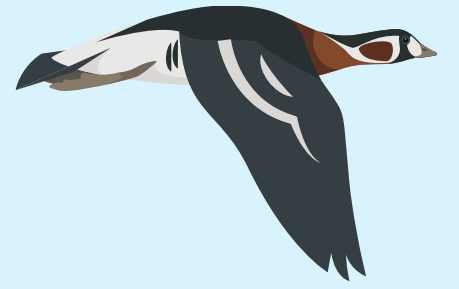
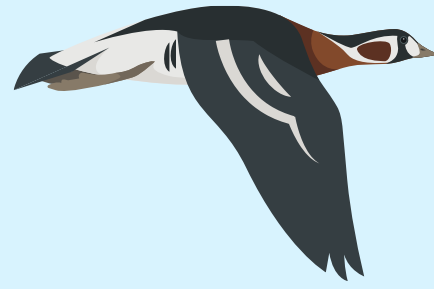
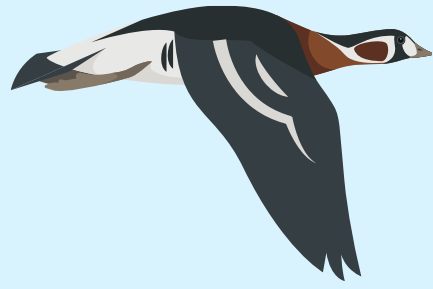
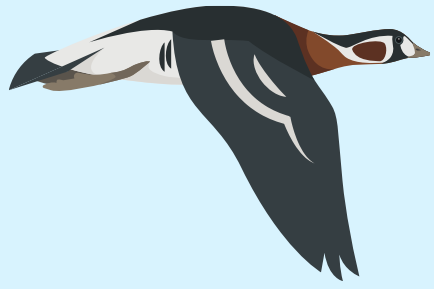


Joint Meeting CMS MIKT and Bern Convention SFPs on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade (IKB) of Wild Birds

13-15 April 2025, Bonn, Germany

Agenda 5.1: Reports from Members





Joint Meeting CMS MIKT and Bern Convention SFPs on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade (IKB) of Wild Birds

13-15 April 2025, Bonn, Germany

Reports from Members

ALBANIA

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE





Country: Albania

299 species are reported in Birdlife International. There is a larger number of species reported nationally but the rest are either very rare or not observed during the last 10-15 years.

Albania has **16** areas considered as Important Bird Areas (IBA) with a total area of **143.879** ha

125 bird species present in Albania belong to the Annex I of Birds Directive. Their conservation is a priority as the species mentioned in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.

Training workshops focused on nature protection were implemented by technical assistance projects in Albania, such as EU4NATURE, WE GO COOP, EURO-MED, and other international and national initiatives, etc. The trainings were focused as below:

- January 20, 2025 – Training on rabies monitoring, covering general rabies surveillance, strategic importance, monitoring systems, sampling protocols, and testing.
- January 22, 2025 – Training of Trainers for the e-Learning Platform for NAPA and 12 RAPA staff, organized by UNDP Albania within the EU4NATURE project.
- January 27 & February 25, 2025 – Two workshops with professors on the Habitats and Birds Directives to select six key vulnerable species in 10 pilot protected areas. The Action Plan for the conservation of these species is in progress.
- January 28–29, 2025 – Participation of RAPA Vlorë in a seminar in Rome, Italy, organized by “WE GO COOP” and “EURO-MED” to improve wetland governance through a community of practice, focusing on enhancing nature conservation.
- March 10, 2025 – Workshop on Environmental Crime, held at the in NATURE hub with the participation of all 12 RAPAs. This event was organized by UNDP Albania within the EU4NATURE project.
- March 12, 2025 – Joint roundtable discussion with experts and representatives from AKZM and the 12 RAPAs on EU nature legislation, focusing on the Habitats and Birds Directives. This event was organized by UNDP Albania within the EU4NATURE project.
- March 10–13, 2025 – Workshops on “Forests in Protected Areas” with RAPAs from Tirana, Elbasan, and Gjirokastër, organized by UNDP Albania within the EU4NATURE project.

Draft law on hunting

- Aims to define the rules and requirements for the development of sustainable hunting, as a traditional, sporting, recreational activity, to enable the protection of wild fauna and the preservation of biodiversity in the country.
- Provides mechanisms for the sustainable management of hunting, by evaluating wild fauna as a national asset that is administered and protected by law and defines measures for the monitoring and control of hunting in a rigorous manner, while preserving the integrity of the ecosystem and the ecological balance. Likewise, the definition of the rules for the development of hunting will affect the protection and preservation of biological diversity and the ecological balance of natural ecosystems, wild fauna and wild flora and their habitats during the exercise of this activity.
- Improves the current law in certain aspects and articles thereof, guaranteeing the right to practice hunting and rights over game, trophies and hunting products and their trade, and will encourage the involvement of hunters in monitoring, management and research with the aim of caring for and preserving wild fauna and its habitat.

The main objectives aimed to be achieved by this act are related to:

- Protection and preservation of biological diversity and ecological balance of natural habitats, wild fauna and flora;
- Development of hunting only in permitted hunting areas and all other territories in the Republic of Albania will be excluded;
- Opportunity for rural development and sustainable use of wild animals, which significantly contributes to the development of the local and national economy;
- Development of hunting only after being equipped with the relevant and valid hunting permit; Determination of prohibited methods, techniques and means for hunting, prohibited actions in hunting as well as requirements for monitoring and control of hunting activity;
- Proposes a new level of fines for administrative offenses. The fine under this law constitutes as an executive title upon completion of the review of the administrative appeal, according to the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedures and is imposed by the responsible inspection structure in accordance with the legislation in force for inspection.
- Partially approximates Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, 3254/91 dated 4 November 1991, prohibiting the use of traps in the Community and the introduction into the Community of skins and derived products of certain species of wild animals originating in countries which capture them using traps or trapping methods which do not meet international humane trapping standards, Series, No. 3254, dated 1991 page (EEC).



1) Key achievements in combating IKB

- **Observation.org is now Albania's official bird recording portal, with data from Albania feeding directly into the EuroBird Portal Network (AOS)**
- **Action plan for the protection from Poisoning of endangered and endemic species of wild fauna in Albania, 2025-2035, approved by the Order of the Minister No.142, date 11.04.2025.**

AP marks a major achievement for Albania, considering that poisoning had remained a silent phenomenon for more than 30yrs. It provides the necessary policies and mechanisms to combat poisoning in Albania, and is seen as an important step in the fight to preserve Albania's biodiversity and stands as a powerful example of cooperation between institutions, organisations and citizens in the protection of our country's natural heritage.

International Waterbird Census (IWC) for both reporting years, 2024 and 2025, which encompassed 34 wetland areas, including coastal lagoons, river systems, and artificial reservoirs.

The results of this census provided essential data on waterbird populations and habitat trends.

In 2025, a total of 64 species and 112,516 individuals were recorded, marking an increase of four species compared to 2024, when 60 species and 99,527 individuals were identified.

These findings underscore the pressing need for enhanced conservation measures, particularly in critical wetland ecosystems.

- **An update on the Red List of Albanian Fauna species (including the birds) is underway (funded by KBF).** The updated draft will undergo consultations and after that will be approved by the Order of Minister, as required by the national legal framework
- **IPA support "EU For Nature" (with Sida co-financing) that has started implementation includes:**
 - (i) transposing the remaining part of the Birds Directive;
 - (ii) Develop new data sets and GIS maps on distribution of habitats and species for at least 10 selected sites as SCI from the Preliminary list of Natura 2000 sites;
 - (iii) Prepare and Implements Action Plans for certain species etc.



2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

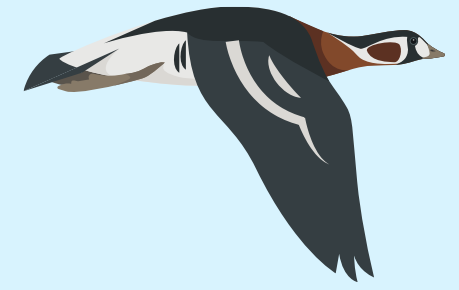
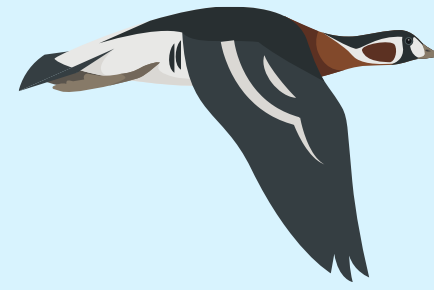
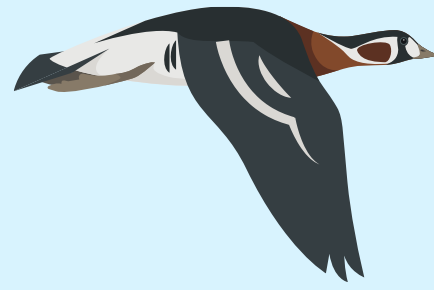
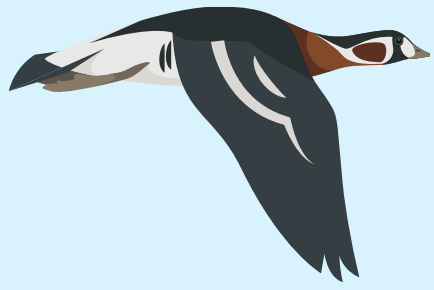
Implementation is still at **initial stage**. Some of the steps taken include:

- Population size estimation has been done for some Annex 1 Species especially for the most critically endangered species and for protected species listed in the Red List of Albanian fauna
- An assessment has been undertaken for regularly occurring migratory bird areas especially for wetlands of national and international importance. There are 4 Ramsar site designated in Albania.
- Special conservation measures include efforts to avoid disturbance, prohibitions of hunting for certain species restoration of endangered or destroyed habitats as well as designation of new Protected Areas for birds alongside the Albanian coast.



3) Priorities for the future

- Achieve **full transposition of Birds Directive** into the Albanian legislation and **improve monitoring and data gathering of birds**
- The new National Biodiversity Strategy and an Action Plan for the next period (2030) will support the implementation of the Birds Directive.
- **Develop clear responsibilities** for various competent authorities and institutions involved in the implementation and enforcement of the Birds Directive and strengthening institutional capacities by delivering a capacity building program.
- Support appropriate monitoring and data collection system and ensure proper reporting.
- Establishing and enforcing measures to ensure that hunting does not jeopardize conservation efforts (after the closure of the hunting moratorium)



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BULGARIA

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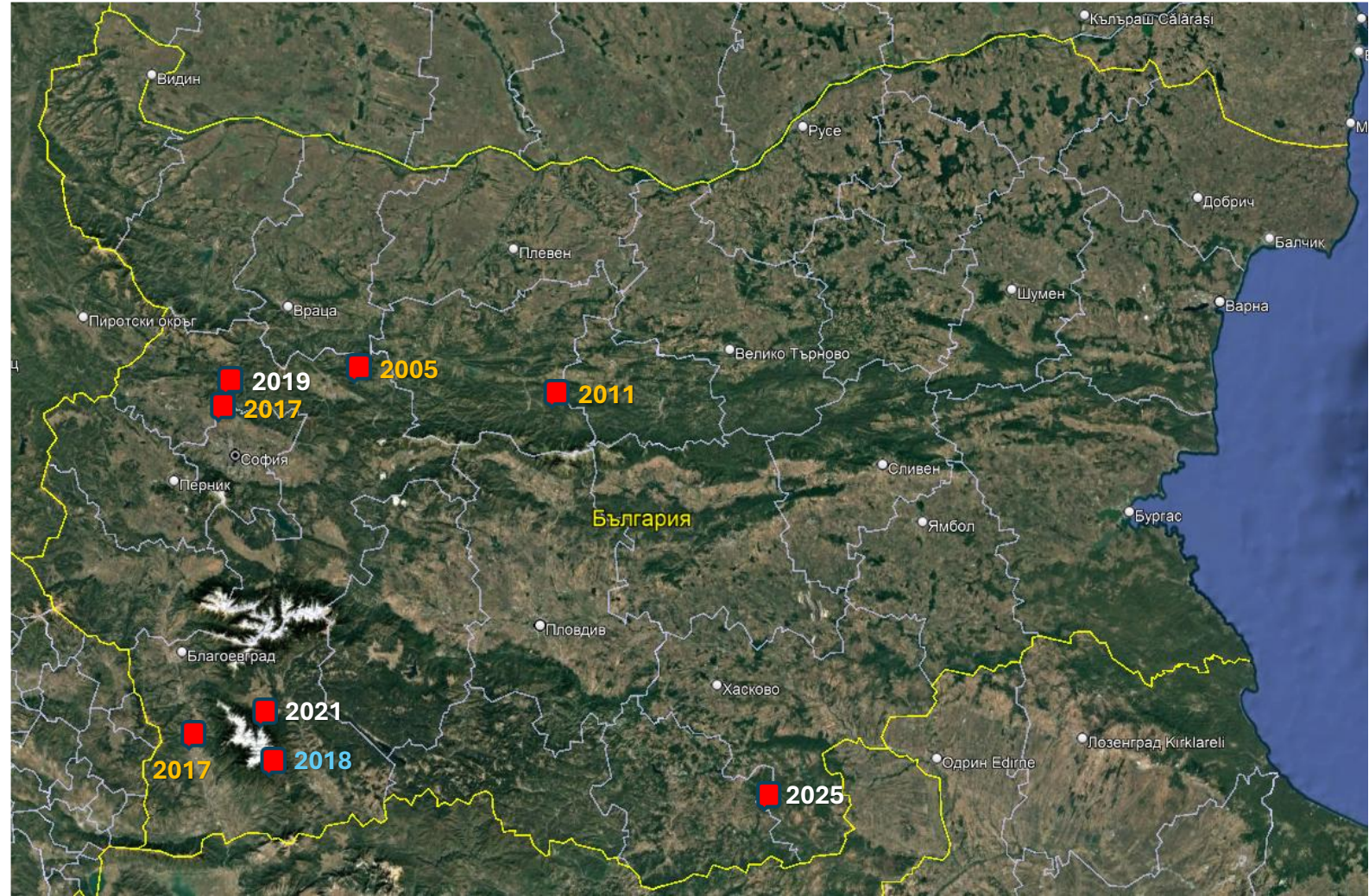


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Poisoning





1) Cases of IKB

Poisoning in the Iskar Gorge Stara Planina Mountains

September 2019:

Poisoned

8 - Griffon Vultures

1 - Golden Eagle

Location

20 km from the vulture resting place in
the Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park





2) Cases of IKB

Dobrinishte region, Rila Mountain - 2021

Poisoning of a black vulture





2) Cases of IKB

Poisoning in the East Rhodope Mountains

8 April 2025:

2 Egyptian Vultures were observed at the time of poisoning during the regular monitoring of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds

One of the birds died few minutes after taking poisoned bait

The second bird was captured and sent to the Rescue Center

Investigation is ongoing





2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

- difficult terrain
- not all damages are disclosed (specimens that are not marked for satellite tracking)
- risks to human health (e.g. poisoned wild boar/ *Sus scrofa*)
- searching and securing the terrain and finding all the poison baits
- the perpetrator cannot be reached, only a possible suspect, therefore there are no convictions
- no prioritization of these cases compared to all other crimes the police deal with (applies to all IKB, not just poisoning)
- no specialized units for environmental crime at regional level, and in the cases of trained investigating police officers and prosecutors, it is unclear whether they will take on the case, as well as there is a problem of staff turnover



3) Priorities for the future

- **ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT THE ILLEGAL USE OF POISONS IN WILDLIFE 2021 – 2030**

Approved by Order No. RD-795/02.08.2021 of the Minister of Environment and Water

Main reasons for poisoning:

- Human-carnivores conflict
- Human-human conflict
- Non-international conflicts

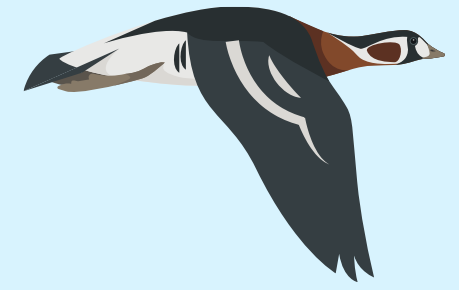
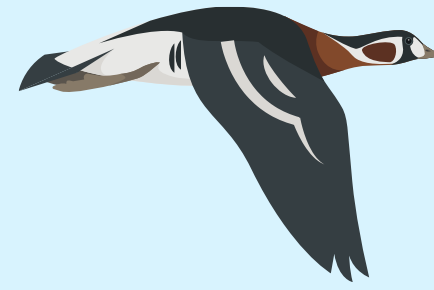
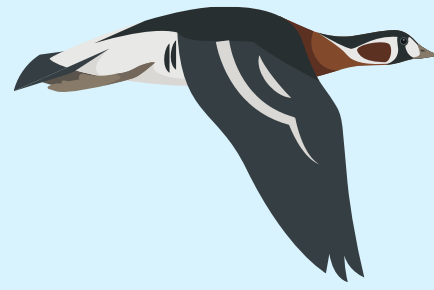
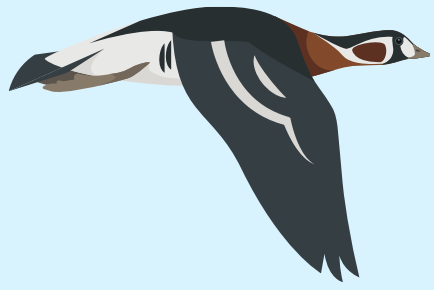
- Since 2023, a **new unit "Crimes against the Environment and Wildlife"** was formed in the "Economic Police" Department of DG "National Police". The unit conducts operational-search, information, coordination and organizational activities to prevent and combat crimes under National Penal Code, covering cases related to poaching, illegal logging, protected areas and habitats, protected species, drinking water, pollution of soil, air and water, waste management, toxic substances, etc.

- In November 2024 in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria was organized a Wildlife Crime Investigation Training Course in cooperation with the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF), the biodiversity department of the Regional Government of Andalusia and the Center for Analysis and Diagnosis of Wildlife (CAD)

- **The Combating the use of poison baits remains**

a top priority





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CROATIA

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Country: Croatia

Present illegal activities:

- Taking from nature singing birds (*Carduelis cannabina*, *Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Turdus merula*, *Turdus pilaris*, *Carduelis cannabina*)
- Illegally killed hunting species: coots (*Fulca atra*)
- Hunting birds (quail, woodcock, waterfowl) hunted by using prohibited means as part of a hunting tourism: lead shot, plastic baits, electric decoys
- Killing of strictly protected birds - by illegal poisoning, destruction of nests and (crows, bee-eaters, swallows, etc.), persecution of bird species considered harmful (cormorants, crows, herons), by-catch

Map of the country with locations cited



1) Key achievements in combating IKB 2023-2025

- Joint antipoaching actions (police, hunting inspection and nature protection inspection) in IKB hotspots and bigger number of inspections than in former period
- In 2023, Croatian police regional departments put higher priority into solving wildlife crime cases, which resulted in stronger enforcement of IKB cases and positively resolved court cases
- Cooperation of all repressive bodies and non-governmental organizations
- Non governmental organization BIOM developed a draft of standardized protocol for coordination in wildlife crime cases (Balkan Detox LIFE project)
- Education and prevention actions are mostly carried out by non governmental organization BIOM as follows:
 - organized an international and cross-sectoral workshop on implementation of lead shot ban in wetlands.
 - in scope of BalkanDetox LIFE project, Biom organized three workshops for public prosecutors and judges regarding prosecution of wildlife poisoning - 21 prosecutors and 8 judges participated.
 - currently, Biom and Croatian Judiciary Academy are organizing 4 workshops for judges and prosecutors regarding illegal killing and trapping of birds. Interest is already big, only for the first workshop 25 people registered.
 - socioeconomic analysis of perceptions and motivations of wildlife crime between hunters
 - in scope of BalkanDetox LIFE, an extensive public campaign regarding wildlife poisoning
 - demand-side based public campaign on conscious consumption of game species in IKB hotspot of the Neretva delta,
 - 10 workshops Hunter-to-Hunter regarding lead poisoning and usage of non-lead ammunition. Lectures were organized in small game hotspots (Zagreb, Čakovec, the Neretva delta and Dalmatia) and in the Griffon vultures nesting sites (Kvarner Islands).
 - Biom ran an activity of facilitating better demand on non-lead bullets in the area of Kvarner. Over 5000 free, non-lead bullets were shared to 129 hunters. There was a survey conducted with users. Hunters indicated that non-lead bullets' performance is very good and they would not have a problem with switching permanently to non-toxics.
- Action Plan to Combat Illegal Activities Against Wildlife (2025–2028) which focuses on combating illegal actions against birds, as well as other wildlife, is in preparation. Working group is composed of representatives from: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition, State Inspectorate of the Republic of Croatia, State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia and NGO Biom. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition leads the drafting. It is expected to be adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia, pending completion of the required governmental procedures.



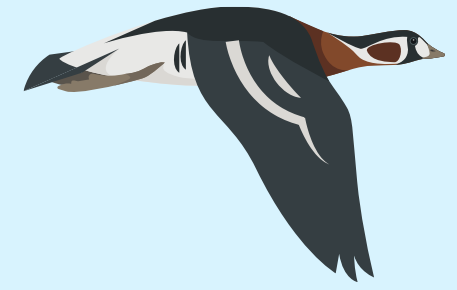
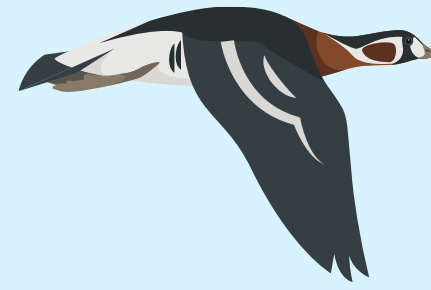
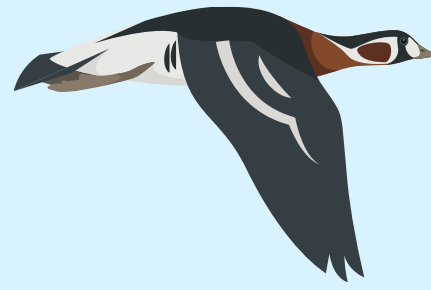
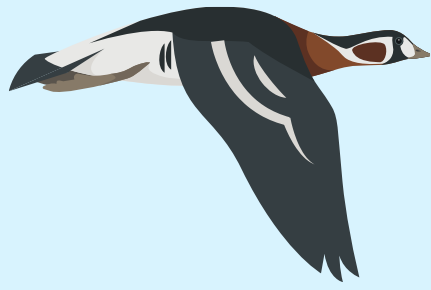
2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

- Lack of staff
- Repressive bodies quality of work: timely detection of violations and effective identification of perpetrators



3) Priorities for the future

- Completion of the action plan
- Well-organized field actions in IKB hotspots
- Education, raise awareness..
- Better data collection and monitoring of illegal actions



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CYPRUS

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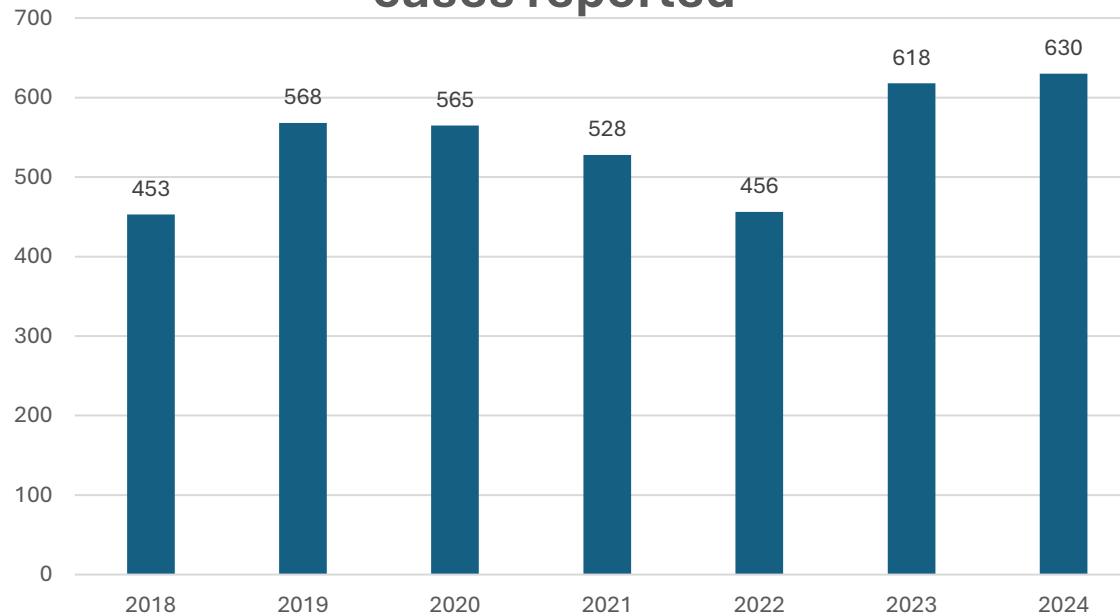
Country: CYPRUS

(Panicos Panayides, Game & Fauna Department, Ministry of the Interior)

- **Migration hotspot**
- **Trapping / Illegal killing hotspot**



Total poaching/trapping/illegal killing cases reported

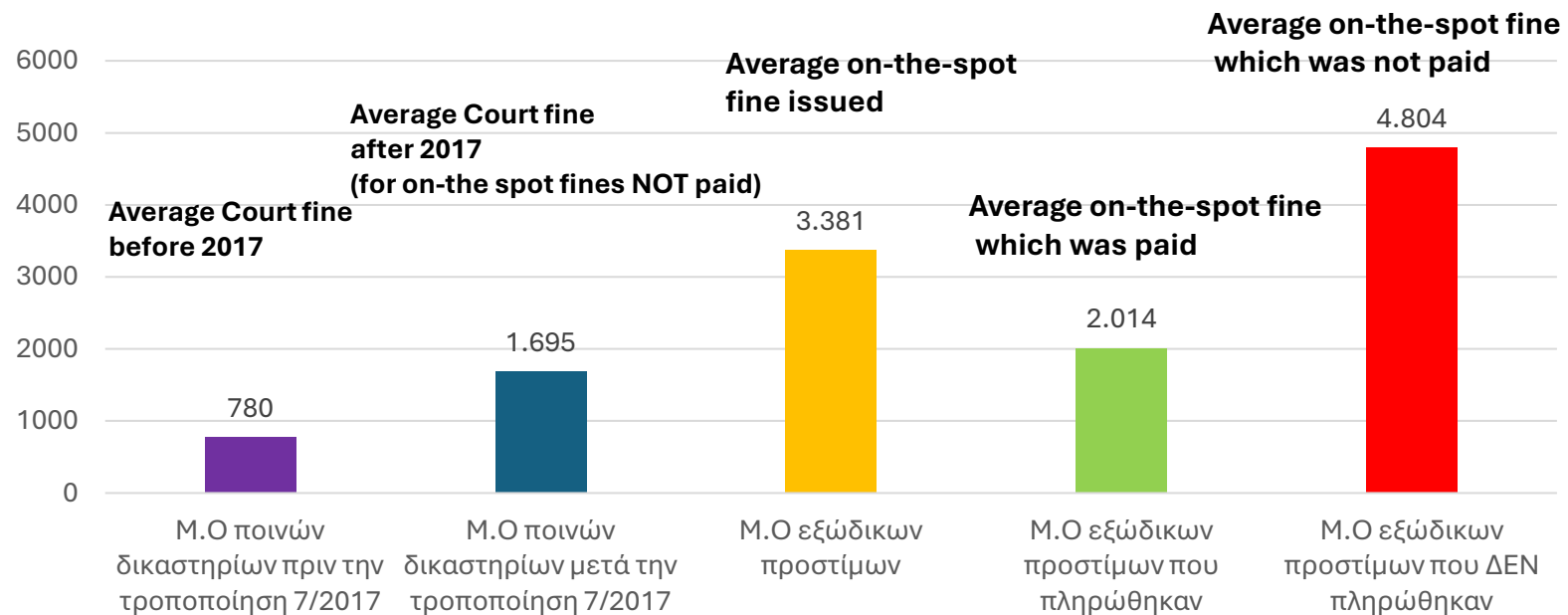




1) Key achievements in combating IKB

- Higher fines (On-the-spot-fines introduced in 2017 – minimum fines)
- Trapping activity in the spring season reached to very low levels.
- Use of forensics in handling wildlife crime

Comparisons of imposed fines (Euros)





2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

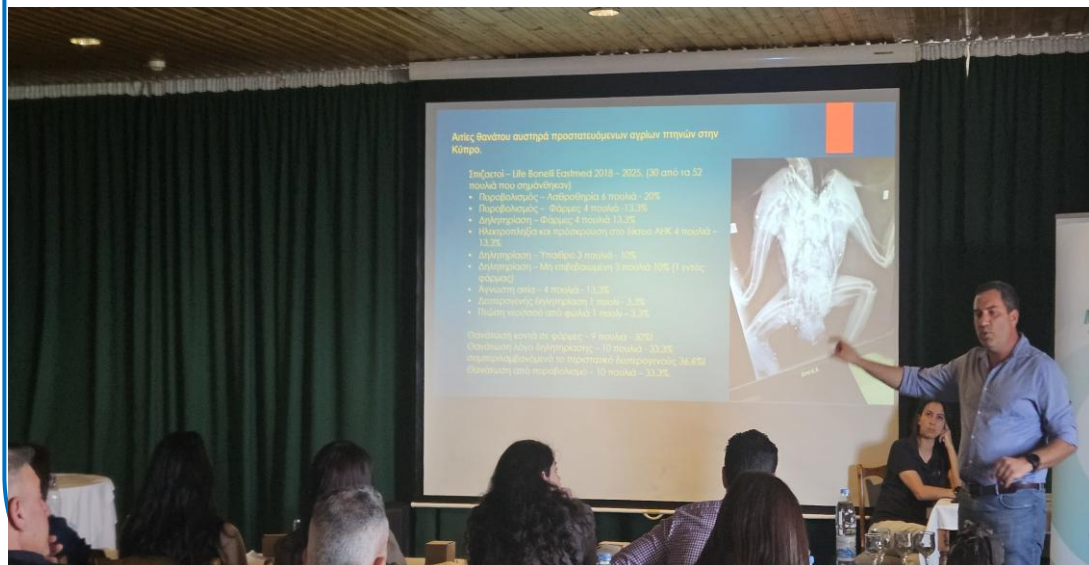
- Lack of human capacity
- Better use of wildlife forensics
- Exploitation of the topic for populist purposes
- Major problems with killing over power lines and energy infrastructure

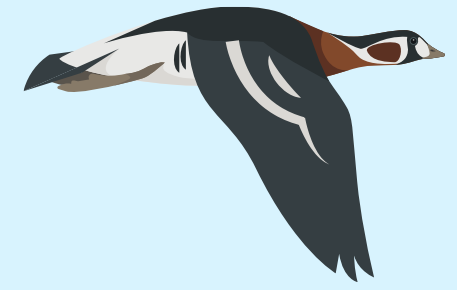
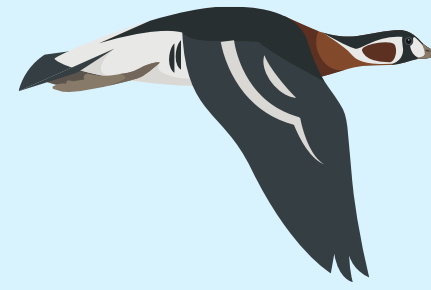
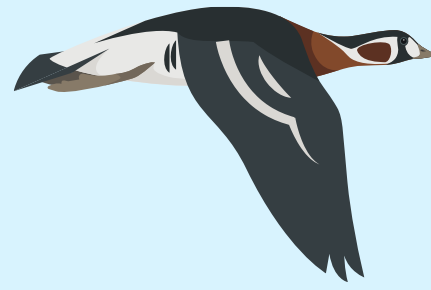
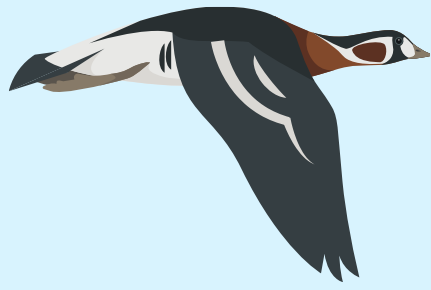




3) Priorities for the future

- Wildlife crime to be treated as a serious crime
- Better enforcement (including more use of forensics).
- Raising awareness (general public).
- Educating the public prosecutors and judges.





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GEORGIA

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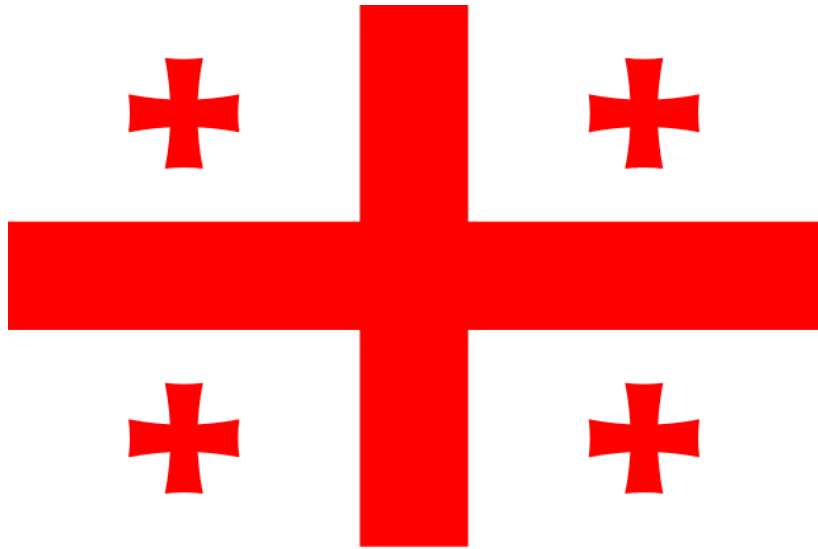


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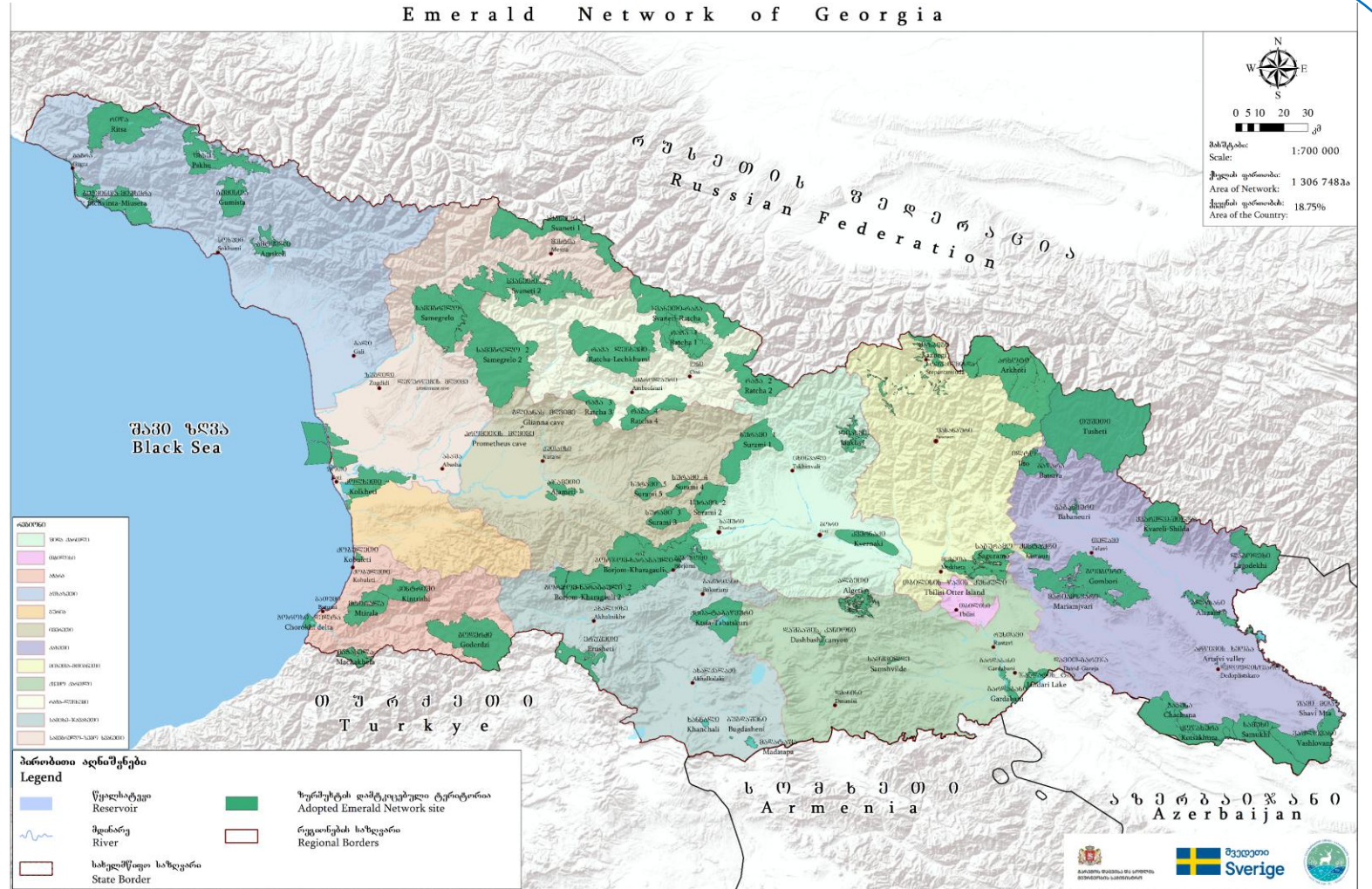




Georgia



Emerald Network of Georgia



International and national requirements



- Bern Convention
- Birds Directive
- Habitats Directive
- EU-Georgia Association Agreement
- NEAP, NBSAP



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

- Policy
 - Management
 - Law Enforcement
- Law of Animals (1996)
 - Law on Environmental Liability (2021)
 - Law of “Red list” and “Red book” (2003)
 - Law on the System of Protected Areas (1996)

In the Country:

- Protected Areas - 100 protected areas, 13.34% of the country's territory, with an area of 9299967 ha.
- Emerald Network - 66 emerald sites, 18,75% of the country's territory, with an area of 1307501 ha.

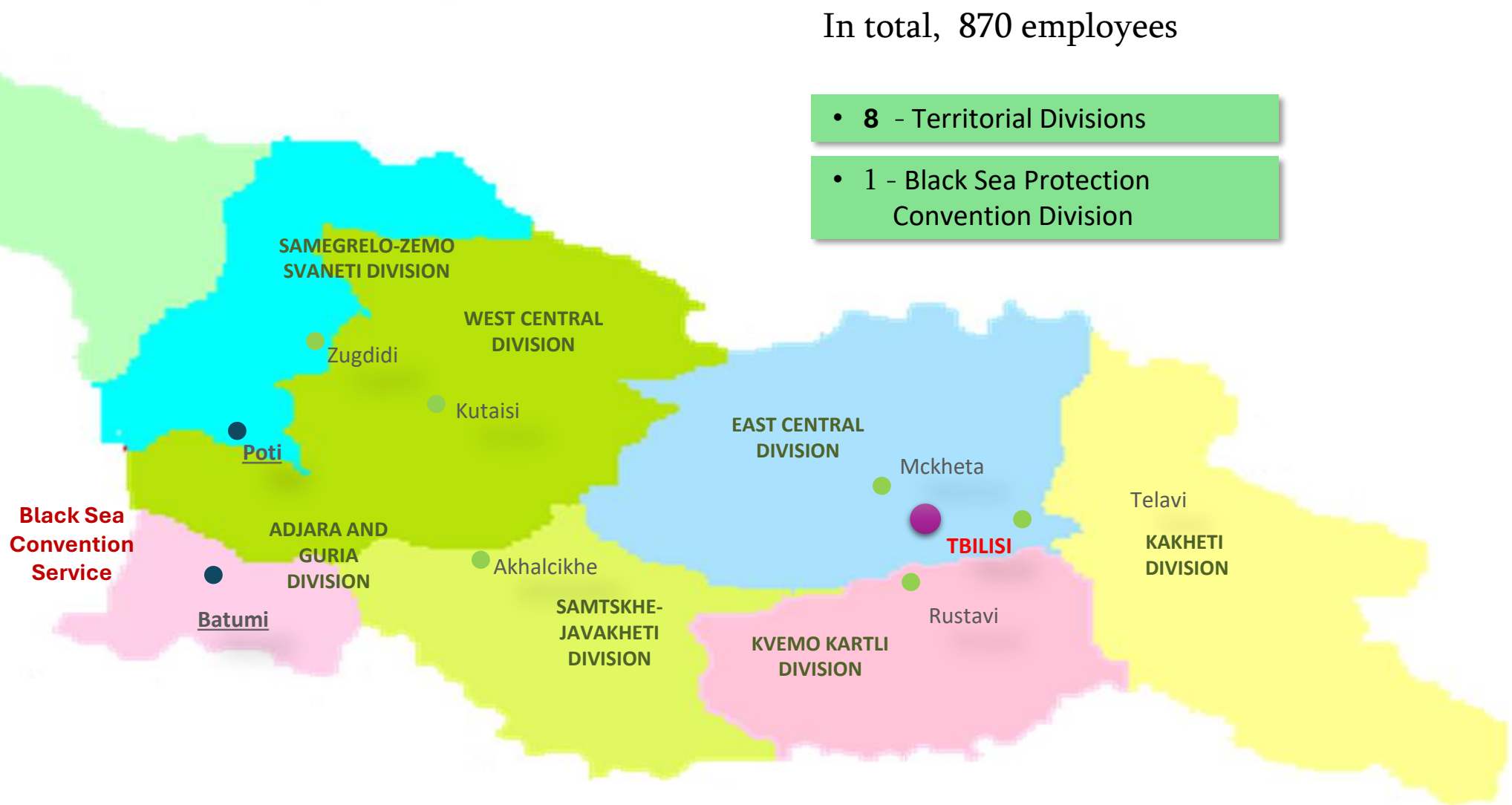
Ongoing:

- Draft Law on Biodiversity
- Draft Law on Hunting

Law enforcement Environmental Supervision Department

In total, 870 employees

- 8 - Territorial Divisions
- 1 - Black Sea Protection Convention Division



Environmental Supervision Department

Hot line- 153



Inspection

Patrolling



Used technology:

- drones
- photo traps
- overalls
- trap camera
- video registrator
- Night vision binoculars,
- GPS

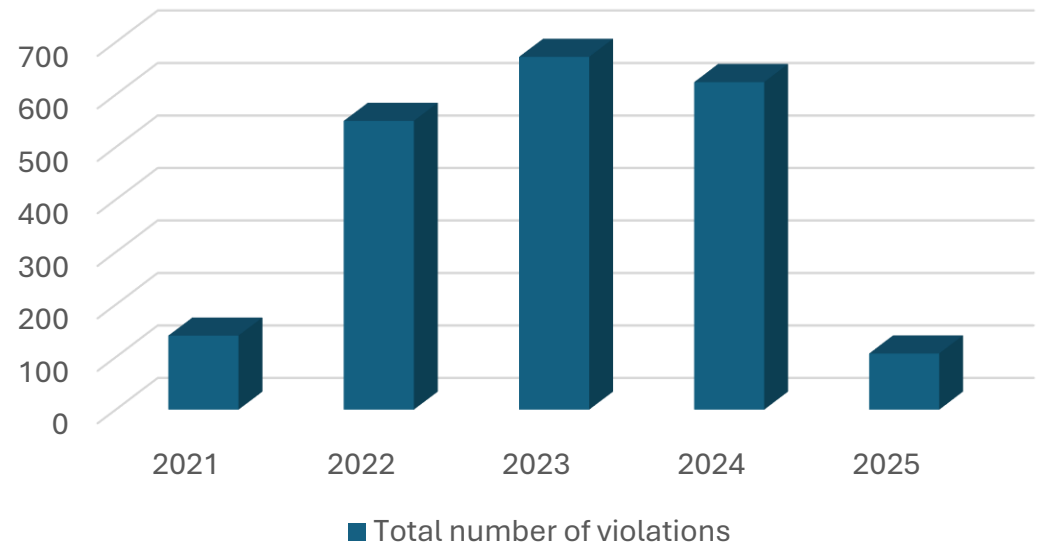


Types	Violations	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Administrative	• Bird hunting rule violations	124	492	591	557	86
	• Hunting with prohibited weapons, methods or tools	13	52	75	60	18
	• Hunting in a protected area	1	4	2		2
	• Illegal export of CITES-listed species	1	1	4	4	1
	• Illegal trapping of birds	1			2	
	• Illegal trade of birds	1				
Criminal	• Illegal hunting		1		1	
Total number of violations		141	550	672	624	107



Violations regarding birds, identified by the Environmental Supervision Department 2021-2025

Total number of violations





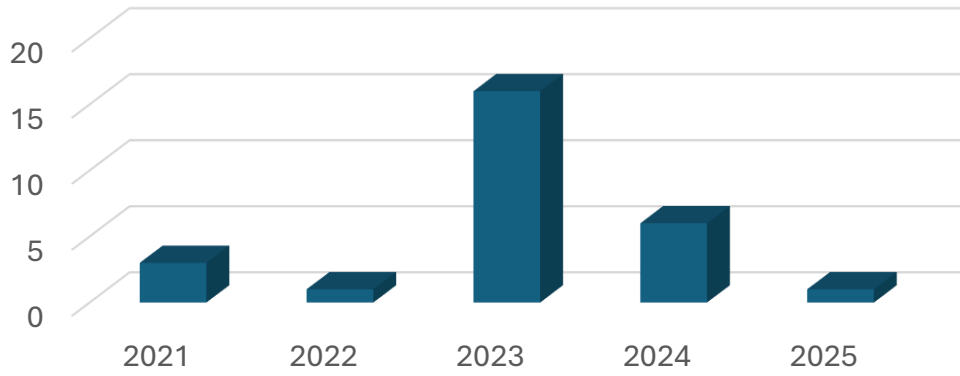
Violations regarding birds by territorial body DES





Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
• Psittacus Erithacus	1				
• Anas platyrhynchos	2		1		
• Cockatoo		1	1	5	1
• Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae (New Zealand parakeet)			2		
• Phasianus colchicus			10		
• Struthio camelus				1	
• Aquila pennata			2		
total	3	1	16	6	1

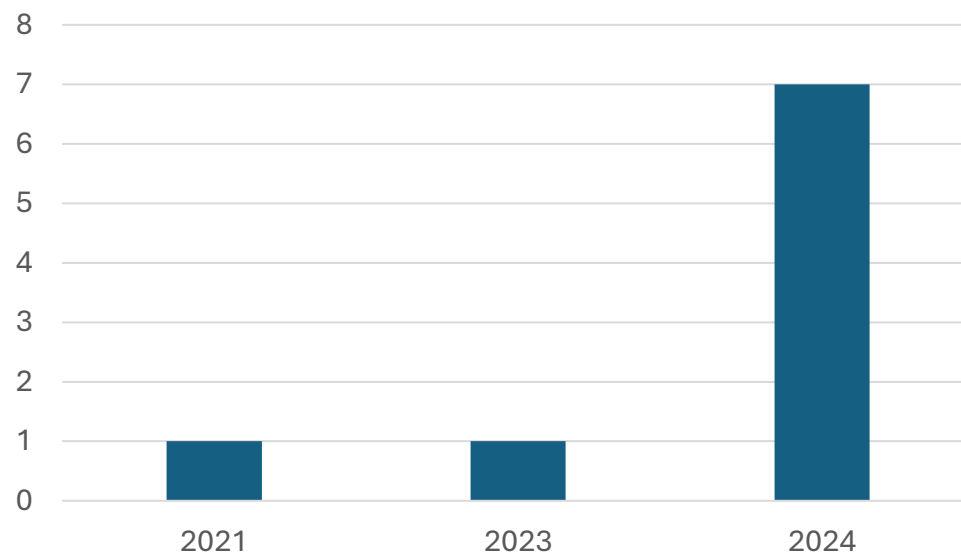
Illegally traded birds, illegally exported/imported CITES listed birds by species





Illegally trapped birds by species	2021	2023	2024
• Buteo rufinus Cretzschmar	1		
• Pavo maticus		1	
• Phasianus colchicus			5
• Cygnus olor			1
• Accipiter gentilis			1
Total	1	1	7

Illegally trapped birds, by year





Illegally obtained birds by species, 2021-2025

	Alectoris graeca	Phasianus colchicus	Phalacrocorax	Scolopax rusticola	Tetrao tetraz	Coturnix coturnix	Columba palumbus	Anas platyrhynchos	Garrulus glandarius	Tetrao mlkosiewiczzi	Circaetus gallicus	Turdus viscivorus	Turdus	Perdix perdix	Asio otus	Turdus pilaris	Tadorna ferruginea	Fulica atra
2021	4	1	3	1														
2022	4			12	3	14	3	2	1									
2023	4	2		14		7	10			2	1	1	2	1	1	2		
2024	3			6		28		2				1	7			1	2	
2025	9							1					7					1



2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

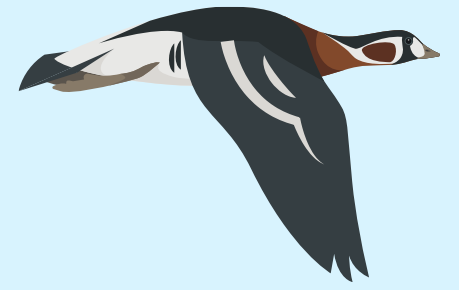
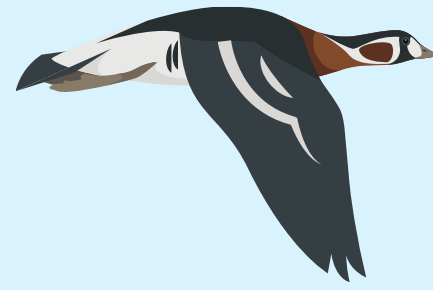
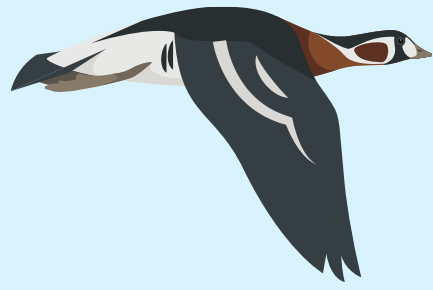
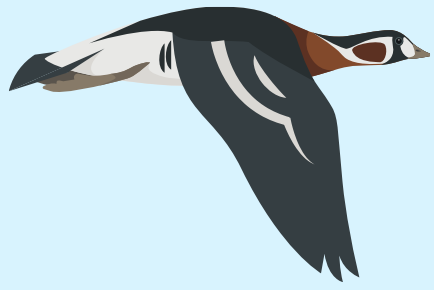


- Illegal Trade and Profits
- Lack of International Cooperation
- Limited Awareness and Education
- Online Trade
- Habitat Loss and Fragmentation
- Lack of bird species identifiers and detailed guidelines



3) Priorities for the future

- Improving law enforcement to share best EU practices in the field of fight against illegal hunting, trapping
- Strengthen international cooperation
- Raising public awareness
- Full compliance with the obligations assumed under the Association Agreement



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GREECE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

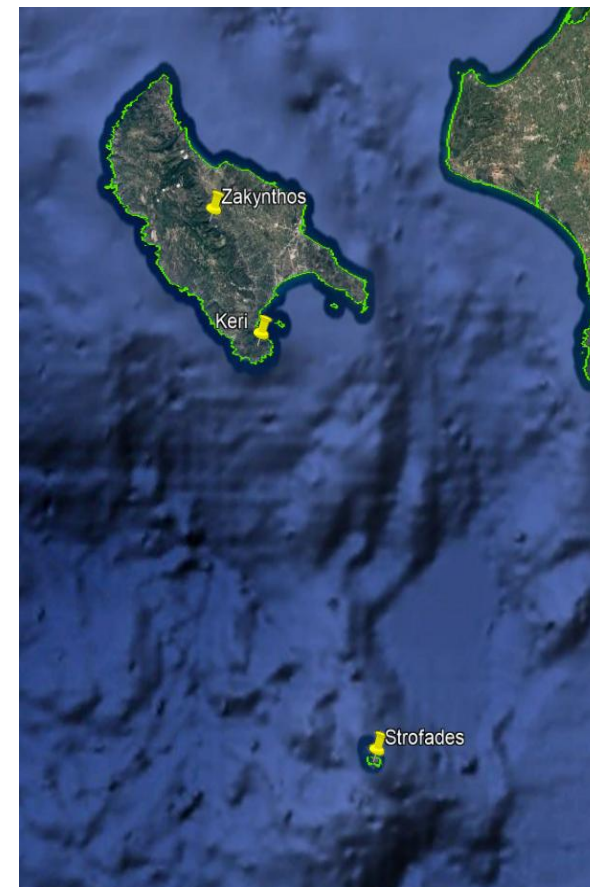
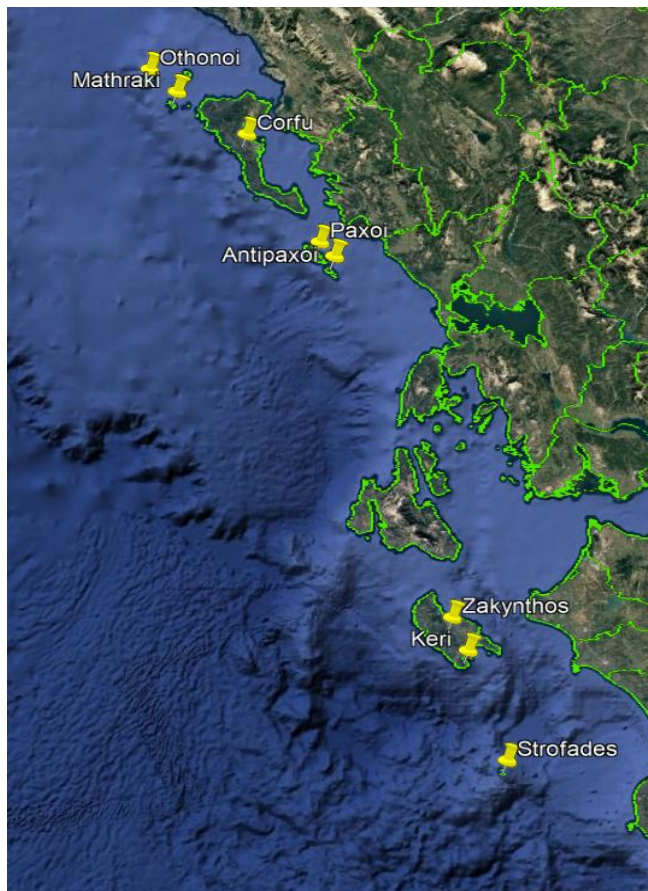
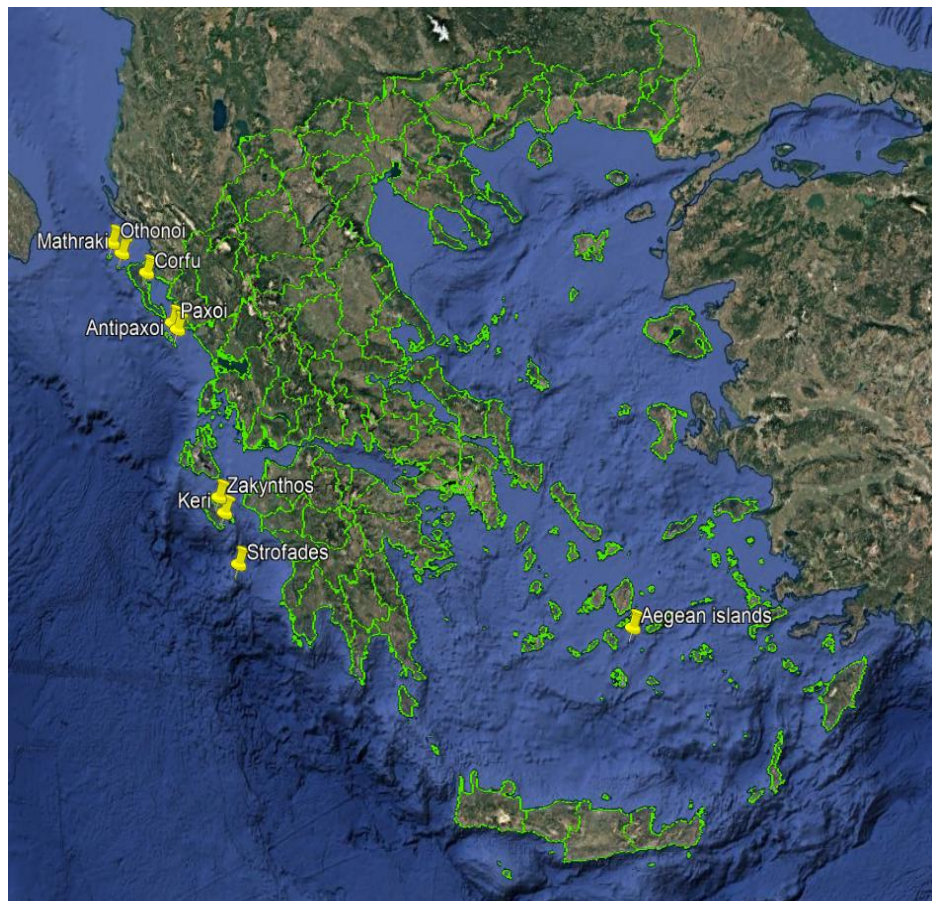


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Country: GREECE



Map of the country with locations cited



1) Key achievements in combating IKB

The case of the Ionian Islands:

- Implementation of Local Action Plans, every year (10/4-20/5).
- More efficient and effective local forest agency
- Collaboration with other authorities, stakeholders (HHF), NGOs (HOS & CABS)
- Informing citizens
- Mixed patrols, arrests and prosecutions
- Stricter penalties.

And in general additionally :

- Comprehensive enforcement actions (e.g. aerial patrols in the Aegean, operation against the illegal market at Schisto).
- Completion and use of the Scoreboard for systematic self-assessment and strategic planning.
- Stricter penalties as well.



2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

The case of the Ionian Islands

- Tolerance of the local community and a strong connection with this custom
- Great economic benefits
- Land's ownership

In general

- Lack of unified, centralized data on all forms of IKB nationwide.
- Difficulty quantifying illegal activity in terms of actual bird numbers
- Need to strengthen institutional and technical cooperation among competent authorities.
- Inconsistent enforcement and insufficient specialization among judiciary and prosecutors.



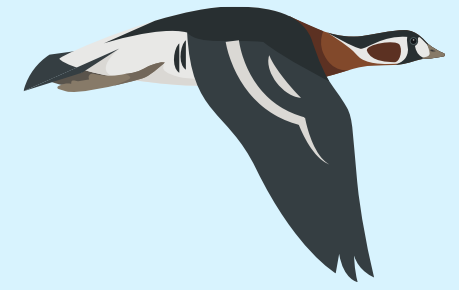
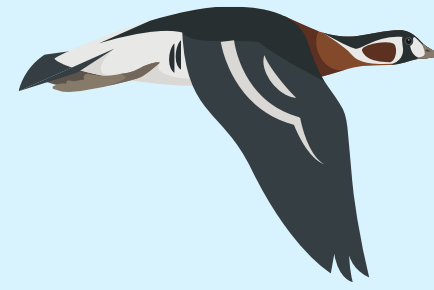
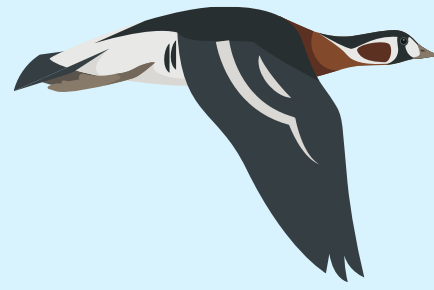
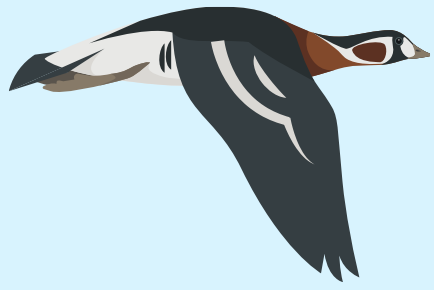
3) Priorities for the future

The case of the Ionian Islands

- Continued implementation of the Local Action Plans
- Educational and information programmes for the locals (NGO)

In general

- Drafting and adopting a National Action Plan against IKB, in full alignment with the Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030.
- Institutionalizing training mechanisms for all enforcement and judicial bodies, in collaboration with national training institutions.
- Further digitization of data collection and analysis systems.
- Public and hunter awareness campaigns.



Joint Meeting CMS MIKT and Bern Convention SFPs on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade (IKB) of Wild Birds

13-15 April 2025, Bonn, Germany

Reports from Members

HUNGARY

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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1) Key achievements in combating IKB

- Hungarian Environmental Security Task Force established in 2020
 - Coordinates work on IKB
 - Coordination: National Bureau of Investigation, involving relevant ministries, authorities and BirdLife Hungary
 - Projects: enforcement actions and **training for police**
- After LIFE phase of PannonEagle LIFE project and Sakerroads LIFE project (dog unit) – better detection rate, good number of satellite-tracked birds (survival rate better)
- Temporary decline of illegal poisoning in 2024, but rise again in 2025 – long-term decline (2015-2025)!
- Sentence to poachers of Black Vulture



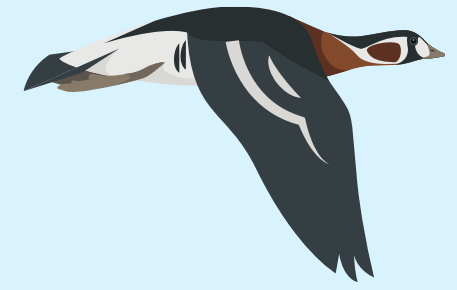
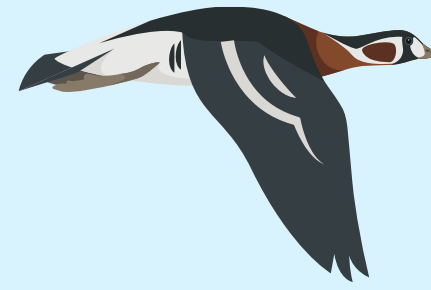
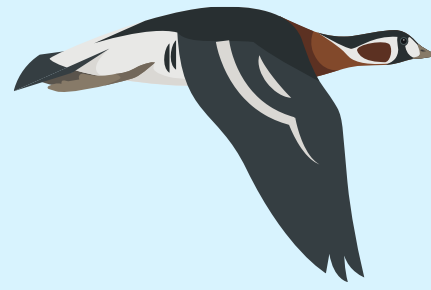
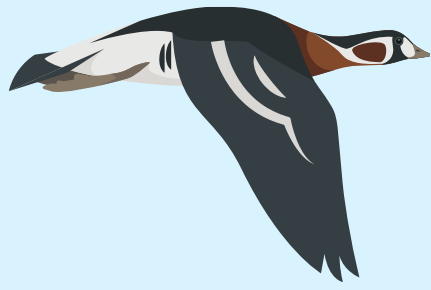
2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

- Difficulties in enforcement and in justice
- Forensic lab examinations are slow (impeding investigation and reducing motivation)
- Spreading new threat: fox traps inappropriately set up (exposed bait)



3) Priorities for the future

- More training and awareness-raising
- Updating of existing protocols (e.g. police on-the-spot investigation protocol)
- Achievement of exemplary verdicts



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ITALY

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Country: ITALY





1) Key achievements in combating IKB

- Italy adopted a NAP on IKB (2017-2020)
- Seven black-spots identified
- CUFAA SOARDA national special police unit to tackle illegal killing
- Database and map of illegal poisoning (<https://avvelenamenti.izslt.it/>)
- 17 Antipoaching/poisoning dog units
- Technical report: Crimes against wild birds. Thematic insights to tackle the illegal killing of birds – IKB (published on December 2022)





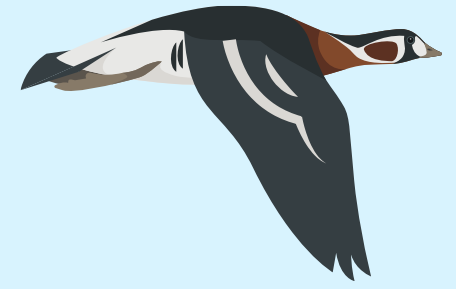
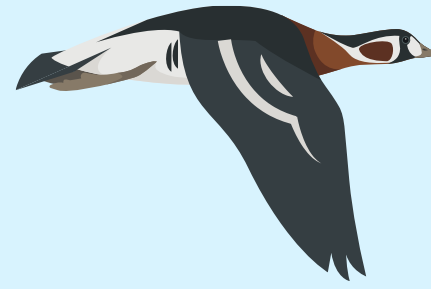
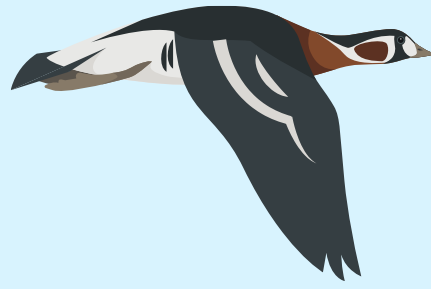
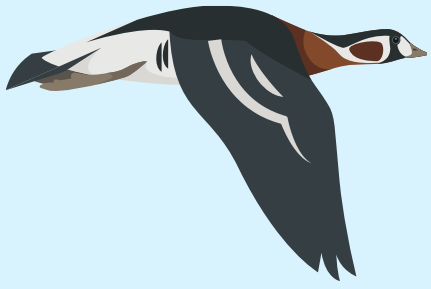
2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

- Difficulties in eradicate food cultural heritage
- Poor engagement by stakeholders
- Lack of commitment by some Administrations
- In certain regions, the current deployment of anti-poaching surveillance units is inadequate to ensure comprehensive territorial coverage
- Absence of a national database on IKB



3) Priorities for the future

- Adoption of lines of action aimed at achieving the five objectives of the Rome Strategic Plan (2020-2030) by 2025
- Transposition of the provisions relating to IKB as provided for in Directive (EU) 2024/1203 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on the protection of the environment through criminal law
- Database W.I.L.D. - Wild Life Database of CUFAA CITES (founded by Minister of the Interior)



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MOROCCO

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Importance of Morocco for birds

Located along the **East Atlantic Flyway**, one of the primary bird migration corridors, Morocco plays a crucial role in facilitating the seasonal movement of numerous bird species

Ecosystem diversity (**40 ecosystems**), bioclimatic diversity, networks of protected areas with more than **154 sites of biological and ecological interest** including **84 wetlands** and **10 national parks**.

A **key stopover, wintering and breeding area** for a large number of bird species (raptors, water birds, passerines);

The number of bird species, under different phenological status, is estimated at **367 confirmed species**, **164 accidental**, dominated by passerines which represent nearly 40%;

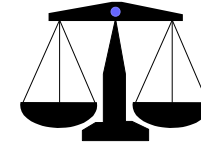




Main achievements in combating IKB

Strengthening the legal framework for the protection of bird species by the :

- **Adoption of Law 29.05**, relating to the protection of wild flora and fauna species and the control of their trade and the **Revision of hunting law** ;
- **Designation of Protected Bird Species**: A significant number of bird species have been added to the list of protected species, prohibiting their hunting, capture, and trade.



Capacity building and institutional cooperation: to improve control at borders, roads and urban areas, agreements have been signed with key institutions (the National Security Direction, Customs Administration...). Enhancing collaboration with the Ministries of Justice and the Interior to ensure more effective law enforcement;

Establishment of Wildlife Monitoring and Control Units in each region of the Kingdom, in order to strength field surveillance and ensure better protection for wildlife species ;

Public Awareness and Stakeholder Engagement: Efforts are underway to raise awareness among various groups—such as hunters, songbird owner associations, and civil society—encouraging them to contribute to combating poaching, illegal killing, taking and trading of birds.



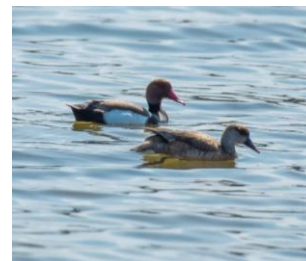


Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

Limited resources for comprehensive Coverage: a shortage of human and material resources to effectively monitor, control and cover all territory, impeding efforts to combat poaching, illegal catching and taking of birds;

Organized Poaching Network: Poachers are organized in Networks utilizing advanced equipment and new technologies to communicate with one another and evade detection by surveillance teams

Low Public and Community involvement: There is limited participation from the public, local communities, civil society, and relevant groups in monitoring, reporting poaching and raising awareness in combating IKB.





Priority for the future

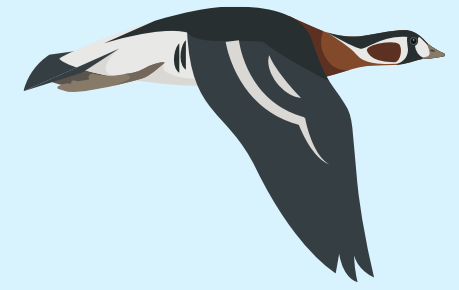
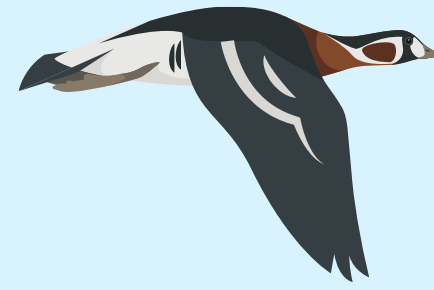
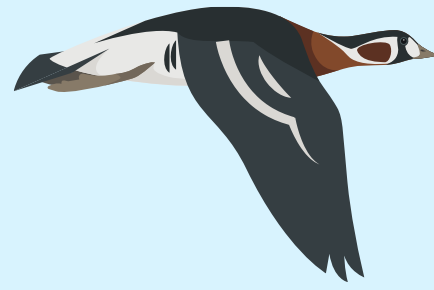
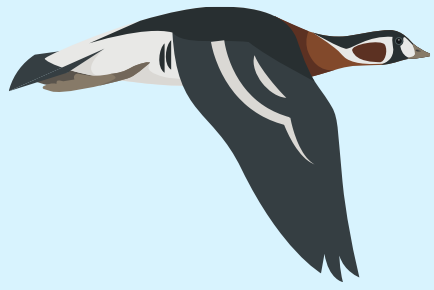
Enhancing human and material capacities by recruiting additional field agents, organizing training sessions focused on combating poaching and IKB and providing field teams with necessary logistical and technical means to enhance monitoring effectiveness.

Raising awareness of the impacts of poaching and IKB across all levels within local communities, civil society, the public, and the justice system, while advocating for stricter enforcement and higher penalties for law violations.

Improving Data collection and analysis on wildlife poaching, particularly on IKB, to improve control and monitoring of at-risk species, specially in regions identified as high risk areas for IKB activities ;

Strengthening international cooperation to combat cross-border trafficking networks in wildlife species, including birds;





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SPAIN

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SPAIN

Trend of IKB numbers: apparently stable

Scoreboard data submitted (proxy/indicators, not total numbers):

1. NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS TO RESCUE CENTRES RELATED TO IKB ACTIVITIES

- In a given year for Scoreboard
- Currently, approx. 40 rescue centers operating in Spain: managed by authorities or private with collaboration agreements
- But extrapolating to national situation: not all regions communicate data: 5 in 2018 (30%) and 9 in 2020 and 2022 (53%)

2. POISONING NUMBERS (when not overlapping with data from rescue centres)

3. STATISTICS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE/JUDICIAL CASES (when not overlapping with data from rescue centers)





SPAIN

Trend of IKB numbers: apparently stable

Scoreboard numbers (proxy):

SPAIN (nine regions + numbers from SEPRONA)	March/May	June/August	September/November	December/February	Total
2018	474-1387	395-1156	553-1619	158-462	1580-4625
2020 (Baseline;ij)	1902	3077	2455	1088	8522
2022	991	4375	1935	1243	8544

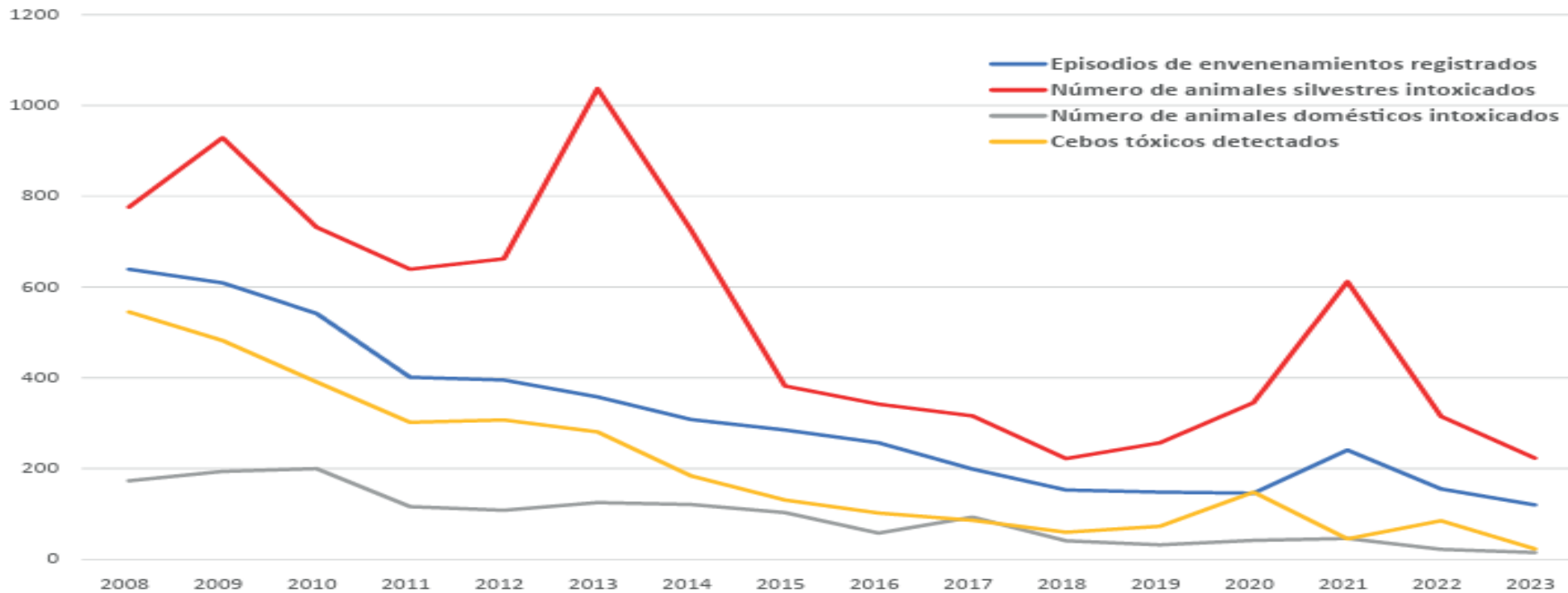




SPAIN

Trend of poisoning cases: decrease

Tendencia del impacto del envenenamiento de fauna (2008-2023)





SPAIN

Prosecution of IKB cases: increasing due to a greater effort

- In 2022, 822 persons were prosecuted by the autonomous communities or by SEPRONA, and 4301 birds were involved.
- In the 2020 report, it was reported that 215 persons were prosecuted for IKB involving 6111 birds.
- No information on prosecution cases was provided in the 2018 report.





1) Key achievements in combating IKB

1. STRICT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Birds Directive 2009/147/CE is applied in Spain through the Act 42/2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity. Main provisions:

- General prohibition of capture/killing/possession of wild animals**
- Exceptions for species subject to hunting regulations (game species)**
- Other derogations only for justified reasons and through administrative permits**
- Infractions and administrative sanctions**
- Establishment of penalties in the Penal Code for killing protected species**

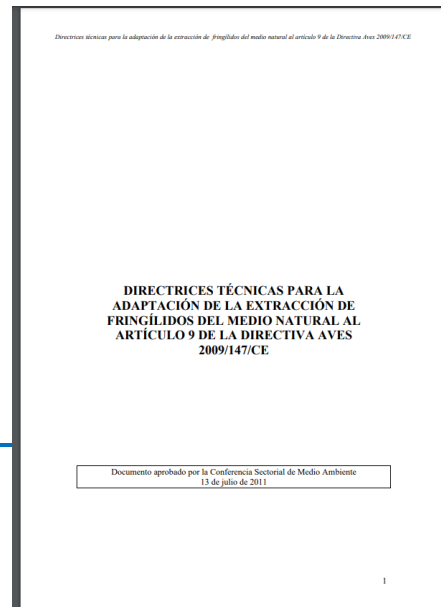


1) Key achievements in combating IKB

2. OFFICIAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS (NATIONAL PLANS)

To encourage implementation of the regulations and to identify priority activities:

- Strategy against the illegal use of poison baits in the wild (2024)
- Technical guidelines to adapt trapping of finch birds in the wild to Birds Directive (2011)
- Plan against illegal trafficking and international poaching on wildlife (TIFIES, 2018)



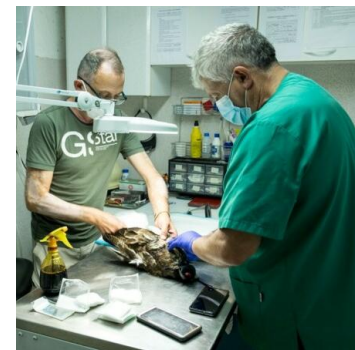


1) Key achievements in combating IKB

3. REGIONAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVEMENT

Regarding IKB, they have contributed crucially:

- Adapt national regulations to regional situation (all of them)
- Approval of legally binding action plans (to different matters)
- Wildlife recovery centers: save animals and find out causes of admissions
- Cases registration and statistics collection
- Administrative and legal actions against infringements





1) Key achievements in combating IKB

4. LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Environmental rangers of regions and Ministry (approx. 6,000 agents):

- Wildlife monitoring, specialized teams (canine patrols)
- Infringements detection and reporting



- SEPRONA (Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza) of the Guardia Civil (approx. 2,000):

- Important intelligence service (Oficina Central Nacional)
- Increasing training and logistics
- International relationships



3. GENERAL PROSECUTOR OFFICE; Specialized unit on Environment

->300 penalties (administrative) & 327 judicial sentences (76% convictions)



1) Key achievements in combating IKB

5. TRAINING

Training from Ministry to SEPRONA: protocol of collaboration signed

More than 30 courses (estimated 1,000 attendees): identification of illegal practices, operating procedures for investigation and traceability of samples, preparation of files

International collaboration with environmental police from Latin America, Africa and Europe

Comunidades autónomas: continuous training for environmental agents, learning of official protocols

Training from NGOs & LIFE+ projects:

WILDLIFE CRIME ACADEMY

Prosecutors and judges (so important)





2) Obstacles encountered in combating IKB

1. BIRD TRAFFICKING AND SALES (for leisure/pets), especially VIA INTERNET:

- **Accessibility to purchase of, at least, 750 bird species:**
 - 94 native species; 78 hybrids; 15 species declared invasive ; 250 species in CITES Appendix II
- **Difficulties in control/deterrence/enforcement due to:**
 - CITES requirements and interactions with other nature protection legislation (captive-bred birds)
 - Different protection framework for non-native species
 - Public lack of knowledge on risks and legal possibilities
 - Inability for controlling such magnitude of movements
- **Online shops > announcement platforms > social networks > conventional stores**



2. IMPLICATION AND TRAINING OF JUDICIAL BODIES (but increasing awareness)

3. POLITICAL WILL IN SOME REGIONS TO ENHANCE PROSECUTION AND FIGHT EFFICIENTLY AGAINST RESIDUAL POACHING ACTIVITIES



3) Priorities for the future

- More involvement of judicial bodies (judiciary level) on IKB penal cases
- Optimize data collection on IKB and sharing
- Ensure stability in financial resources for enforcement bodies and authorities
- Awareness of the whole society: risk of political polarization
- Control wildlife trade from international origins (Internet)
- A few illegal activities remain in some regions (black spots):
 - Poaching on thrushes and other passerines in southern Spain (birdcalls and mistnets)
 - Shooting protected wildfowl, affecting endangered species in southern and eastern Spain
 - Scarce conflicts with economic uses: beekeeping, racing pigeons, rice paddies...

