



# Monitoring IKB activities

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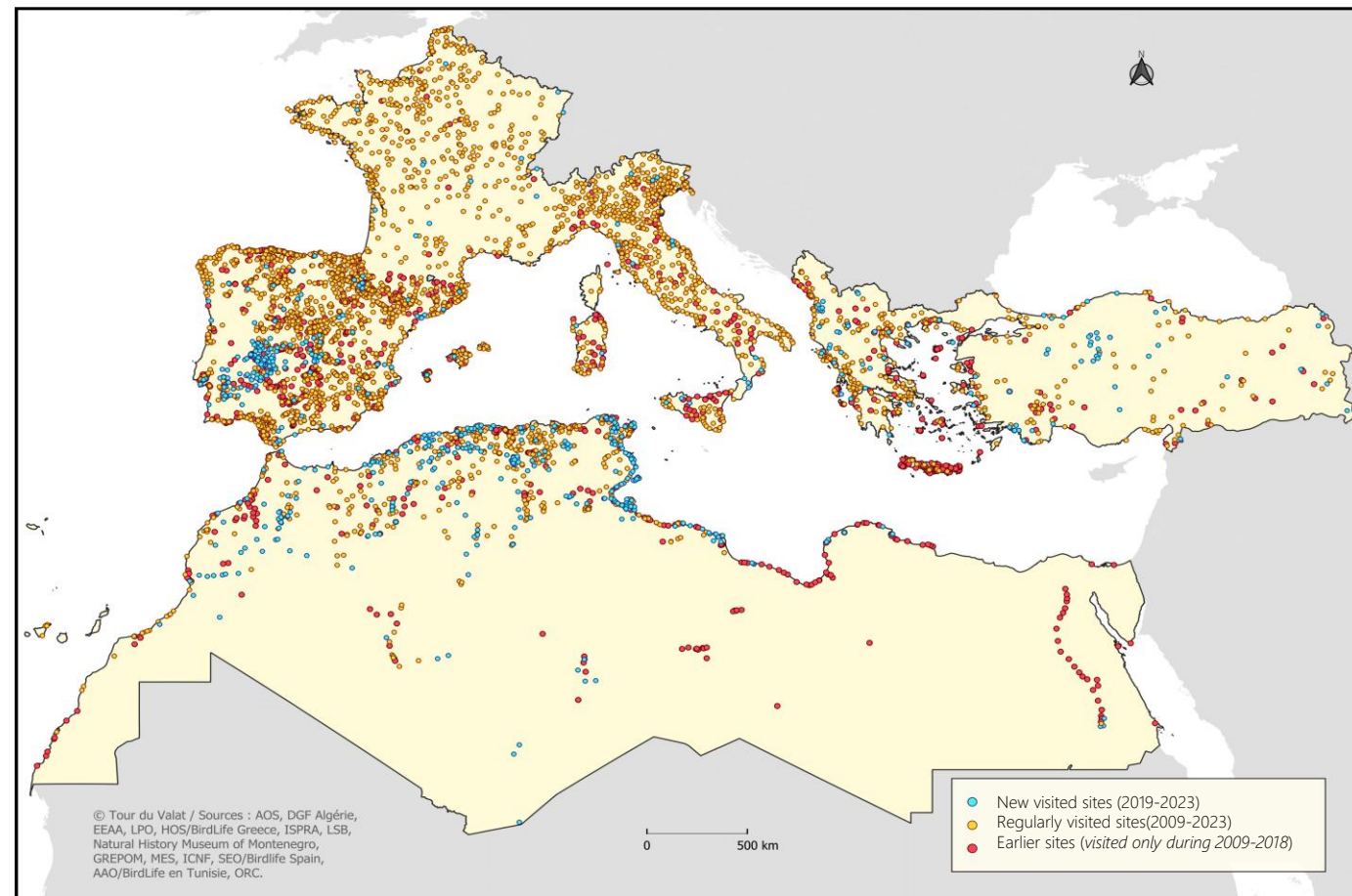


Monitoring of IKB  
activities in 8  
countries of the  
Mediterranean region



## Context

The Mediterranean Waterbirds Network has been working specifically to strengthen IWC data collection across the Mediterranean region since 2013, initially focusing on North African countries and subsequently expanding to a total of 15 countries.



## Context - From observation to monitoring

Numerous IKB cases were observed during the IWC, but their scale remained difficult to assess.

With the support from BirdLife International and EuroNatur, the MWN developed a dedicated monitoring protocol to be implemented during the waterbird censuses.



# Pilot Monitoring in 8 Countries

- In Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Türkiye, North Macedonia, Albania, and Serbia: IWC national coordinators asked their teams to implement the protocol in monitored wetlands.
- In Algeria: the protocol has been tested at several pilot sites monitored by an NGO.





# Protocol and some results

[illegible]

- Eight countries were selected to pilot the monitoring approach.
- Together, we identified the key field indicators and evidence needed to detect and document IKB activities.
- Monitoring started in 2024 across the eight countries

## In the field

In January, during the IWC, field teams were asked to collect the following key information:

**Monitoring status:** Is the wetland monitored for IKB activities?

**Disturbances:** Were any disturbances detected (e.g. hunting, fishing, tourism)?

**Hunting activity:** If hunting was detected, was that illegal and how many hunters or shots were recorded?

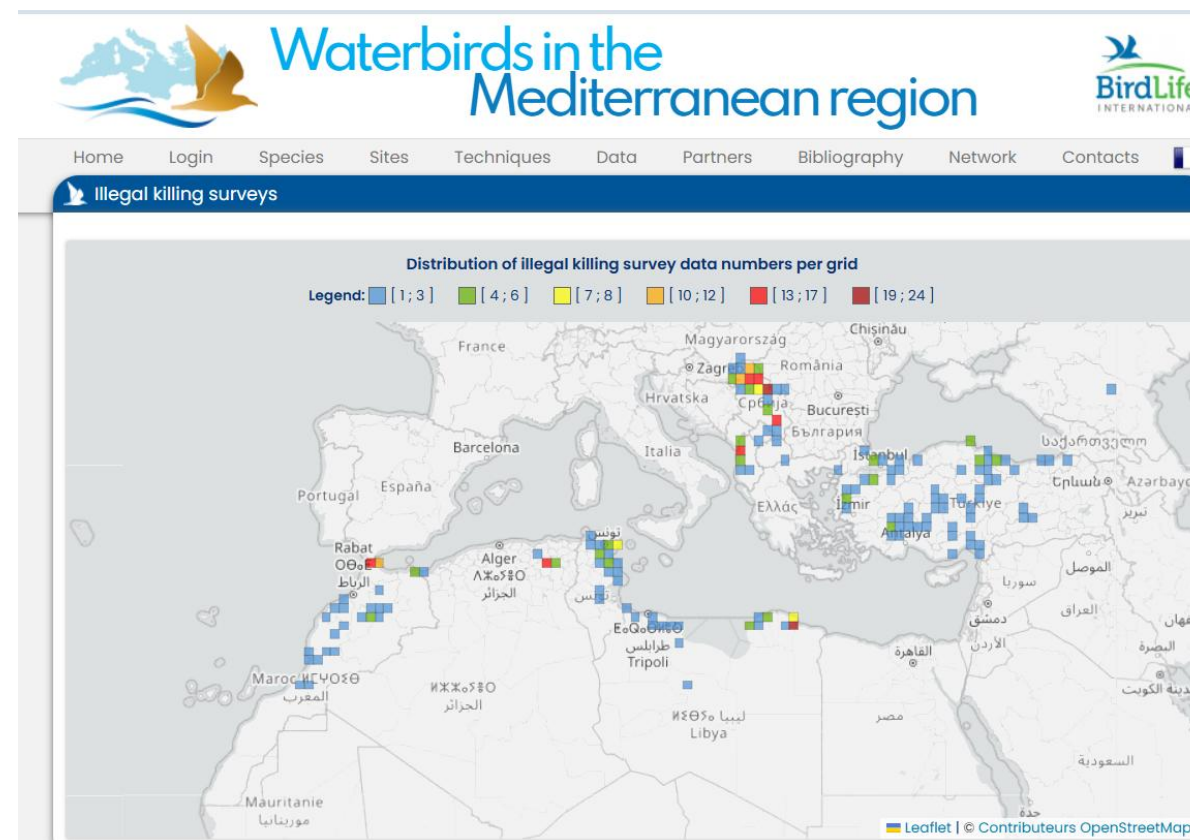
**Signs of illegal hunting:** If no hunters were observed, were there any other signs of illegal hunting activity, such as bird callers, nets, cartridges, traps, or new (illegal) hunting hides?

**Reporting:** Was the incident reported to the relevant authorities?



# A web platform to centralize the data

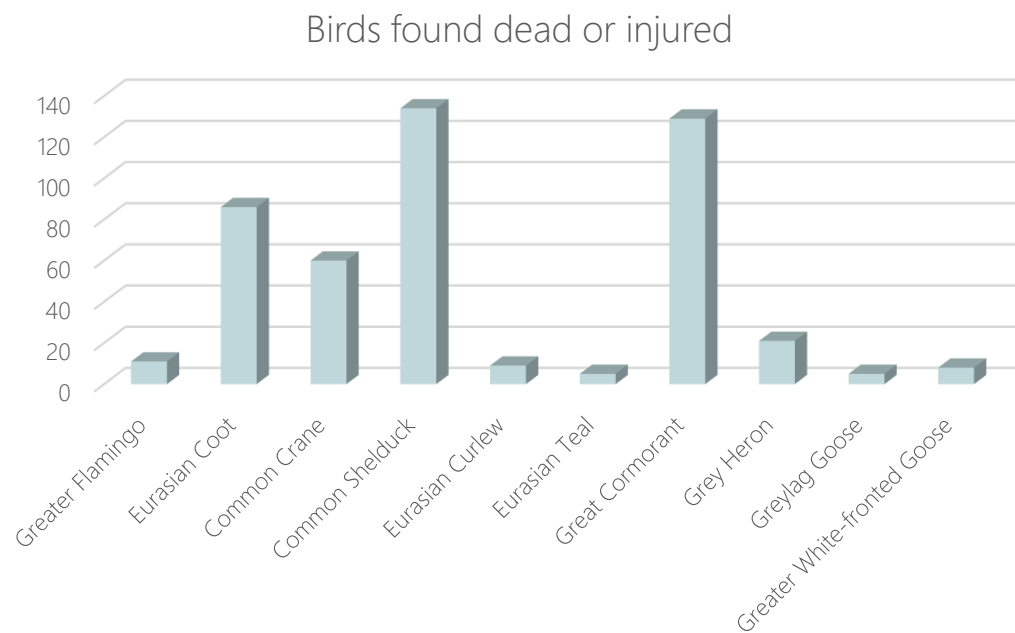
- We created a dedicated shared page to centralise the IKB data:
- <https://www.medwaterbirds.net/ikbs.php>



# Some results

We still need to make some adjustments to the monitoring protocol to ensure that the data collected are harmonized and can be properly analysed.

Across all countries, some species were found to be more affected by IKB activities than others:



Concise fact sheets on the issue of illegal hunting have been developed for the eight countries participating in the field monitoring activities.

*BUT: Other species may have been missed because they are more valuable as food or for trade, and their bodies were taken away (i.e.: ducks).*



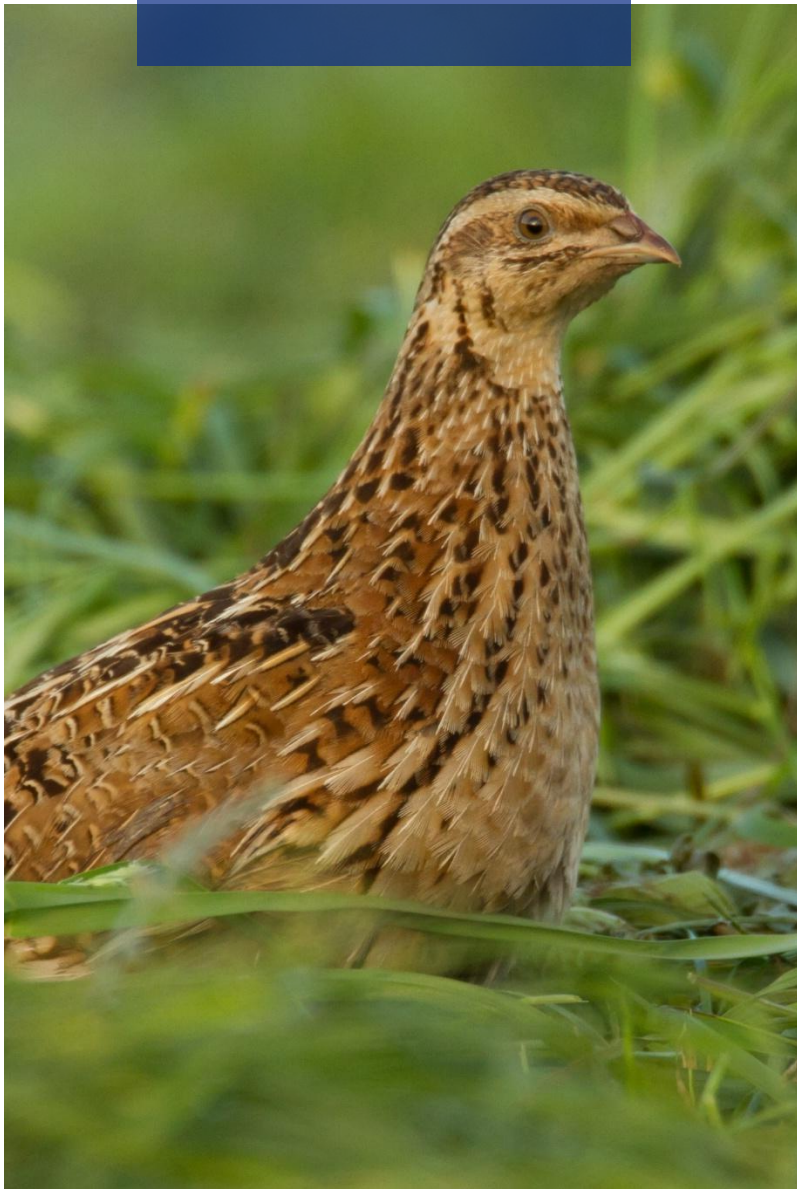
## Some results – lead contamination

A total of 9,325 cartridges were recorded across the 312 monitored sites in all the participating countries, of which at least 96% are believed to have been lead cartridges.

The continued presence of lead ammunition remains a significant source of pollution and an important environmental concern for wetland ecosystems.

A law proposal to restrict lead in hunting ammunition is being discussed at EU level, for the benefit of the health of people, the environment, wildlife, pets and farmed animals, to improve the sustainability of hunting, and to ensure competitive markets for safer game meat and non-toxic alternatives.





# AN IKB website

A dedicated IKB website is currently being developed with our field partners (official launch on October 10). It will provide information and updates on IKB activities, based on:

- Field data
- National news, including legislation and implemented activities

<https://ikb.tourduvalat.app/measuring-illegal-killing>

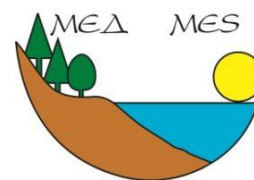




## General actions to be implemented

- Implementing the IKB Action Plan in several countries to strengthen monitoring and field protection.
- Training hunters to raise awareness of IKB and promote their involvement in combating illegal killing of birds.

# Our technical and financial partners





THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION  
AND THANK YOU  
TO ALL THE  
VOLUNTEERS  
INVOLVED IN THE  
MONITORING !

