



Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean

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WORKPLAN 2021-2025 FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Summary:

Introduction to the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025, approved through online consultation in 2021.



The European Union was recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018 - 2023. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.



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INTRODUCTION

1. The actions in this Workplan are based on the *Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region*. The Rome Strategic Plan (RSP), was developed as the common strategic framework of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (SFPs) at the Joint meeting which took place in Rome in May 2019.
2. At its 39th meeting, the Bern Convention Standing Committee adopted the RSP, recommending and encouraging Bern Parties to implement appropriate actions of the RSP. In June 2020, after consultation via electronic means, the version adopted by the Bern Convention was adopted by the MIKT countries, with the understanding that a detailed and ambitious workplan would be developed for specific actions to be implemented by MIKT Members and Observers in the Mediterranean that will capture concerns raised during the consultation – including the possibility to agree on the use of an independent monitoring mechanism to assess progress made against the workplan and combating IKB under the MIKT¹.
3. Illegal killing, taking and trade is a shared issue and the implementation of the Workplan requires cooperation among governments, international organizations, law enforcement agencies, local communities, nature conservation NGOs, hunting associations and other national and international stakeholders, in order to maximize impact and build ownership.
4. The RSP and this workplan are based on a zero tolerance approach to illegal killing, trapping and trade of migratory birds (IKB), and taking a proactive role at national level in fighting against these illegal activities, supported by international exchange of experience and cooperation as appropriate.
5. Implementation of this Workplan is expected to contribute to the achievement of various other international commitments, including:
 - a. the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly goal 15 related to biodiversity which sets a target to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;
 - b. the CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023;
 - c. the CMS Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways (2014-2023) adopted through Resolution 11.14.
6. This Workplan complements the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU), and the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Species Action Plan (AEMLAP).

¹ The UK does not support the possibility of independent monitoring, as the UK considers current monitoring mechanisms to be sufficient.

7. The Workplan is divided into the following Objectives, in line with the RSP:
 - Overarching issues: Process Oriented Objective on National IKB Action Plans
 - Objective No. 1: To understand the scope, scale and motivations behind illegal killing, taking and trade of birds
 - Objective No. 2: To establish an active prevention of the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds
 - Objective No. 3: To ensure that the illegal killing of birds is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation
 - Objective No. 4: To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken
 - Objective No. 5: To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences
8. The responsible bodies specified are not an exhaustive list, additional ones can join at any time as necessary.
9. The budget estimates are only indicative and subject to the relevant fundraising to implement these activities. Voluntary contributions are invited and will be necessary to realize the implementation of this Workplan.
10. Delivery of the workplan is subject to sufficient resources for the Secretariats, the MIKT members and observers. Raising the said resources is added as an important action point in the workplan.
11. Progress on implementation of the Workplan will be assessed at least every three years, similarly to the RSP, mainly through the Scoreboard.

ACRONYMS

AEWA	African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
AEMLAP	African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan
BLI	BirdLife International
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
EURING	European Union for Bird Ringing
Europol	European Police Office
EJTN	European Judicial Training Network
EUFJE	EU Forum of Judges for the Environment
ENPE	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment
FACE	European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation
IAF	International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey
ICCW	International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime
IKB	Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds
IMPEL	European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
EnviCrimeNet	Network of environmental protection officers within the EU
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LIFE	EU funding instrument for the environment and climate action
MED	All coastal States in the Mediterranean Sea
MIKT	Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
N/A	Not applicable
NABU	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union
NAP	National Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
RSP	Rome Strategic Plan
SC	Scientific Council
SWM	Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme
TRAFFIC	Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Convention to Combat Climate Change
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCTC	Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge
WI	Wetlands International
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature