



المركز الوطني  
لتنمية الحياة الفطرية  
National Center for Wildlife  
المملكة العربية السعودية

# 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force

20-21 May 2025, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



# Reports from Observers BirdLife International

## Partnership Contributions in Eradicating Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Birds

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Regional Director, BirdLife Middle East

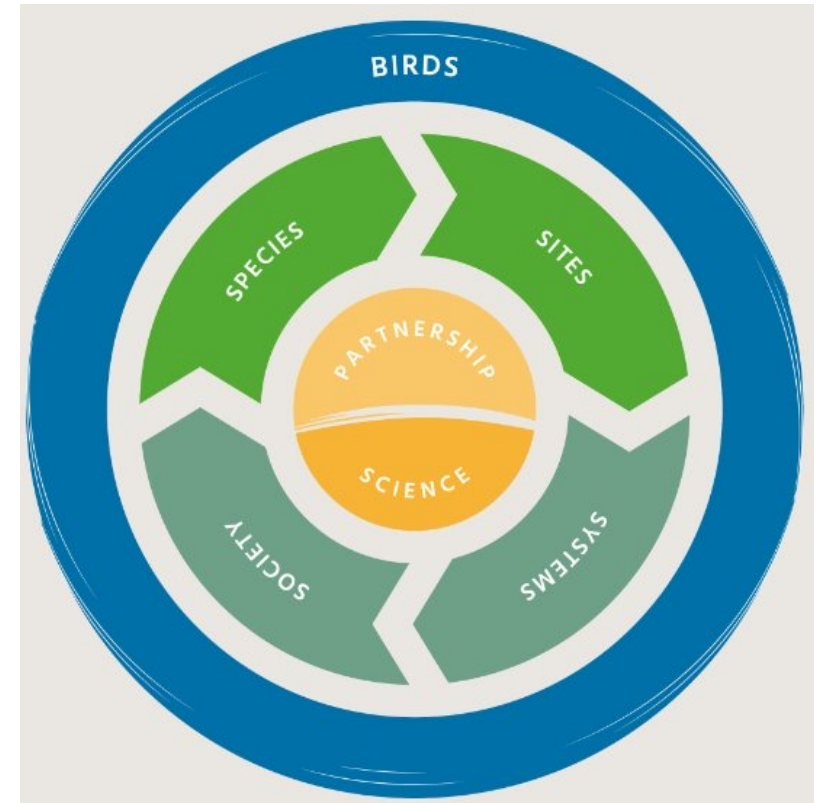


We are the world's largest nature conservation partnership, working across the region to protect birds, their habitats, and global biodiversity. Currently We are 123 partners in 119 countries.

Our work is grounded in science, partnerships, and empowering local communities for lasting environmental impact.

We've spent the last 100 years bringing together a flock of conservation organizations from every corner of the world.

We use our shared evidence to influence people, businesses and governments to change how our societies value nature for good.



## Our Efforts on IKT (Illegal Hunting, Taking & Trade of Birds)

### Publishing Strategic Reports

- *"The Killing" Report Series* – In-depth assessments of illegal bird killing in the region. Latest edition (The Killing 3.0) includes updated data and policy recommendations.
- *Customs Guidance (Arabic)* – Practical tool for frontline enforcement officers.

### Supporting National and Regional Action

- Guidance for National Reports and Action Plans aligned with CMS-MIKT priorities.
- Active contribution to CMS processes and task force planning.
- Regional workshop co-organized with IFAW (2024, Jordan) on IKB and illegal trade.

### Monitoring and Case Follow-Up

- Ongoing tracking of reported IKB incidents through local partners and digital platforms.
- Example cases followed in Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan



## The Killing 3.0 Report: "Progress on Eradicating Illegal Killing of Birds in the Mediterranean and Europe"

**The Killing 3.0 assesses trends between 2015–2019 and 2020–2024, comparing progress across countries and types of IKB (shooting, trapping, poisoning).**

### **Key Findings:**

- Improvement in only 2 of the top 10 highest IKB countries (Croatia, Greece) – 5–24% reduction.
- No significant change in 4 countries (Azerbaijan, Italy, France, Lebanon).
- Worsening situation in 4 countries (Egypt, Syria, Cyprus, Libya).
- Only 8 out of 46 countries are on track to meet their anti-poaching pledge by 2030.



## Report conclusions:

- There has been progress, but much more is needed to reach the 50% IKB reduction target under the Rome Strategic Plan (RSP).
- Implementation must accelerate and be sustained through political commitment and funding.
- Progress is fragile – without ongoing investment, gains can reverse.
- Strong examples, proven tools, and good initiatives exist and should be scaled regionally.
- Combatting IKB requires coordinated, flyway-level action – for the birds, and the people involved



Killing 3.0 report

## Ongoing Efforts

### Following Up on Illegal Killing Cases:

- BirdLife continues to monitor and follow up on all reported IKB cases.
- Collaboration with national partners, local communities, and enforcement agencies

### Ongoing tracking through digital platforms and field networks.

#### Example cases:

- Iraq – incidents traced via online wildlife trade (e.g. Souq al-Ghazal) and mobilizing resources for Socioeconomic studies.
- Lebanon & Jordan – field reports and enforcement support in key hotspots.

### Knowledge and Experience Sharing:

- IKB Lunchtime Talk webinars
- Wildlife Crime Newsletter



## Toward the Establishment of the Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds Task Force in South-West Asia

BirdLife has been actively supporting the step-by-step process to establish a dedicated regional Task Force under CMS.

### •2021 – Jordan

*Road Map Event* to address Illegal Killing, Taking, and Trade of Birds (IKB).

Initiated discussions and identified regional priorities.

### •2022 – Jordan

*Round Table Discussion* on tackling illegal killing, hunting, trapping, and trade of migratory birds in South-West Asia.

Enhanced stakeholder alignment and policy dialogue.

### •2024 – Saudi Arabia

*Working Group Meeting* on IKB in South-West Asia. Reviewed progress, gaps, and proposed the structure for a regional Task Force.

### •CMS Champion Plus – 2024

The National Center for Wildlife (Saudi Arabia) recognized as a CMS Champion Plus for supporting regional cooperation on IKB.

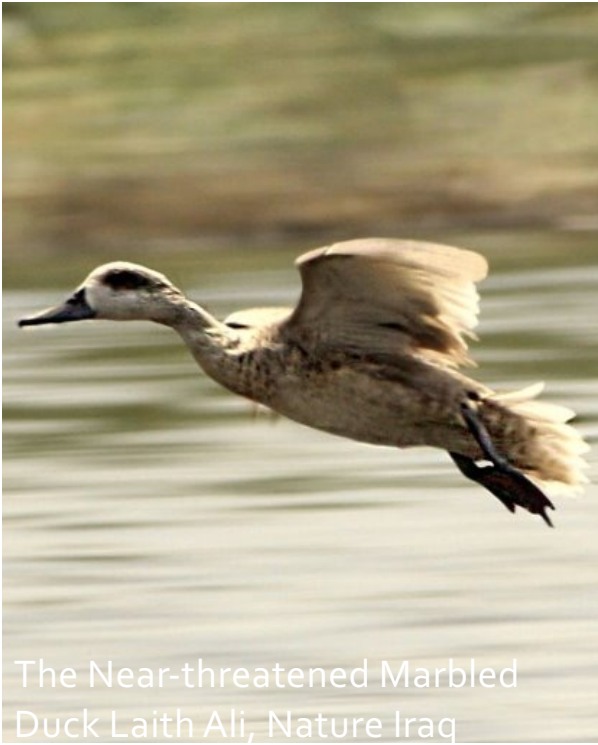


## What's Next : Support, Knowledge & Experience Sharing

- Organizing a follow-up a **Regional Training Workshop on Illegal Bird Trade and Hunting in the Middle East in 2026**.
- **National Reports:** Support for timely, consistent reporting to track IKB trends in MED Countries.
- **National Action Plans:** Assist partners in the MED in developing and implementing tailored national strategies.
- **Joint Funding:** Identify and apply for regional/international funds collaboratively.
- **Cross-border Collaboration:** Strengthen joint investigations and regional operations.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Engage in the Wild Crime Academy; promote regional learning and capacity building.
- **Monitoring & Data Collection:** Enhance tools and methodologies to gather actionable evidence.



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The Near-threatened Marbled Duck Laith Ali, Nature Iraq



# Thank You!