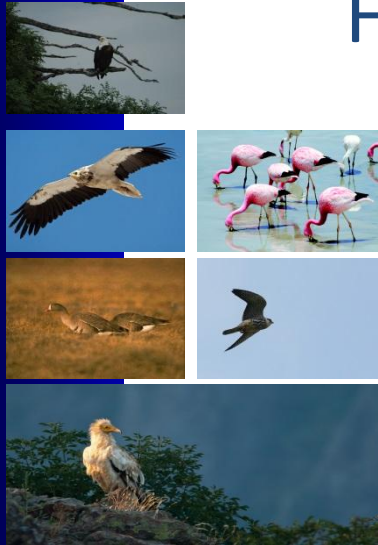


5 Poison Categories

- I. Insecticides
- II. Rodenticides
- III. Poison-baits
- IV. Veterinary drugs
- V. Lead ammunition & Fishing weights



Agrochemicals



Structure of guidelines

- Seven key recommendations
- Introduction to each of the five toxin groups
- Non-legislative recommendations
- Legislative recommendations



I. Insecticides: Background

- ❖ Widely used in agriculture worldwide (e.g. carbofuran)
- ❖ Farmland birds (resident and migratory) are at high risk
- ❖ Waterfowl and game birds exposed through consumption of agricultural crops
- ❖ Granivorous passerines exposed through consumption of pesticide-treated seeds



I. Insecticides: Background

- ❖ Migratory birds are particularly susceptible to sub-lethal effects of insecticides
 - Reduced movement
 - Negative effects on migration and orientation
 - Negative effects on productivity eg DDT



II. Rodenticides: Background

- ❖ Protection of crops & stored grain from rodent pests
- ❖ Anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs) are the most widely used rodenticides worldwide : 1st generation less lethal and less prone to bioaccumulation than more widely used 2nd generation eg Brodifacoum (one rat can contain 30-40 times a lethal dose for a raptor)
- ❖ Exposure to raptors in agricultural areas through consumption of rodents that have taken baits treated with rodenticides eg *Milvus milvus* (Red kite)
- ❖ Sub-lethal exposure:
 - hinders recovery of birds from disease/accidents
 - impairs hunting ability through behavioral changes



II. Rodenticides

Example

- In Denmark, in a total of 430 raptors of 11 species analyzed for anticoagulants, 84-100% were found to have AR residues in their livers
- In Spain, 62% of dead raptors had died from rodenticide poisoning

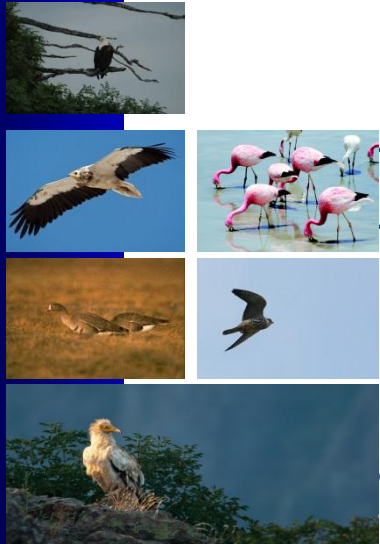


III. Poison-baits: Background

- ❖ Use: predator control (harvesting birds for human consumption and traditional medicine)
- ❖ Most widely used predator eradication method worldwide
- ❖ Illegal in EU/most Europe (Bern Convention/EU Birds Directive)

❖ Predatory/scavenging birds at risk from poison-baits targeted intentionally and unintentionally from baits for other target species (eg Jackals, corvids)

❖ Carbamate insecticides eg carbofuran and aldicarb are often used in poison-baits for predator control



III. Poison-baits

Example

Eurasian Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*)

- poison-baits used by farmers in Israel led to mass poisoning eg 40-50 individuals dead in 1998 and 30+ in 2007
- This was between a third and a half of the breeding population of Israel at the time



Eurasian Griffon



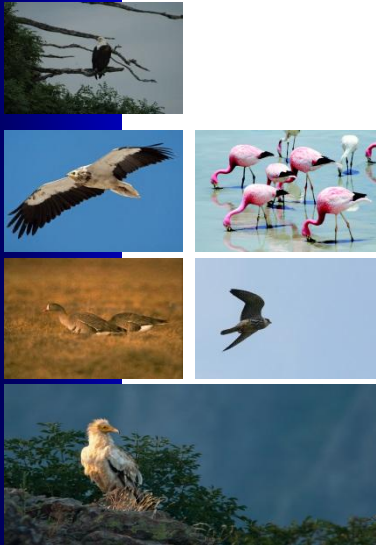
IV. Veterinary Pharmaceuticals: Background

- ❖ Veterinary pharmaceuticals, used to treat domestic ungulates, can contaminate food sources of scavenging bird species and lead to poisoning
- ❖ Most well studied category is the non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs)
- ❖ Main cause of decline of many vulture species due to birds ingesting livestock carcasses treated with NSAIDs such as diclofenac



IV. Veterinary Pharmaceuticals: Background

- ❖ In 2013 diclofenac was licensed in Spain, a few years after it was licensed in Italy
- ❖ Licensing the product for commercial veterinary use in the European Union is a rising concern for European vulture populations



IV. Veterinary Pharmaceuticals

Examples

Diclofenac:

- Popularly used in South Asia
- Toxic to several vulture species and *Aquila* species
- Prior to its ban, it led to substantial population declines of 3 species of *Gyps* vultures
 - Concerns raised with use of Diclofenac in Europe and its promotion in Africa, threatening species such as the African White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*) and the endangered Cape Griffon Vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*)



V. Lead Ammunition & Fishing Weights: Background

- ❖ Lead is a metal that is toxic to all vertebrate taxa acting as a non-specific poison affecting all body systems
- ❖ Lead from industrial sources (i.e. mining, smelting, paint and petrol) can affect exposed migratory birds

Lead Ammunition

- Source: bullets, air rifle pellets and shot
- Raptors that feed in areas where lead ammunition is used in shooting activities are vulnerable to secondary poisoning
- Estimated average of 2,400 - 3,000 tons of lead shot dispersed annually in European Wetlands



V. Lead Ammunition & Fishing Weights: Background

Fishing Weights

- Found in sinkers, equipment used for angling and commercial fishing
- Available to birds when they are lost or discarded into the aquatic environment
- Raptors affected by secondary exposure (predators/scavengers ingest lead fishing weights in prey)



- Total consumption of lead for fishing weights used in non-commercial angling was 2,000 – 6,000 tons/yr in 25 EU member states

V. Lead Ammunition: Recommendations

Non-legislative:

- Raise awareness of lead poisoning,
- particularly at key sites for migratory water birds;
- promote leadership from ammunition users, including wildlife managers, on non-toxic alternatives and best practices



V. Lead Ammunition: Recommendations

Legislative:

- **Phase-out use of lead ammunition across all habitats (wetland and terrestrial) with non-toxic alternatives within the next three years with Parties reporting to CMS Conference of the Parties (COP12) in 2017, working with stakeholders on implementation**
- **Create legislative processes to facilitate remediation of lead ammunition- contaminated environments**

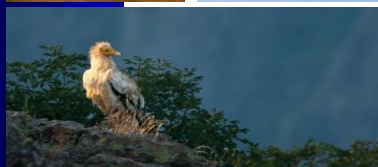


V. Lead Ammunition

Example:

Danish transition to non-toxic shot

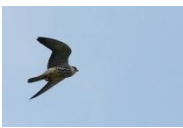
- Denmark began regulation of lead shot in 1985, made it illegal to use for all shooting in 1996
- Successful introduction of steel shot for clay pigeon shooting, showing they were safe, cheap and suitable



- Hunting community concerned that lead phase out would end hunting, however efficacy of alternative materials are acceptable and hunting rates have not changed significantly

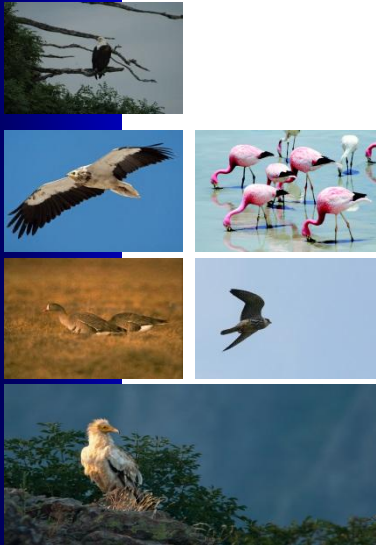
Resolution 11.15 on Bird Poisoning

- ❖ Calls on Parties and non-Parties, including their inter-governmental organisations and other relevant institutions to:
 - elaborate **strategies** to address poisoning or to
 - include measures contained in this Resolution and in the Guidelines in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (**NBSAPs**) or
 - relevant **legislation** as appropriate



Resolution 11.15

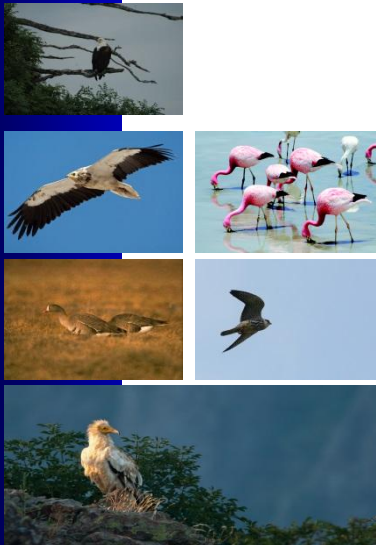
- ❖ Encourages all those concerned with preventing poisoning of migratory birds to create active **partnerships** – at appropriate scales – as a priority in implementing the Guidelines
- ❖ Instructs the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, to organize **regional workshops** in high risk areas/flyways to promote the implementation of the Guidelines and to share best practice and lessons learnt



The Preventing Poisoning Working Group



- ❖ The Working Group has been extended until COP12 in 2017
- ❖ It will establish task groups addressing either thematic issues (e.g., for different poison types) and/or geographical regions to progress its work
 - ❖ It will strengthen relevant regional and international networks
 - ❖ A coordinator will be appointed, located at the RSPB/BirdLife in the UK, initially using funds from the Raptors MoU



Preventing Poisoning Working Group - ToR

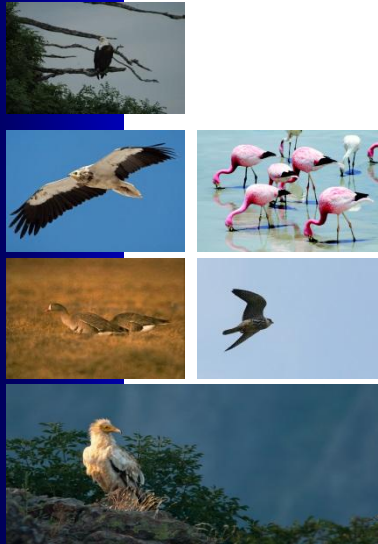


Facilitate implementation of Guidelines

Monitor implementation and submit reports to governing bodies

Establish task groups addressing thematic issues (e.g. for different poison types) and/or geographical regions

Organise regional workshops in trouble spot areas to assist developing appropriate local/regional solutions



Thank you!

