

**ADDENDUM 1****SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**

(arising from ScC-SC8)

**THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS****UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.1****RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15**

The Scientific Council recommends to adopt the draft resolution and decisions with amendments as specified below

**GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT**

The Sessional Committee thanked the Secretariat and specifically the EU, Australia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their support in establishing the various IKB Task Forces already operating under this Resolution. It also mentioned that the Eurasian African Migration Atlas contains a module devoted to intentional take of migratory birds, noting that this information can be relevant to the work of MIKT. The Sessional Committee noted that Decision 15.CC on the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force is currently directed to Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant organizations, but not to the Secretariat. It is recommended that a new draft Decision is added directed to the Secretariat to support the meetings and the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Task Force.

**COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION**

The following spelling correction was made for the Terms of Reference of the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Bird Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA) on page 18 of the document (Annex to Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14))

- Promote and facilitate implementation of relevant Decisions and plans adopted in the framework of MEAs or other frameworks, especially the CMS, Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) and bilateral migratory bird agreements;

In the operative paragraph 5 of the draft Resolution, it is suggested to reinstate reference to the TOR of MIKT which was stripped out at COP12 (page 15-16 of the document):

5. *Calls* on the Secretariat to convene an Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean<sup>5</sup> in conjunction with the Secretariats of AEWA, the Raptors MOU, the AEMLAP and the Bern Convention, involving the Mediterranean Parties, including the European Union, other interested Parties, including from outside the region, and other stakeholders such as BirdLife International and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE), in line with the Terms of Reference in Annex 1, and to facilitate the implementation of existing guidelines and action plans, any necessary new guidelines and action plans relating to the Mediterranean (and particularly the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region) and to consider whether any new

guidelines, action plans or other recommendations to respond to specific problems are necessary;

It is suggested to attach all TORs of the existing Task Forces to the draft resolution.

At the end of page 13, it is suggested to add the following preambular reference to BirdLife International / Euronatur (2025) The Killing 3.0 and BirdLife's recent paper on mortality of African-Eurasian tracked migratory birds:

Further welcoming the findings of BirdLife International and EuroNatur (2025): Progress assessment on the eradication of illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds in the Mediterranean and Europe<sup>1</sup>, which highlight that countries must significantly step up efforts to achieve the minimum 50% reduction in IKB by 2030,

Noting with concern that recent work coordinated by BirdLife International (Serratos et al. 2024), found that 38% of tracked large migratory birds in the African-Eurasian flyway where cause of death could be determined were illegally killed',

On the last preambular paragraph on page 15 of the document, it is proposed to add updated reference to the Raptors MOU work plan:

Having regard to the Strategic Plan of AEWA 2019-2027, especially Objective 2.1.b: "By MOP8, Parties establish and/or maintain adequate systems for making realistic estimates of all forms of waterbird harvesting, including illegal taking, at national level" and 2.2.e. "By MOP9, Parties that have not already done so implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking (in accordance with paragraph 4.1.6 of the AEWA Action Plan)" and the Action Plan of the Raptors MOU, especially Priority Action 4a "~~Protecting all species from unlawful killing, including poisoning, shooting, persecution, and exploitation~~", activity 1.2 to ensure legislation protects all birds of prey from deliberate killing, disturbance, egg-collection, wild taking and trade and 1.3 on banning poisons,

A new draft Decision is proposed:

#### ASIA PACIFIC ILLEGAL TAKING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE

##### **Directed to the Secretariat**

15.CC b) The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, shall support the coordination and organization of ITTEA meetings, as appropriate, in line with the Task Force's Terms of Reference.

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<sup>1</sup> BirdLife International (2025) The Killing 3.0. Progress assessment on the eradication of illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds in the Mediterranean and Europe. A comprehensive assessment of progress towards reducing illegal bird killings (IKB) across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.