



BirdLife International Partnership Contributions in Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Birds

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Partnership for
nature and people





BirdLife International Partners & IKB

- BirdLife International – addressing IKB for over 100 years and increasing efforts – strategic, evidence-based, collaborative
- Raised over €11.5 million over past decade
- Nationally BirdLife partners active in many IKB areas for decades:
 - Filling knowledge gaps, monitoring IKB, research
 - Surveillance/ detection/ evidence/reporting of IKB
 - Working with authorities on enforcement action, legislation, NAPs
 - Developing alternative livelihoods in high IKB areas
 - Education and awareness, training/ capacity building
 - Rehabilitation of injured birds
- The BirdLife Partnership remains fully committed to supporting national authorities to achieve zero tolerance of IKB

Key achievements

- BirdLife Partners working effectively to tackle IKB across the Mediterranean region – and beyond!
- Strong International collaborations to maximise scale, expertise and impact

Since MIKT5 (2022):

- Implementation of €5.5million “Safe Flyways” project, 2021-2026
- Co-hosted “Global Illegal Taking of Birds,” CMS COP14 side event & support for South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force
- Delivery of IKB Conservation Standards Workshop – building capacity in 15 Partner organisations
- Publication of “The Killing 3.0” Report (2025)
- Global assessment of the prevalence of wild birds in trade (Donald *et al.* 2024)
- Analysis of tracking data to highlight the importance of human-induced mortality for large migratory birds at a flyway scale (Serratosa *et al.* 2024)
- Flight for survival short film “the story of a stork's migration” – 6.4K views



Across the Partnership

Increasing knowledge, detection & measuring impact

- **Türkiye, Doğa Derneği** – report providing new evidence of the scale of IKB in Türkiye
- **Palestine, PWLS** – surveys of markets in Jenin and Jericho to establish species, hotspots and actors
- **Slovenia, DOPPS** – report of IKB legislation and IKB cases 2012-2021
- **Croatia, BIOM** – 50% reduction in quail poaching (within targeted areas)
- **Cyprus, BirdLife Cyprus** – ongoing monitoring of trapping sites show 91% reduction compared to 2002
- **BirdLife/ CMS** – Avian Wild Meat review and net review underway



Across the Partnership

Capacity building

- Support for the CMS coordinated National Action Plan Workshop for Balkan countries
- **Spain, SEO** – sharing expertise in wildlife crime investigations providing training sessions for other countries in the region
- **Egypt, NCE** – piloting alternative livelihoods, visit with national authorities to Lake Nasser to highlight potential for ecotourism
- **Morocco, GREPOM** - >100 hunters trained through an engagement meeting with the Moroccan Royal Hunting Federation (FRMC).
- **Lebanon, SPNL** - training in field skills and electronic tracking delivered for camp Anti-Poaching Unit members and sustainable hunters



Across the Partnership

Improved legislation, enforcement & justice

- **Egypt, NCE** – two-year hunting ban in Lake Nasser
- **Syria, SSCW** - advocacy efforts contributed to the adoption of a new, stricter hunting law
- **Scotland, RSPB** – decades of advocacy leading to adoption of Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024
- **Montenegro, CZIP** - Successfully lobbied for a ban on lead ammunition in wetlands (ahead of the EU-wide ban)
- **Italy, LIPU** – antipoaching operations in collaboration with Carabinieri Forestali 100s of birds seized, 100+ individuals reported
- **France, LPO** - Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) launched for the School for Magistrates





Across the Partnership

Prevention, raising awareness

- Flight for Survival continues to be an important platform – 66K visits in 2024
- Cyprus, BirdLife Cyprus - *opening of Thkio Mosfilie* awareness-raising centre within the IKB hotspot of Famagusta
- Greece, HOS – 5,000 people attended World Migratory Bird Day events
- Croatia, BIOM – targeted campaign to address IKB associated with coot consumption reached 500,000 people
- Bosnia & Herzegovina, Nase ptice – investigative article in e-Trafika
- Palestine, PWLS –social media following continues to grow, IKB posts regularly reach 10-30,000 users



International Collaborations

euRONATUR



TRAFFIC

**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
TO COMBAT WILD BIRD CRIME**

MARCH 2017

National Action Plans

National Action Plans are a critical foundation for coordinated efforts

- BirdLife International Partners have provided ongoing support for the development of National Action Plans
- Part of multistakeholder committees driving implementation
- Supported the CMS Workshop on National Action Plans to Combat IKB in the Balkans
- Progress in Albania, N. Macedonia, Montenegro, Croatia, supported by BirdLife Partners
- Effective implementation is critical to success

Challenges

- **Lack of sustained political engagement** at senior levels is resulting in resource gaps and loss of momentum
- **Challenges in cooperation** between relevant sectors and institutions - NGOs are key stakeholders who actively want to work with governments and national authorities to make zero tolerance a reality.
- **Derogation misuse** – unlawful and badly designed derogations on the Birds Directive are leading to, and allowing IKB to take place in some countries
- **Inadequate financial resourcing** – a lack of meaningful budget is causing gaps in enforcement
- **Political instability** – is preventing the development and implementation of legislation. Frequent changes in governments and national authority staffing stalls progress and can lead to inconsistent policies and decision making.

Reaching the 2030 RSP Goal: Difficult, but not impossible

- **National Action Plans** – Developed for all countries, sufficiently resourced and effectively implemented
- **Funding** – Small grants programme to support capacity building & international collaboration?
- Identify motivations & drivers
- **Collaboration on cross-border illegal killing** – strengthen regional collaborations. Illegal actors are exploiting inconsistencies in enforcement and legislation across the flyway undermining national level progress
- **Knowledge exchange** – e.g. Spain, SEO sharing expertise of successful actions improving capacity of other countries
- **Address the root causes** of IKB – raising awareness, educating and providing alternative livelihoods where needed
- **Improved monitoring and data collection** – effectively measure scale & impact, evidence-based informing of regulations

BirdLife International & Partners will continue to support national authorities to make progress in tackling IKB



THANK YOU!