



Combating IKB in Morocco

National progress and raptor conservation

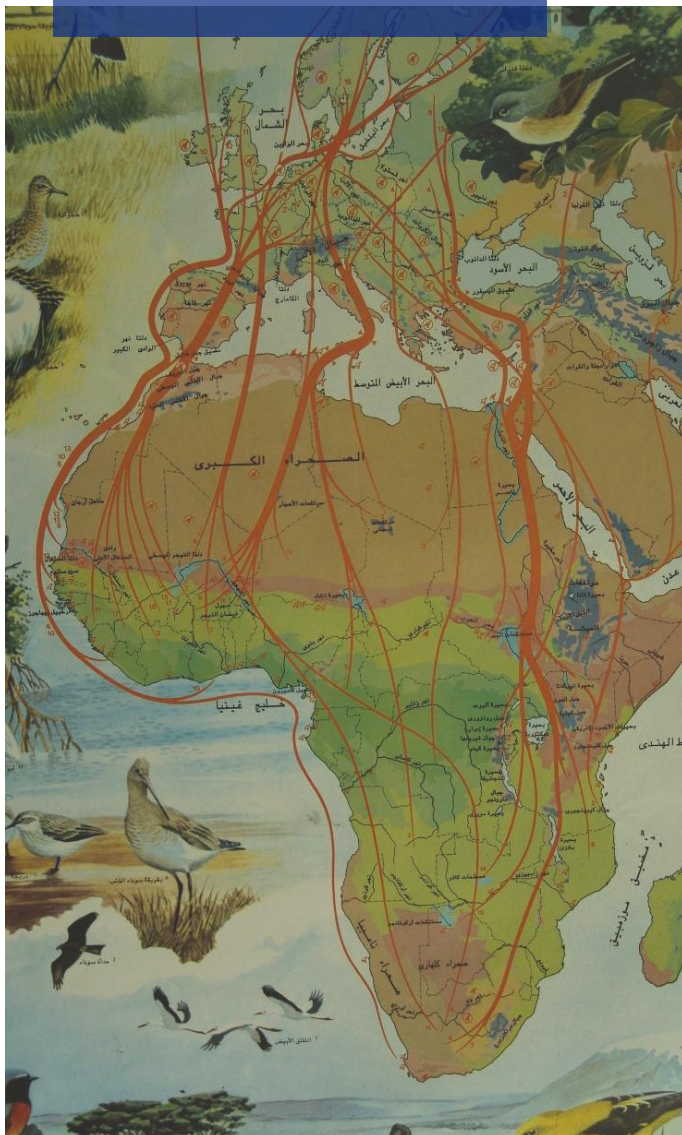
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Morocco, a major crossroads for migratory birds

400,000+

raptors and storks cross the Strait each year

750,000+

seabirds each year (mainly shearwaters)

Millions

of passerines and other small migrants

- **Strategic location:** the Strait of Gibraltar and the Atlantic coast, on the East Atlantic Flyway between Europe and Africa.
- **Passage, stopover, wintering and breeding area** for raptors, waterbirds and passerines; 40 ecosystems and a wide range of bioclimates.
- **Rich avifauna:** 367 regularly occurring species and 164 vagrant species, dominated by passerines (almost 40%).
- **Protected area network:** 10 National Parks, 197 SIBEs and 38 Ramsar sites; 8 new natural parks and reserves ($\approx$ 507,000 ha) added in June 2025.



Bird species affected by IKB



Songbirds: European Goldfinch (the most targeted species), Eurasian Siskin, European Serin: trapped alive for singing, as pets or for trade, including cross-border trade.



Game species: bag limits exceeded, hunting out of season or at night, killing of protected species.



Raptors: persecution (predation on poultry or reared game, lack of awareness) and taking of live birds for trade; mortality made worse by electrocution, collisions and poisoning.



PART 1

Rome Strategic Plan and action against IKB

Plan · Data · Law · Enforcement · People · Court



National IKB Action Plan: state of play

- **Current situation:** no formal IKB NAP yet; action is based on the legal framework (Law 29-05, hunting law) and ANEF programmes.
- **Process under way:** consultations with partners and stakeholders to prepare the NA, to bring together the relevant experience and expertise, and to ensure that the plan reflects our national priorities and needs.
- **Objective:** formalise and coordinate the role of each stakeholder: ANEF, DGSN, Royal Gendarmerie, Customs, Judiciary, FRMC, civil society.
- **Reference framework:** the 5 objectives of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030 (data, legislation, enforcement, justice, prevention).



1. Diagnosis
existing measures



2. Consultation
key stakeholders



3. Drafting
the IKB NAP



4. Validation
and monitoring

Current stage.

Monitoring IKB: scale, threats and drivers

International benchmark

≈ 25 M

birds illegally killed or taken each year in the Mediterranean

Most cited drivers

Profit · Tradition · Pet trade · Recreation

Main methods: shooting, trapping (mist nets, limesticks), poisoning

Morocco

Class IV

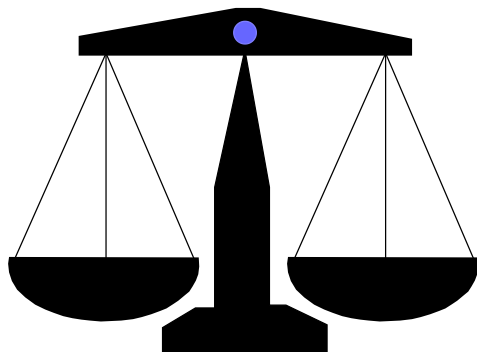
≈ 74,400 birds / year

≈ 0.3% of the regional total, decreasing trend (–25 to –49% long term)

International threat category	Main drivers	Situation in Morocco	National level
Trapping for the cage-bird trade	Profit · pet trade · tradition	Main threat. European Goldfinch (most targeted), Siskin, Serin trapped alive for singing, pets and competitions; 8,022 goldfinches seized (2024-25)	High
Illegal trade, incl. online and cross-border	Profit	Songbirds moved to large cities and the Algerian border; online ads the main channel for high-value falcons; air export attempts (26 falcons, 2019)	High
Illegal shooting and hunting offences	Recreation · tradition	Bag limits exceeded, hunting out of season or at night, protected species shot; 170 offences / 115 reports in one season	Medium
Raptor persecution and taking	Predator control · profit · social status	Killing over poultry or game predation; wild falcons sought by unauthorised falconers and foreign markets. Peregrine capture sharply down since microchipping	Medium
Poisoning	Predator control	Listed among IKB issues for Morocco; no national data series on incidents or victims	Data gap
Secondary uses: taxidermy, medicine, food	Tradition · beliefs	Owls, kites, buzzards as tourist photo props or in traditional medicine; food consumption not reported as a major driver	Low

Beyond IKB: electrocution and collisions on power lines, a major cause of raptor mortality, fall under axis 1 of the Raptor Strategy.

Legal framework for bird protection



- **Law No. 29-05** (Dahir No. 1-11-84 of 2 July 2011) and Decree No. 2-12-484 (21 May 2015): 4 species categories; capture, possession, transport and trade subject to authorisation.
- **Hunting law:** Dahir of 21 July 1923, amended by Law No. 54-03 (2006).
- **Annual hunting order:** opening and closing dates, bag limits, lists of protected, huntable and pest species.
- **Specific procedures** for the capture and keeping of falcons and goldfinches.

Category (Law 29-05)	Bird examples	Fine (Art. 63)
I – CITES Appendix I	Peregrine Falcon, Barbary Falcon	MAD 30,000 – 100,000
II – CITES Appendix II	Other raptors (e.g. Lanner Falcon)	MAD 20,000 – 50,000
III & IV – nationally threatened species	European Goldfinch (cat. IV)	MAD 5,000 – 20,000

+ additional fine of MAD 10,000 to 50,000 (Art. 64), confiscation of specimens and equipment (Art. 66), penalties doubled for repeat offences (Art. 67).



Strengthening surveillance and control

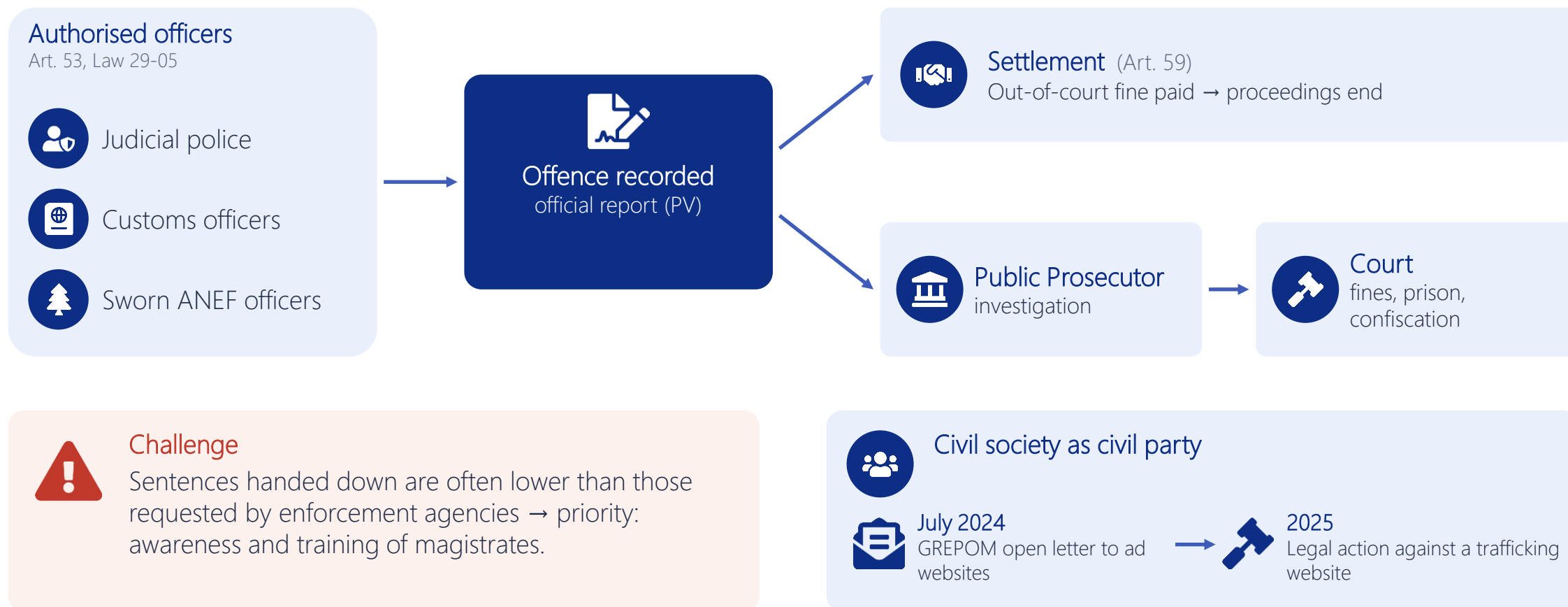
-  ANEF wildlife control units (created in 2016), deployed in every region of the Kingdom.
-  FRMC federal game wardens: 132 volunteer game wardens, funded by ANEF, with a budget of around MAD 2 million
-  Inter-agency agreements with the DGSN (National Police), Customs and the Royal Gendarmerie: controls at borders, on roads and in urban areas.
-  Joint operations by ANEF, DGSN, Royal Gendarmerie and the Armed Forces against goldfinch trafficking: Oriental (Oujda, Jerada), Rabat, Khémisset, Fez, Meknes, Souk El Arbaa, Larache.
-  Civil society: songbird association, NGOs.



Capacity building and training

-  **Field staff:** training for forest officers, police, gendarmerie and customs officers (species identification, procedures).
-  **Judiciary:** workshops and round tables bringing together judges, prosecutors, ANEF, DGSN and Royal Gendarmerie on the illegal exploitation of natural resources.
-  **Resources:** more staff and logistics for surveillance teams (including microchip readers).
-  **Partners:** training sessions for professional groups and civil society.
-  **Next step:** join regional programmes (Wildlife Crime Academy, MIKT training) for investigators and magistrates.

Prosecution: from offence to sanction



PART 2

Raptor conservation

Strategy · Falconry · Law · Scale · Drivers · Routes · Action



Stratégie et plan d'action pour la conservation des oiseaux de proie au Maroc

2024-2034
IUCN et ANEF



UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE



National raptor conservation strategy 2024-2034

Developed by ANEF and IUCN-Med, launched on 5 September 2025 in Tangier. **12 target species**, including Bearded Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Bonelli's Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Eleonora's Falcon.

1 Mitigate mortality from power infrastructure

2 Reduce factors limiting populations

3 Combat practices that destroy raptors

4 Reinforce wild populations

5 Improve knowledge of raptors and human impacts

6 Mobilise stakeholders and raise public awareness



Falconry practice and legal status



Recognised heritage: Morocco is one of the 24 States behind the inscription “Falconry, a living human heritage” (UNESCO, 2021).



Traditional practice concentrated in the Doukkala region (Kwassem tribe, El Jadida); main species: Peregrine Falcon.



Keeping is prohibited unless authorised by the ANEF; permits are granted to association members for cultural purposes.



Innovative use: falcons of authorised falconers used to deter nuisance birds (successful pilot).

4

authorised falconry associations

30+

authorised falconers

1 bird

per falconer, identified by microchip

Legal framework for raptor trapping



Status: all falcon species occurring in Morocco are protected; capture and keeping are prohibited without authorisation (Law 29-05 and hunting law).



National measure: The entry of falcons into Morocco is forbidden without prior authorization from ANEF. This measure has significantly reduced the practice of hunting with falcons.



Penalties: Peregrine and Barbary Falcons (cat. I): MAD 30,000 to 100,000; other CITES Appendix II raptors (cat. II): MAD 20,000 to 50,000; doubled for repeat offences.



Strictly limited exemption: exceptional capture of one falcon per authorised falconer, once every seven years, after a documented loss or death.



Traceability: microchip within one month and ANEF ownership certificate; microchip readers provided to control units.



Authorities: ANEF, together with the DGSN, Royal Gendarmerie and Customs.





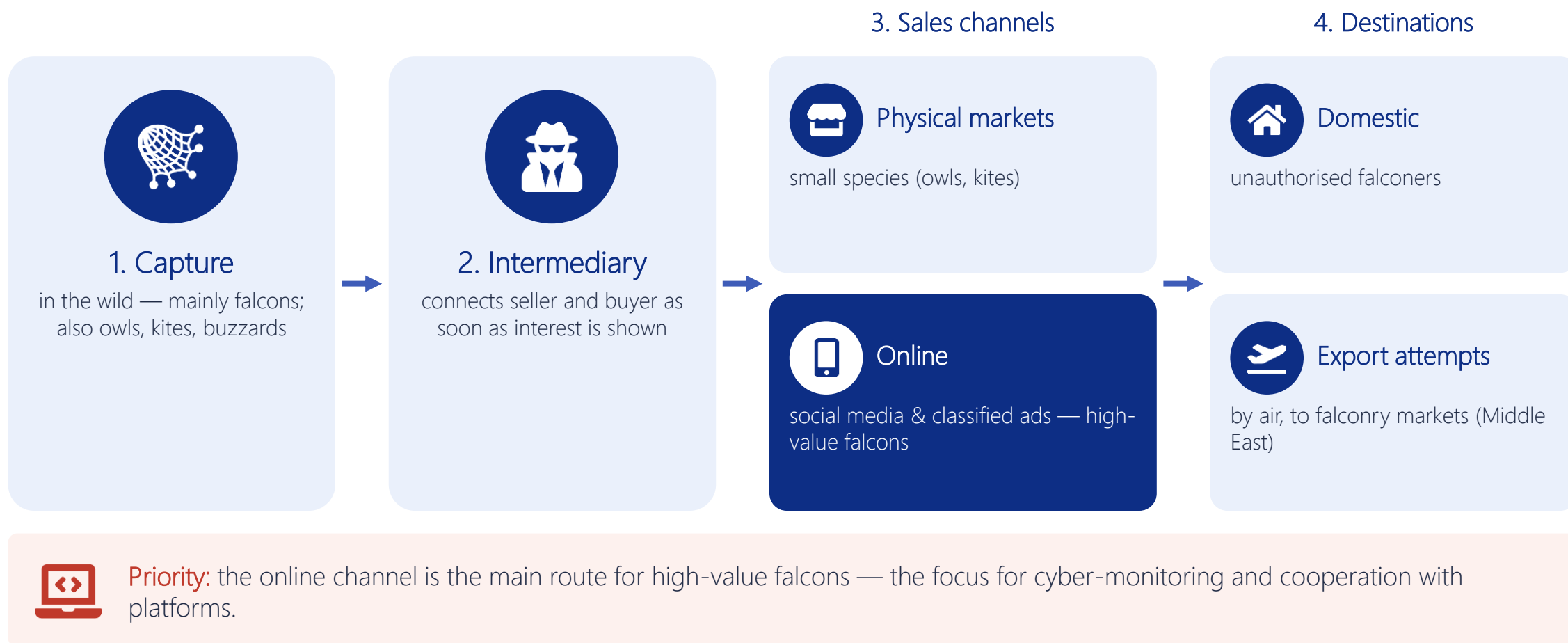
Scale of raptor trapping

-  **Limited scale:** according to the raptor strategy, illegal capture of Peregrine Falcons has sharply declined, or even ceased, since falcons in captivity were microchipped.
-  **Most frequent offences:** illegal possession, display for sale and attempted exports — e.g. 26 falcons seized by Customs at Mohammed V Airport (October 2019).
-  **Species seen in markets:** Little Owl, Black Kite, Common Buzzard, Long-legged Buzzard, Common Kestrel, Lanner Falcon, Barbary Falcon; raptors used as photo props.
-  **Watch point:** ring-swapping fraud (wild falcons passed off as captive-bred), not confirmed in Morocco to date.

Drivers of raptor trapping

-  **Financial gain:** driven by demand, poachers are attracted by the profits from selling birds.
-  **Preference for wild birds:** considered better hunters, stronger and more resilient than captive-bred birds.
-  **International demand:** strong demand for falcons, especially Peregrines ; domestically, demand from unauthorised falconers.
-  **Secondary uses:** traditional medicine, tourist photo props, curiosity or prestige.

Illegal trade routes and channels





Action against illegal trade, including online

-  **Joint physical inspections** by ANEF and the Royal Gendarmerie / DGSN, under the supervision of the prosecutor: several seizures, including falcons.
-  **Cyber-monitoring:** the DGSN unit against technology-related crime monitors websites and investigates with ANEF whenever trafficking is detected or reported.
-  **International cooperation:** DGSN and ANEF take part in INTERPOL's "Thunder" operations.
-  **Advocacy:** open letter from GREPOM/BirdLife Morocco to website managers (July 2024) against ads for goldfinches, eagles and falcons.
-  **Awareness:** information days before the opening of the hunting season.

Priorities for 2026-2030



Formalise the IKB NAP

aligned with the 5 objectives of the Rome Strategic Plan.



Set up a national IKB committee

multi-stakeholder: ANEF, security forces, customs, judiciary, FRMC, NGOs.



Consolidate data

national database of offences, seizures and prosecutions; participation in the IKB Scoreboard.



Train key actors

species identification, cybercrime, case law for investigators and magistrates.



Tackle online trade

cooperation with platforms and stronger cyber-monitoring.



Implement the raptor strategy

2024-2034 action plan, starting with axis 3: combat practices that destroy raptors.



Thank you for your
attention

Merci · شكرا

