



Lessons Learnt on Implementing a National IKB Action Plan: Experience from Italy

Dr Arianna Aradis

Migratory Avifauna, ISPRA
CMS Raptors MOU & MIKT Technical
National Focal Point, Italy



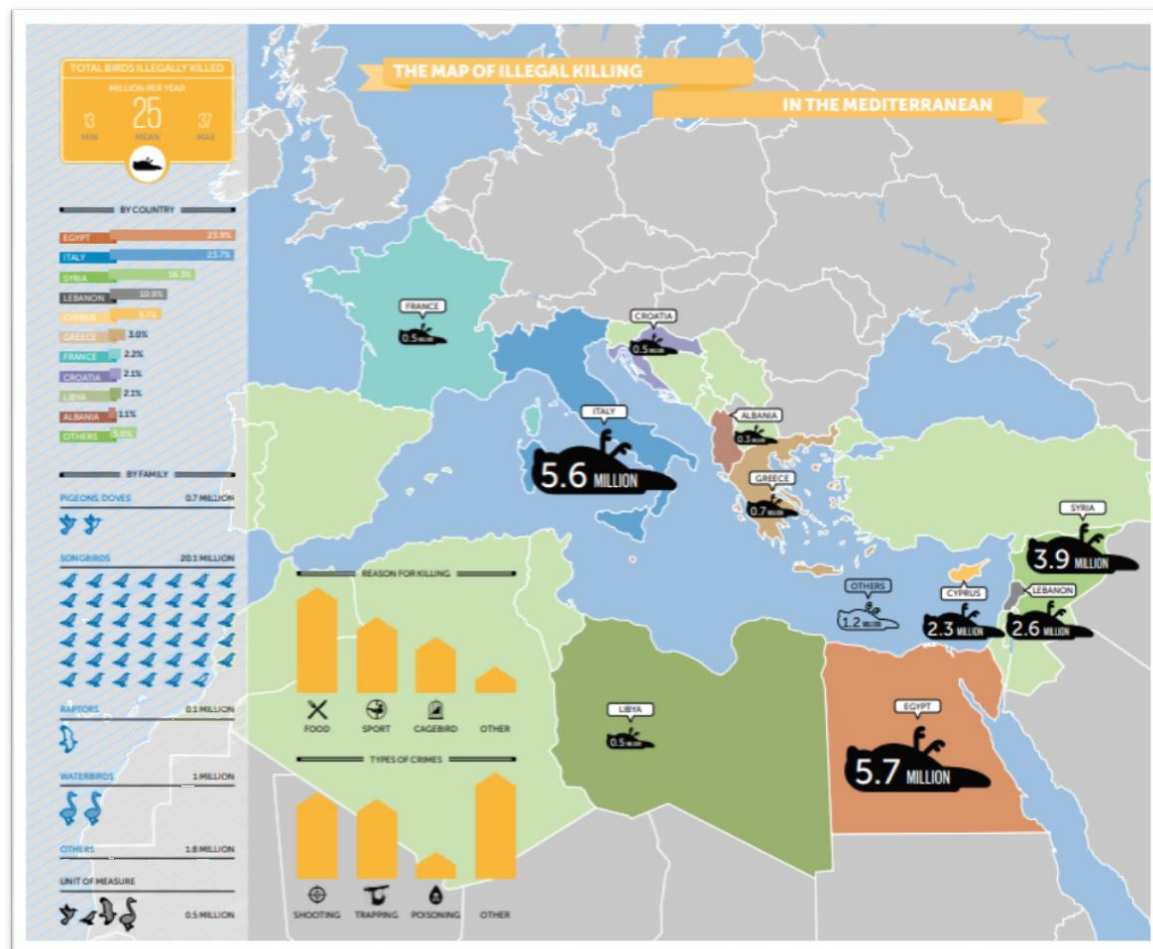
Workshop on National IKB Action Plans: North Africa

29 Sep - 1 Oct 2026, Tangier, Morocco



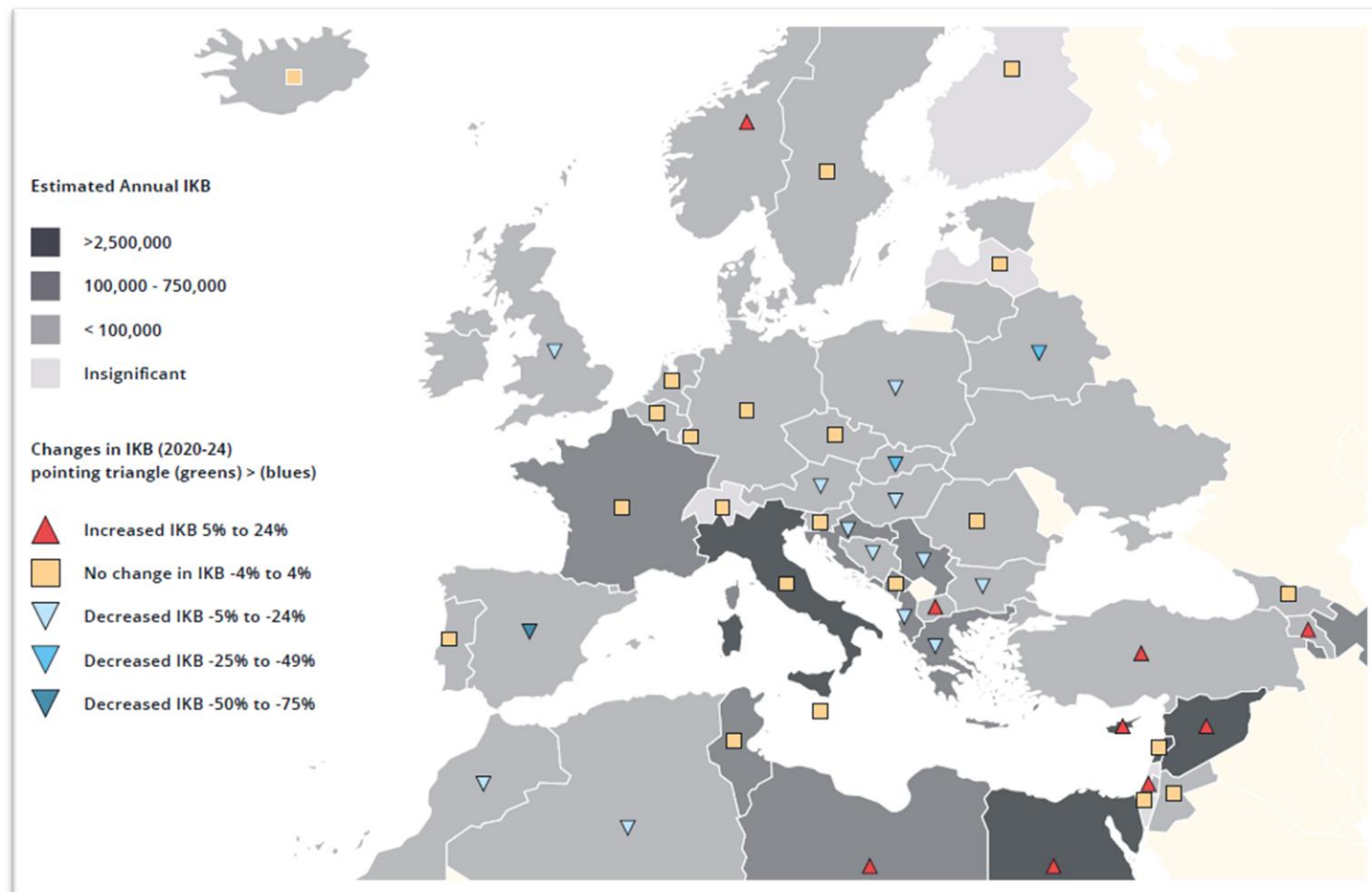
Italy's National IKB Action Plan: A Decade of Lessons

The Scale of the Problem



BirdLife International, 2015. *The Killing: The scientific review of illegal killing in the Mediterranean*. Cambridge: BirdLife International.

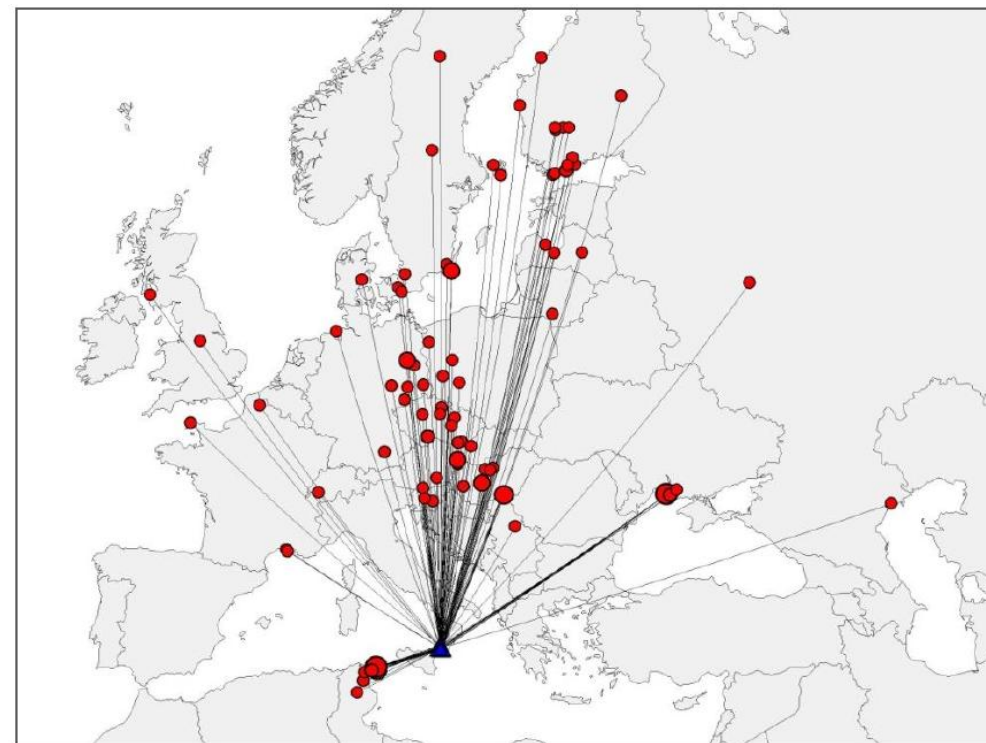
The Scale of the Problem



BirdLife International and EuroNatur (2025). The Killing 3.0. Progress assessment on eradication of the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds in the Mediterranean and Europe

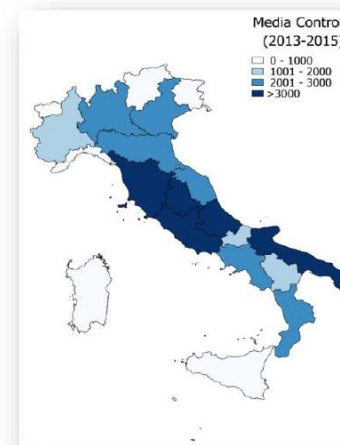
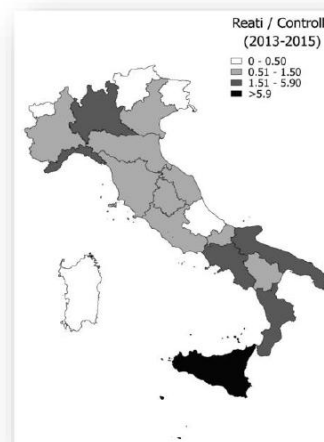
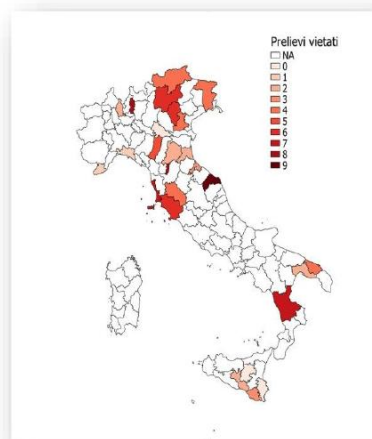
Where It Started: EU Pilot 5283/13/ENVI (2013)

- In 2013 the European Commission opened an EU Pilot procedure on Italy's handling of illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds
- Poaching in Italy, besides breaching the Birds Directive, was found to undermine the conservation status of many species, with possible negative effects in other Member States, given Italy's position along the migratory routes
- Ringing recoveries make that argument physical: the birds killed here come from the whole continent. **IKB is never only a national problem**



Data source: ISPRA (Italian Ringing Centre data)

2014–2015: Joining the Framework, Commissioning the Evidence



Illegal takings, offences per check and average number of checks by region, 2013–2015 (data CUFAA)

- In 2014 the Ministry of Environment took two decisions: to join the international initiatives on IKB - CMS, Bern Convention, MIKT - and to promote a National Action Plan
- In 2015 ISPRA was tasked with collecting the information for the draft, following the Tunis Action Plan (2013–2020); a national questionnaire specifically designed for the hunting management and game law enforcement offices of the Provincial administrations, and for environmental and hunting associations was circulated.
- The brief was diagnostic: type and frequency of offences, geographical and temporal distribution, black spots, drivers of IKB, and the weaknesses in enforcing the law

What the Diagnostic Found: Activities and Drivers

Trapping and nest poaching

- Songbirds and raptors
- Driver: illegal business - delicacies, living decoys for hunting, caging for song, falconry

Illegal shooting

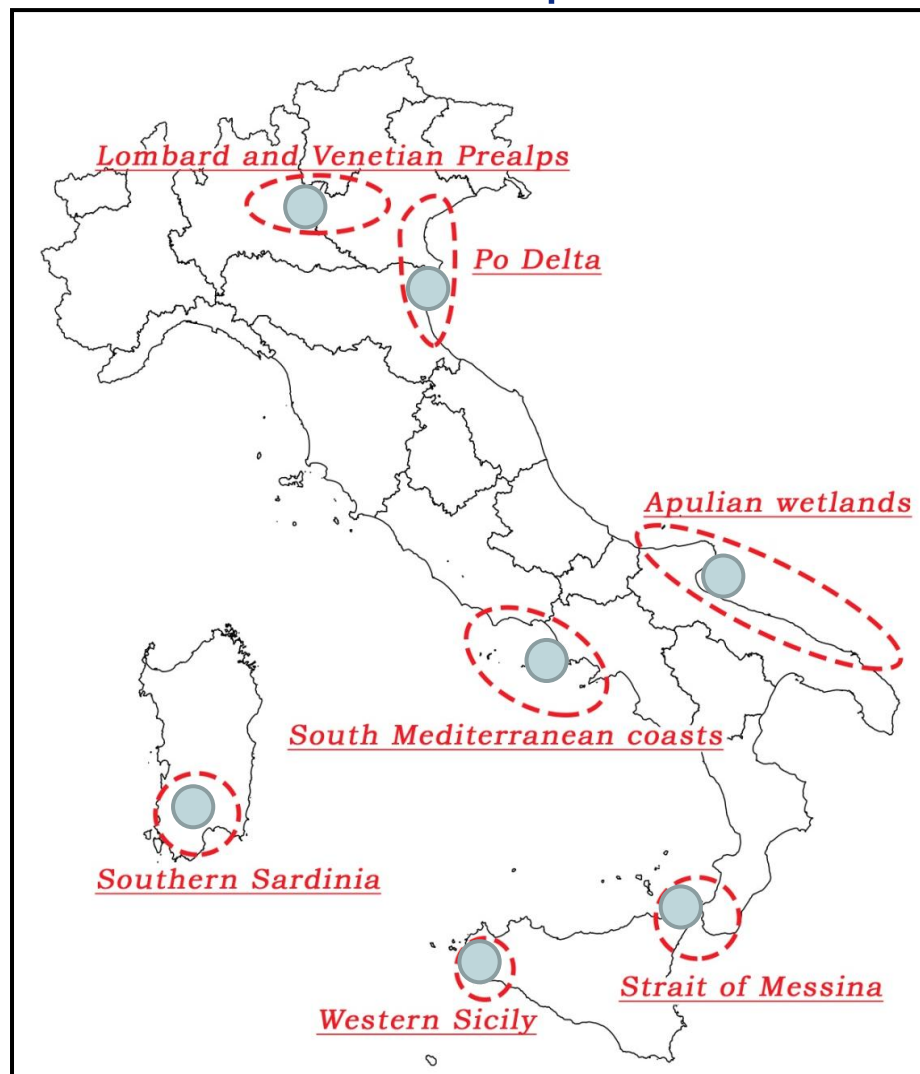
- Raptors, huntable species, songbirds
- Drivers: local tradition, taxidermy, "pest" control

Poisoning, trade and import

- Raptors, huntable species, songbirds
- Raptors as collateral victims of baits aimed at fox and wolf; trade and import driven by business



Seven Black Spots

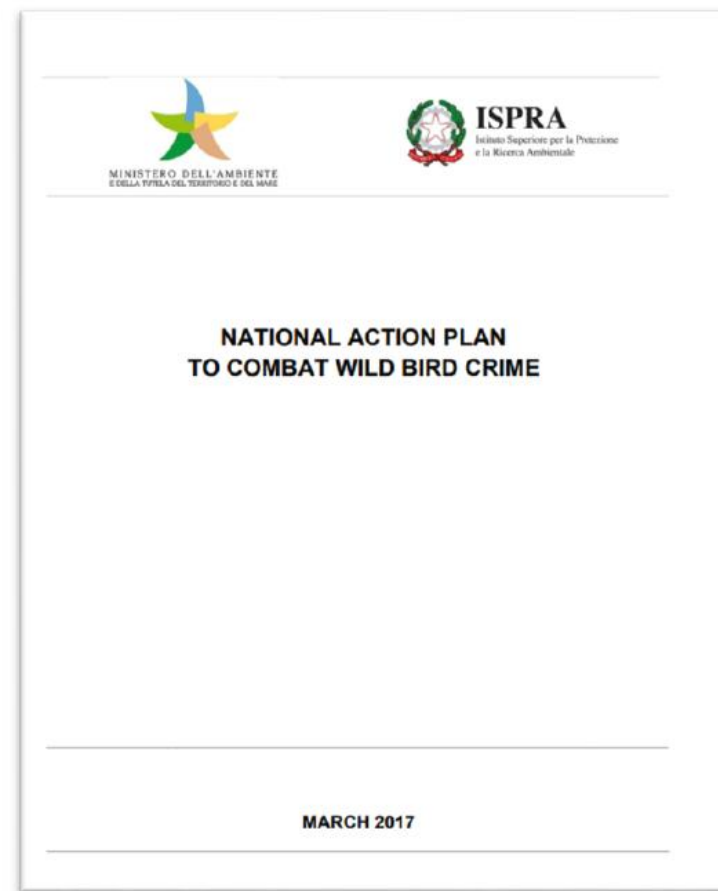


Focusing on migratory birds, 7 priority areas were identified as “Areas where illegal activities against birds are most intense», identified from published literature, information from enforcement agencies and NGOs.



From Draft to Adoption

- The draft was circulated among all stakeholders: ministries, regions, enforcement agencies, research institutes, environmental and hunting associations
- It was then discussed in a technical workshop and a public conference held in June 2016 in the Po Delta - deliberately inside one of the black spots
- The National Action Plan to Combat Wild Bird Crime was approved by the Conference State-Regions in March 2017 and published in the Official Journal on 25 May 2017



The Structure of the Plan

- Five targets and 32 actions: direct enforcement, indirect enforcement, prevention, monitoring of results, and the Steering Committee itself
- Every action carried a priority, a timeframe, a responsible body and a programme - so that non-delivery would be visible:
 - Action 1.1.1, strengthening CUFAA: high priority, within 12 months, responsible body CUFAA, programme: increase the number of personnel



Governance: the Steering Committee

Institutional Panel

- Led by the Ministry of Environment
- Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Justice, Interior, Education and Research; Regions and Autonomous Provinces

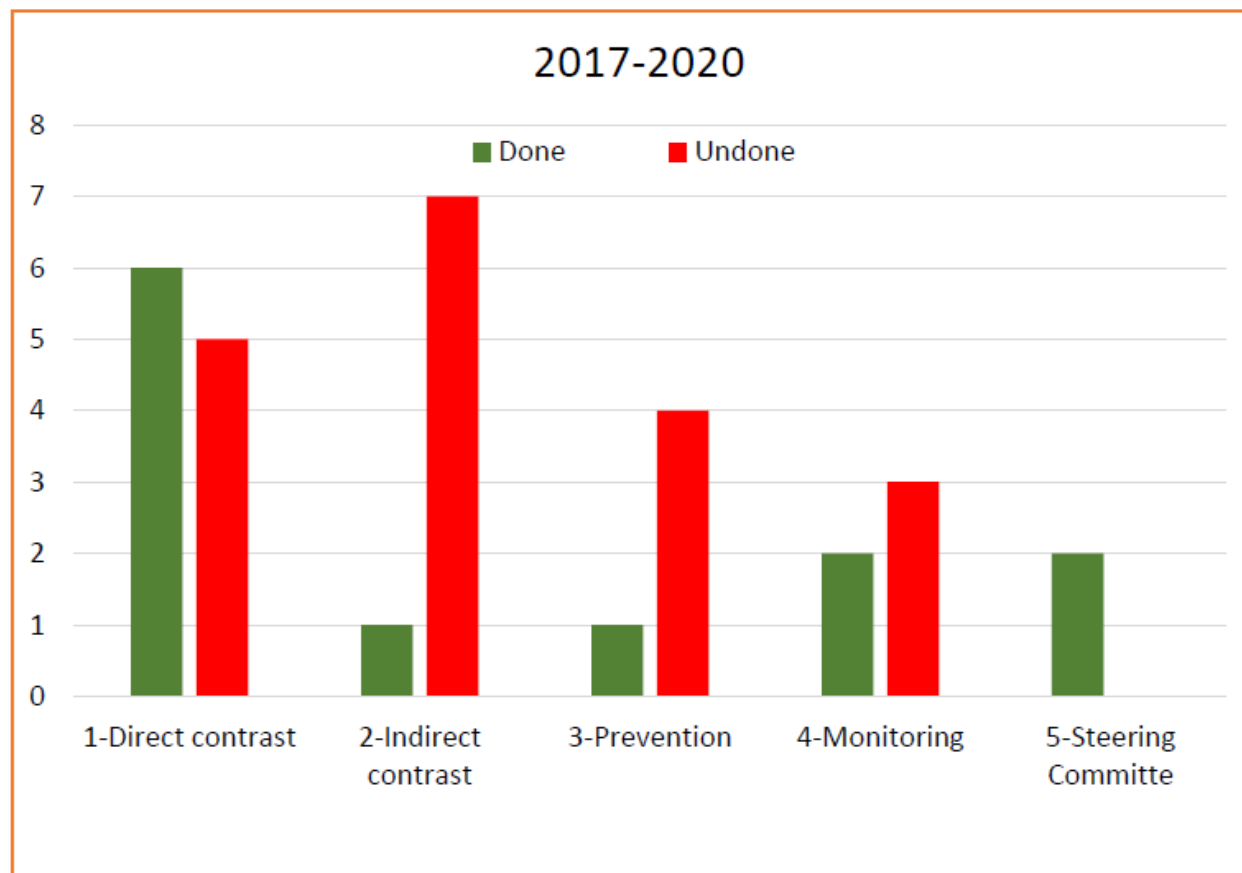
Technical Panel

- Led by the Carabinieri Forestali (CUFAA)
- ISPRA, regional forestry corps, CITES National Committee, IZSLT, EUROPOL, INTERPOL, the High School of the Judiciary, environmental and hunting NGOs

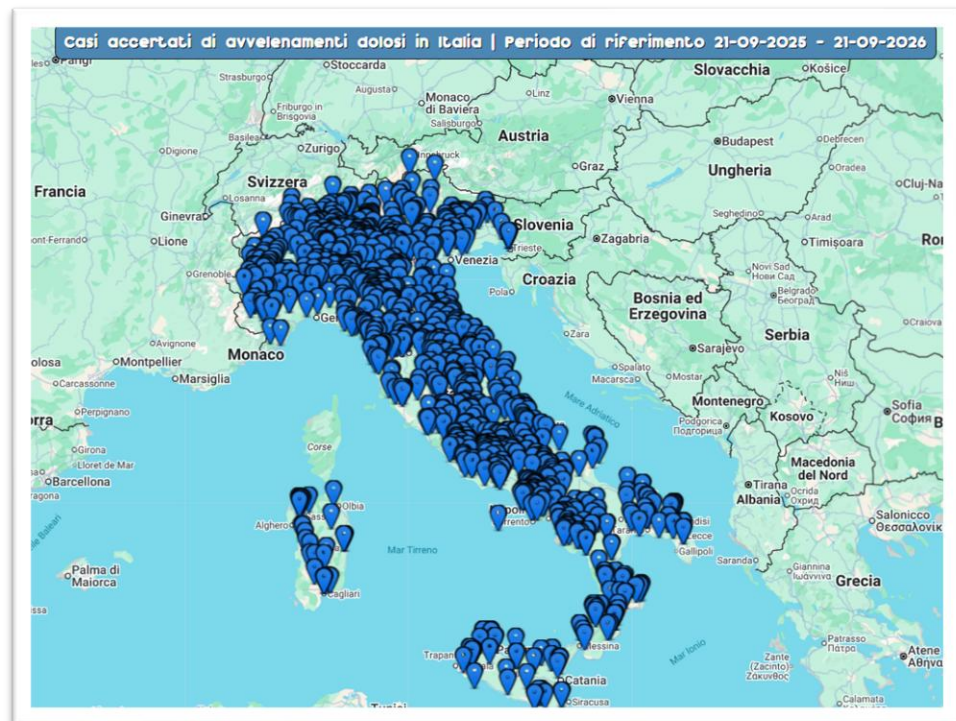
Meetings held

- 2017: 3 2018: 3 2019: 1
- 2020: 2 2021: 1 2022: 0 2023: 1
- Four reports produced across the plan's whole life

How Much of the Plan Was Delivered

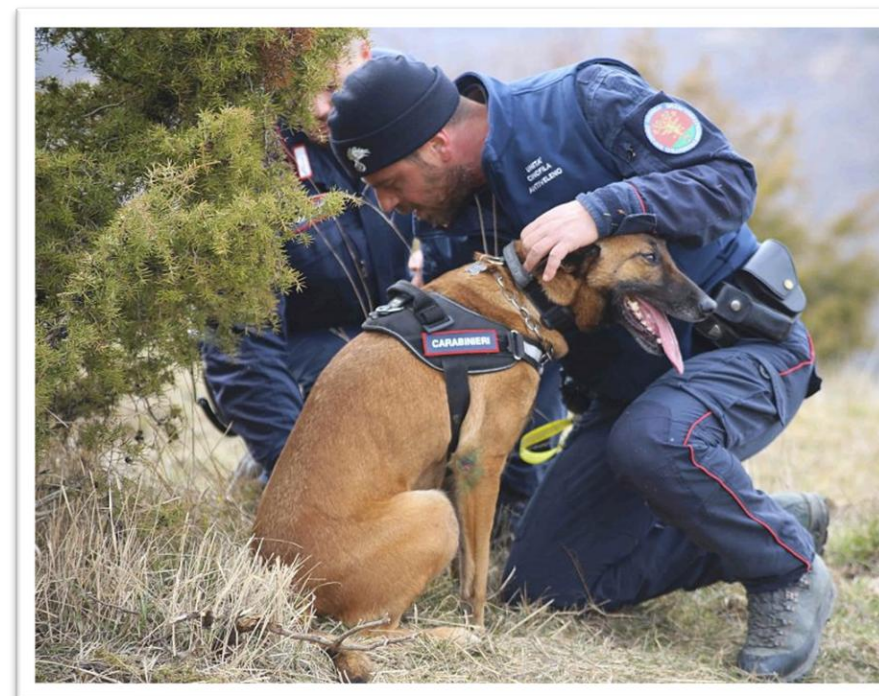


How Much of the Plan Was Delivered



National Database on Illegal Animal Poisoning
(Portale Nazionale degli Avvelenamenti Dolosi
degli Animali):

<https://avvelenamenti.izslt.it/>



ANTI-POISON DOG UNITS: A network of anti-poison dog units developed mostly through LIFE projects (PLUTO, ANTIDOTO, WolfAlps, WolfAlps EU), largely managed by CUFAA and complemented by units from parks, regions and provinces.

Beyond 2020

- In April 2020 the plan itself expired, at the deadline of the Tunis Action Plan (2013–2020) to which it had been aligned.
- Field actions to tackle IKB continued under an Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and CUFAA, providing technical and operational support against poaching
- In December 2022, the Technical Report “Crimes against wild birds. Thematic insights to tackle the illegal killing of birds – IKB” was published



2025: The Framework Is Rebuilt

- In July 2025 the Steering Committee (SC) was formally renewed (Directorial Decree DG TBM no. 349 of 23 July 2025)
- The SC adopted the Document “Priority actions to combat illegal killing of wild birds (IKB), 2025–2030”
- The priorities are built on the five outcome objectives of the Rome Strategic Plan and linked to the Scoreboard indicators, so national monitoring now runs on an international reporting cycle



1 Monitoring	2 Prevention	3 Legislation	4 Enforcement	5 Prosecution
To understand the scope, scale and motivations behind IKB Scoreboard A1–A4, E25–E26	To establish an active prevention of the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds Scoreboard E27–E28	To ensure that IKB is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation Scoreboard B5–B12	To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken Scoreboard C15, C17–C19	To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences Scoreboard D20, D22–D23

Priority Actions on IKB for Italy 2025–2030

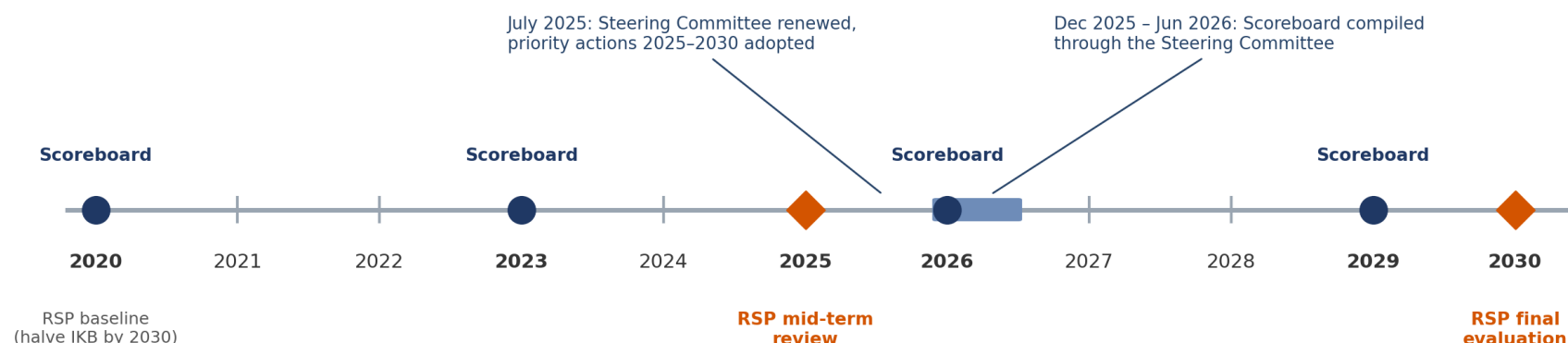
13 Actions on the five RSP objectives, ranked; each with a responsible body, timeframe, product, indicator and Scoreboard link

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RSP objective: ■ 1 Monitoring ■ 2 Prevention ■ 3 Legislation ■ 4 Enforcement ■ 5 Prosecution

Built to Be Measured: the Reporting Cycle

- The priorities follow the international calendar: Scoreboard assessments in 2020, 2023, 2026 and 2029; RSP mid-term review at the end of 2025 and final evaluation in 2030
- The Scoreboard runs through the Steering Committee
- International reporting gives the Steering Committee a fixed agenda every three years





THANK YOU!

