



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

João Loureiro  
Portugal

13-15 May 2025, Bonn, Germany





EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATION  
OF THE EU ACTION PLAN AGAINST  
WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

# EVALUATION OF THE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTION PLAN

Analysis of the implementation of the updated Evaluation of the Wildlife Trafficking Action Plan, **in particular in relation with non CITES listed species and of the way to cooperate with other stakeholders** as ENPE, EUFJE and EnviCrimeNet, taking in account the good practices in the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) no 338/97 of 9 December 1996, on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein, and the Commission Regulation (EC) no 865/2006, of 4 May 2006, laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) no 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

Analysis of the implementation of Member States legislation implementing the trade and keeping of non-CITES listed species.



# EVALUATION OF THE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTION PLAN

## LEGISLATIVE DRIVER(S)

- EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.
- **Member States legislation implementing CITES and the trade and keeping of non-CITES listed species.**
- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- Council Regulation (EC) no 338/97 of 9 December 1996.
- Commission Regulation (EC) no 865/2006 of 4 May 2006.



## EVALUATION OF THE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTION PLAN

- Joint inspections: Germany; Lithuania; Portugal; Romania; Spain; The Netherlands.
  - Workshops: Italy (Rome); Portugal (Azores).
  - Participants from: Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, The Netherlands and Ukraine
- Guidance Book “Good Practices in the Implementation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking”



# AIMS OF THE PROJECT



## EVALUATION OF THE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTION PLAN

- Strengthening the legal and policy framework against wildlife trafficking, increasing its effectiveness and increasing the rate of illegal activity detection in particular of non CITES listed species;
- Enforce the efforts to address the online aspects of wildlife trafficking;
- Address the problem of the growth of the market for exotic pets and the range of affected species, in particular the need to reduce the illegal trade in non CITES-listed wildlife species;
- Evaluate the need of the EU and its Member States to adopt strict measures to control the illegal trade of wildlife;
- Strengthen cross-border cooperation and coordination with various relevant international authorities and institutions, in particular other stakeholders as ENPE, EUFJE and EnviCrimeNet;
- Increasing the capacity-building along the entire enforcement chain.

## Evaluation of the Wildlife Trafficking Action Plan

**The EU and its Member States and the other IMPEL Members need to address the problem together.**

EU-wide rules regulating the trade in wildlife have been in place in all Member States since 1983, implementing CITES, and the Commission already issued a recommendation on enforcement in 2007. However, reports reveal significant differences in how the Member States implement and enforce these shared rules. At the same time there are no common rules to control the trade and the keeping of non CITES listed species and in some cases there are no rules at all.

To achieve those goals, it will be essential to work together closely between the IMPEL Members, with stakeholders, including civil society organizations and relevant business sectors, on many specific measures to make maximum use of the available expertise and knowledge and ensure maximum impact.

# EVALUATION OF THE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTION PLAN

## DESIRED OUTCOME OF THE WORK

The general goal of the project is to publicize and test an update of the reference guide to a core group of implementing enforcement authorities of the EU Member States that enable them to successfully tackle the problem of the wildlife trafficking. This will include:

- Exchange of solutions concerning implementation problems.
- Facilitating implementation and interpretation of available tools.
- Workshops on testing and improving the reference guide
- Joint inspections.
- Identifying implementation gaps.
- Overview on the approaches in different European countries.
- Cooperation between actors from the compliance chain, also on defining consistent solutions for implementation problems.
- Raising public awareness of the results of the evaluation of the application of the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking in particular in relation with non-CITES listed species.

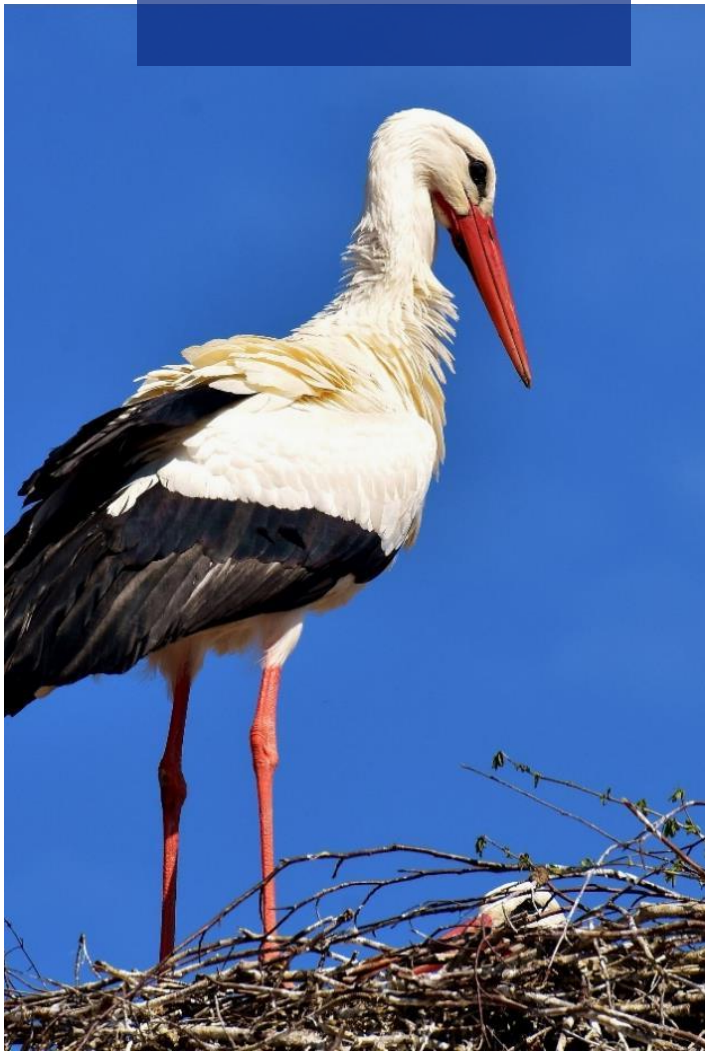


# Evaluation of the Wildlife Trafficking Action Plan

## RESULTS OF THE WORK 2022-2024 (1)

### Main positive outcomes of the project “EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking”:

- Sharing of good practices in the implementation of an inspection action;
- Facilitation of the implementation and interpretation of available tools, in particular the document “Good Practices in the Implementation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking”;
- Knowledge of new problems and situations and actions to solve them;
- Cooperation between different stakeholders;
- Identification of implementation gaps.



# EVALUATION OF THE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTION PLAN

## RESULTS OF THE WORK 2022-2024 (2)

**Some negative aspects regarding the possibility of preventing and controlling wildlife trafficking:**

- Lack of knowledge of the provisions of the Community regulations;
- Difficulties in identifying species;
- Lack of EU legislation to regulate the possession and legal origin of specimens of species not listed in CITES;
- Impossibility of detecting the origin of specimens due to the lack of obligation for them to be marked;
- Difficulties finding appropriate solutions for seized specimens.
- Difficulty in implementing Community regulations due to the existence of diverse national legislation;
- Difficulty in cooperation between different national authorities

# Evaluation of the Wildlife Trafficking Action Plan

## Some Proposals to solve the problems encountered in the Joint Inspections:

**Examples of provisions of the „Guidance document on live animals bred in captivity under the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations” that should be included in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations:**

When assessing whether a captive-bred specimen of a species listed in Annex A or B has been acquired legally, one should consider the following general points:

- Burden of proof – for internal EU trade and (re-)export, management authorities should require the applicant to produce documentary evidence of legal acquisition.
- Chain of custody
- Due diligence

**Examples of provisions of the „Guidance document on the Proof of legal acquisition for live animals of Annex B species and necessary documentary evidence (2019)” that should be included in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations:**

- Information to be provided to the new owner for the legal acquisition of live animals of Annex B species under Article 8(5) of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97.



# EVALUATION OF THE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTION PLAN

## ACTIVITIES 2025/2027

- The activities will be 1 workshop and 3 joint inspections on 2025; 1 workshop and 3 joint inspections on 2026; 1 workshop and 2 joint inspections on 2027;
- Joint inspections are necessary to test and improve reference guide which is our final product and to promote cooperation between the enforcement authorities of the different IMPEL Members.

**BE a part of this project**

**THANKS!**



THANK YOU!

