



SWAITB Task Force

Introduction to its complementary agenda
and workplan: bridging MIKT and SWAITB

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Agenda item 6.3

Workshop on National IKB Action Plans: North Africa

29 Sep - 1 Oct 2026, Tangier, Morocco



Outline

01

Two Task Forces, one flyway system

Why South-West Asia matters, the SWAITB Task Force, its Action Plan 2024–2032 and workplan

02

Evidence from the online market

Egypt and Libya: migratory birds killed in bulk, packed and advertised on social media, with buyers in the Gulf

03

Bridging MIKT and SWAITB

Complementary frameworks, six joint work areas and proposed next steps



PART 1

Two Task Forces, one flyway system

Why South-West Asia matters

Ten range states on the Central Asian and East African–West Asian flyways: key stopover and wintering areas linking Eurasian breeding grounds with Africa and South Asia.

3.2 M

birds illegally taken each year

range 1.7–4.6 M; likely an underestimate

413+

species affected

incl. Sociable Lapwing (CR), Marbled Teal, Common Pochard, European Turtle-dove (VU)

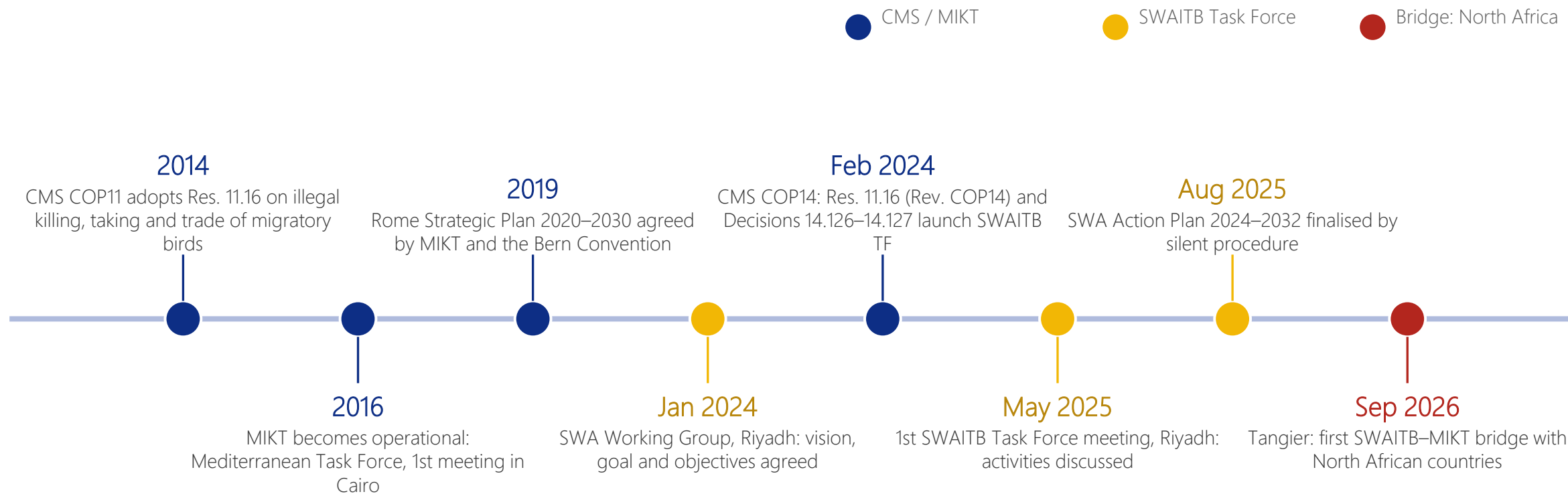
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range states

Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen

Main motivations: sport, and food (birds sold as a delicacy). *Source: Brochet et al. 2019, Sandgrouse 41.*

From mandate to action: key milestones



SWA Action Plan 2024–2032 at a glance

Final Action Plan to eradicate the illegal taking of migratory birds in South-West Asia (UNEP/CMS/SWAITB1/Outcome 2), adopted by the Task Force in August 2025.

LONG-TERM VISION

South-West Asia will be a safe haven for all wild birds, and their illegal hunting and taking are eradicated.

OVERARCHING GOAL

Eliminate the illegal taking of migratory birds in South-West Asia through international cooperation and effective national action.

TARGET BY 2032

≥ 30%

reduction in the number of birds illegally hunted and taken in the region, compared to the agreed baseline

Seven objectives, one direction

1

Knowledge

Understand the scope, scale, geography and motivations of illegal taking

2

National Action Plans

Each range state develops, endorses and implements a National ITB Action Plan

3

Legislation

Illegal taking addressed in national law, following common regional principles

4

Enforcement & judiciary

Effective enforcement through law enforcement agencies and the courts

5

Awareness & capacity

Education, outreach and capacity building, within and beyond the region

6

International cooperation

Active participation in international fora; exchange of best practice

7

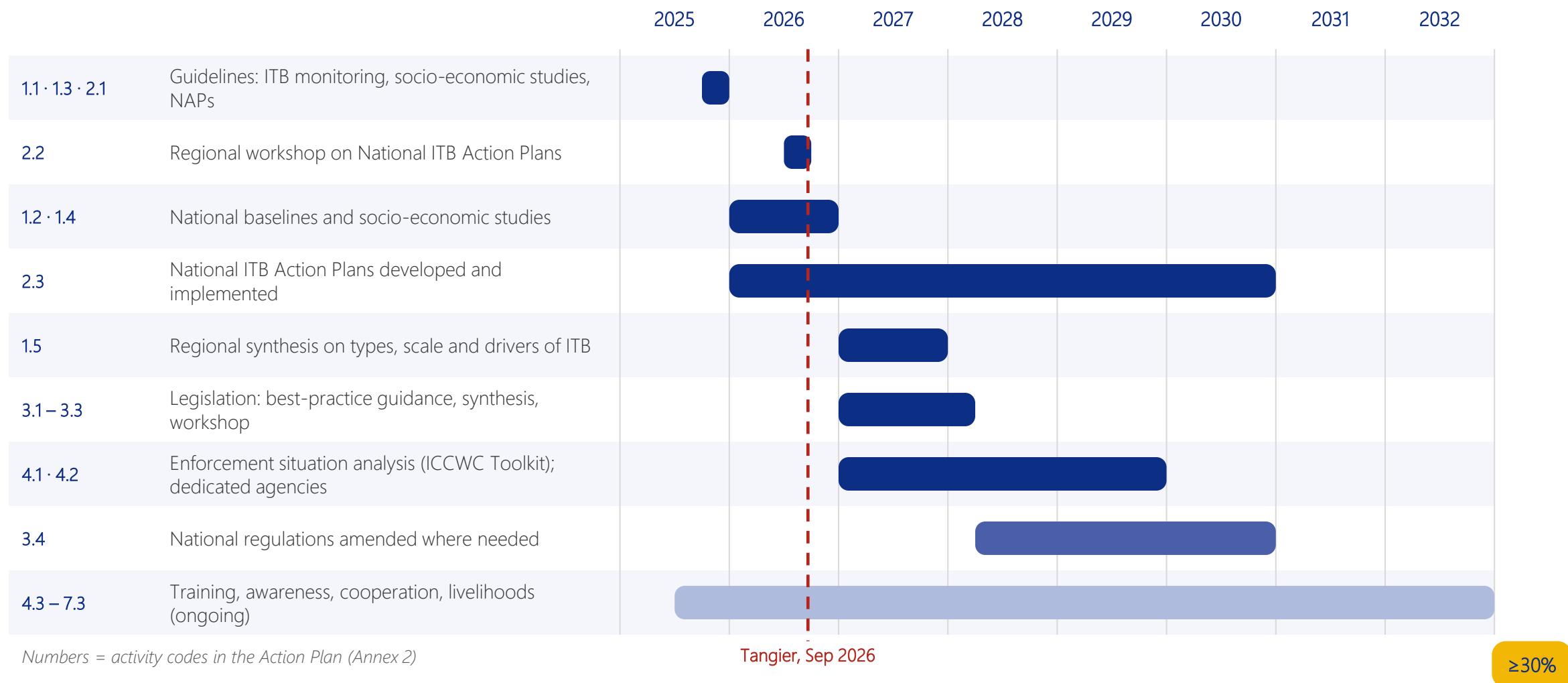
Socio-economic drivers

Address the circumstances driving illegal taking, e.g. alternative livelihoods

Shared DNA with MIKT

Objectives 1–5 mirror the Rome Strategic Plan: a common language for knowledge, NAPs, law, enforcement and prevention.

Workplan 2025–2032: priority activities





PART 2

Evidence: one online market, two regions

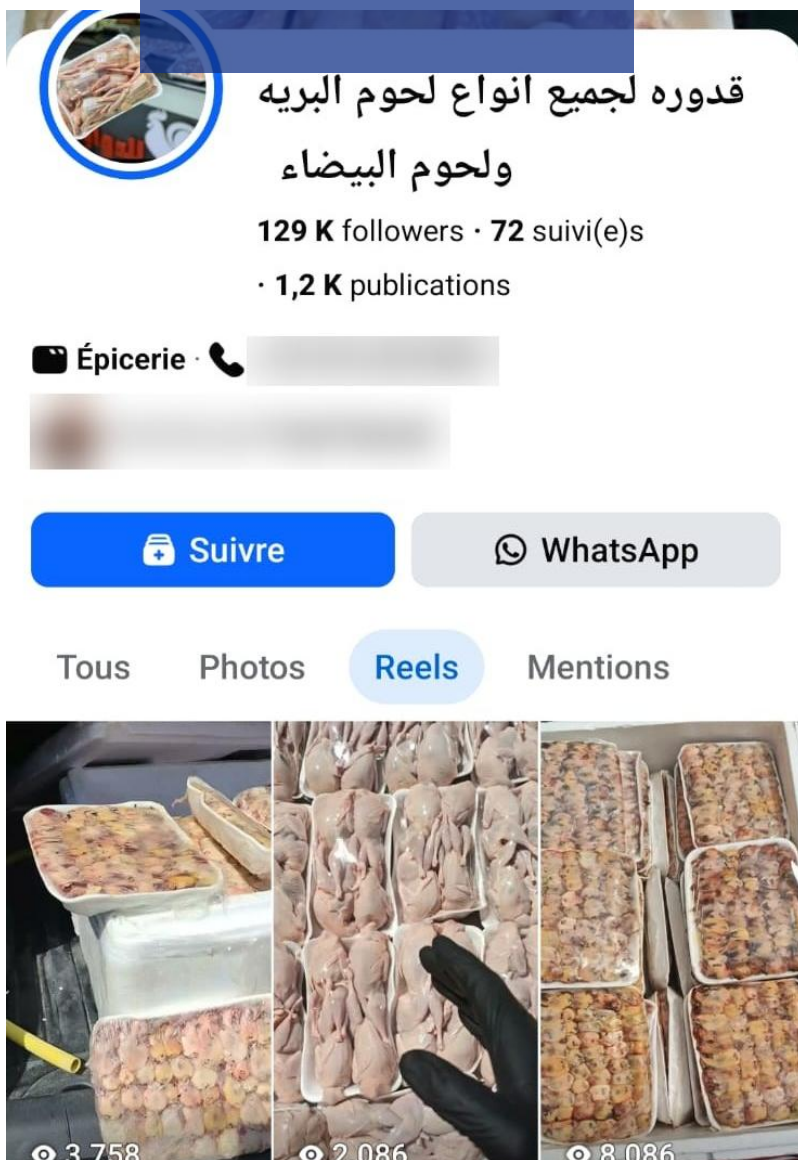


Facebook Reel, screenshot 17 Sep 2026. Phone numbers redacted.

Egypt: a Cairo shop, Saudi buyers

- A Facebook page called “Maqnas al-Tuyour” (the bird trapper) shows trays of plucked, cling-wrapped small birds ready for sale.
- The video advertises a shop in Cairo and contact numbers in Jeddah and Makkah, Saudi Arabia.
- 52K reactions and over 300 comments: public, commercial and normalised.
- Egypt already is among the five Mediterranean countries with the highest IKB numbers

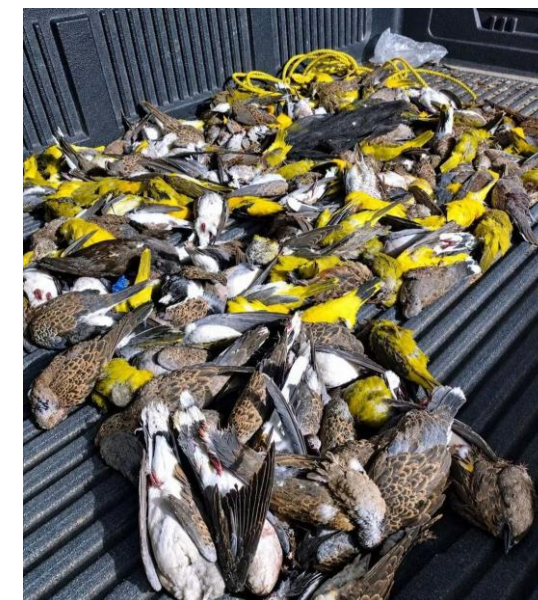
Capture in a MIKT country, consumer in a SWAITB country. Neither Task Force can close this loop alone.



Libyan Facebook page, screenshot 17 Sep 2026. Phone number and names redacted.

Libya: wild-bird meat at scale

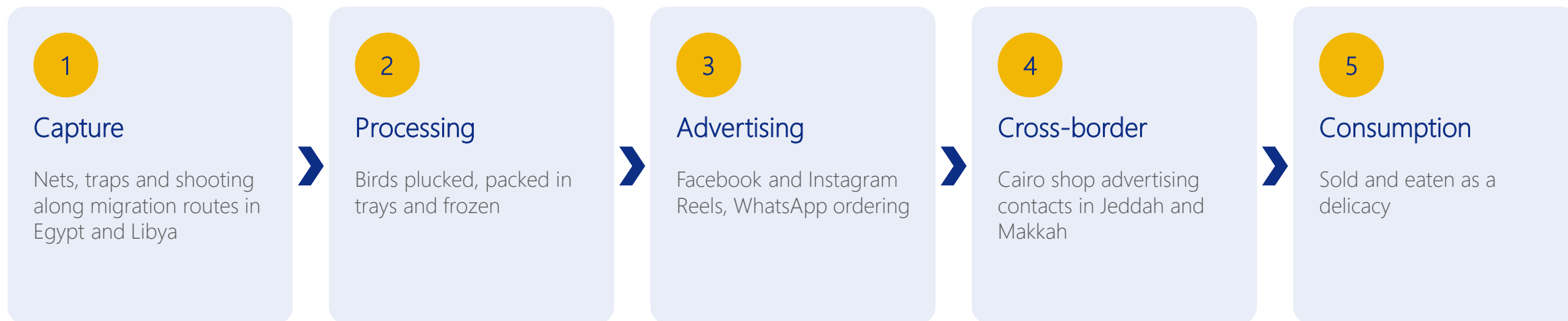
- A Libyan (+218) page selling “all kinds of wild meat”: 129K followers, 1.2K posts, orders via WhatsApp.
- Reels of crates of plucked small birds and quail reach 2,000–8,000+ views each.
- Mass kills are posted openly: dozens of Golden Orioles and European Turtle-doves (VU) in one pick-up.
- Libya had one of the highest species-impact indices in the Mediterranean (Brochet et al. 2016).



Mass kill shared on social media, Sep 2026

Social media turns local killing into a regional market, and leaves a public, traceable evidence trail.

One supply chain, two Task Force regions



MIKT scope: North Africa and the Mediterranean

SWAITB scope: Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq

The legal basis is already shared. The CMS Res. 11.16 definition of illegal taking covers possession, movement, offer for sale, advertisement, consumption, import, transit and export of specimens, wherever national law prohibits them.



PART 3

Bridging MIKT and SWAITB

Complementary frameworks: where they meet

	MIKT: Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030	SWAITB: Action Plan 2024–2032	Bridge opportunity
Target	≥50% reduction by 2030 (2020 baseline)	≥30% reduction by 2032 (agreed baseline)	Compatible baselines, comparable progress
National Action Plans	Process objective; MIKT NAP guidance	Objective 2; Activities 2.1–2.3	Adapt MIKT guidance and lessons (Italy, North Africa)
Knowledge	Obj. 1; Scoreboard; monitoring and socio-economic guidance	Obj. 1; baselines and socio-economic studies (1.1–1.5)	Shared methods; Scoreboard-compatible reporting
Legislation	Obj. 3: effective national legislation	Obj. 3: common regional principles, incl. hunting tourism	Joint best-practice guidance
Enforcement & justice	Obj. 4 enforcement; Obj. 5 justice	Obj. 4: agencies and judiciary	Joint training; cross-border intelligence
Prevention	Obj. 2: active prevention	Obj. 5 awareness; Obj. 7 socio-economic drivers	Arabic-language campaigns; livelihoods

Bridging MIKT and SWAITB: six joint work areas



Joint online-trade monitoring

Common protocol to track Arabic-language ads on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and TikTok; builds on agenda item 8.3



Harmonised baselines

Align SWA Activities 1.1–1.2 with the MIKT baseline methodology and Scoreboard



Cross-border enforcement

Intelligence sharing between North African and Gulf authorities; joint training; ICCWC Toolkit



Engagement with platforms

Joint request to Meta and others to remove illegal wild-bird meat ads, with reporting channels



Shared Arabic-language outreach

Co-produced campaigns aimed at Gulf consumers and North African trappers and traders



Institutional bridge

Reciprocal observers at MIKT and SWAITB meetings, joint sessions, shared NAP guidance and expert roster



Proposed next steps

1. **Integrate online trade and cross-border supply chains** into the North African National IKB Action Plans discussed this week.
2. **Nominate focal points** in Egypt, Libya and SWA range states (notably Saudi Arabia) for a MIKT–SWAITB working channel.
3. **Pilot joint monitoring of online bird-meat trade** during the 2026–2027 migration season.
4. **Feed these ideas into North Africa's 2026–2030 priorities** (agenda item 11.1) and the upcoming MIKT Joint Meetings.
5. **Increase awareness about IKB beyond national borders and border checks** in SWAITB countries.

Birds do not recognise Task Force borders. Neither do the traders.



THANK YOU!

Imad Cherkaoui

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European Turtle-dove (VU) and Eurasian Golden Oriole: the same species found in the mass kill shown today.

