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PLAN OF ACTION TO ADDRESS BIRD TRAPPING ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COASTS OF EGYPT AND LYBIA

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Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping Along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya

CMS AEWA UNEP RAPTORS MOU

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

Egypt Nature Conservation

LSB Libyan Society for Birds

NABU

EURING The European Union for Bird Ringing

Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya

March 2014

Prepared by

Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE)

With support from

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

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List of Acronyms

AEWA – African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement

BirdLife – BirdLife International

CMS – Convention on Migratory Species

EEAA – Egyptian Environmental Affairs Authority

EGA – Environmental General Authority (Libya)

EURING – Coordinating organisation for European bird ringing schemes

LSB – Libyan Society for Birds

MEA – Multilateral Environmental Agreement

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

NABU – Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (Germany)

NCE – Nature Conservation Egypt

PoA – Plan of Action

RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (United Kingdom)

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme

1. Introduction

Egypt and Libya are located on the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and thus situated on internationally important migration routes for birds travelling between their breeding grounds in Eurasia and their wintering sites in Africa. Each spring and autumn, many millions of birds make the journey across the Mediterranean, including large proportions of the world populations of many European migrants.

On the African-Eurasian flyway, 64 (34%) of the 188 passerine migrants are in decline. Major declines have been detected in iconic species such as Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Eurasian Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) and European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), whilst species such as Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) and Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) have suffered massive reductions in distribution and are already missing from large swathes of their former ranges.

The hunting of migratory birds in Egypt is an ancient practice that has endured for centuries and has developed into a significant socio-economic activity in the region, particularly in rural areas. It has been estimated to involve hundreds of thousands of people supporting a variety of groups at both subsistence and livelihoods levels.

The primary quarry species is Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), but the nature of the hunting techniques is indiscriminate, resulting in a wide range of other migrant species also being caught. Trapped birds are offered as a delicacy for human consumption via markets and in restaurants across Egypt.

Some smaller species of birds of prey such as Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) are attracted by the already trapped songbirds and become entangled themselves. Larger falcons, such as the Saker (*Falco cherrug*) and Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) are also caught for falconry in significant numbers, using specialized trapping techniques.

2. Methods, Scale and Legal Status of Bird Trapping

In 2012, several local and international media outlets published articles documenting an apparent increase in potentially unsustainable trapping practices along Egypt's Mediterranean coast; evidence emerged that such practices extended along around 700 kilometres of Egypt’s Mediterranean coastline (approx. three quarters of the coast) and the far eastern part of the Libyan coast with up to three rows of fine-mesh trapping nets set contiguously. These nets are very difficult for many migrants to avoid as they form a barrier across their flight path.

Many species tend to fly low at the trapping sites due to having crossed either the Mediterranean Sea (in autumn) or the Sahara (in spring), while looking for a place to rest. Although there have been a variety of estimates as to the number of birds caught in these nets, no scientific research has been conducted during the last decade to assess the actual scale of trapped birds.

Additional illegal traps are also used; including the *munsaab*, a trap composed of grass or sticks in a tent like structure to catch ground-dwelling birds seeking shelter (quail, larks, wheatears, corncrakes etc.), and *eb* nets where trees and scrub are covered in large mist nets to catch perching species. Other trapping methods include the use of lime, a sticky substance smeared on small branches that are attached as prominent perches to bushes and shrubs. The lime adheres to the feathers of passerines and prevents them flying away. Falcons are trapped for trade using live bird lures and hunting with guns has become more prevalent in recent years.

Different species of birds are hunted in Libya, either by trapping, such as Quail, Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*), doves, falcons for falconry and trade, shooting ducks, medium-sized waders, Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and herons or by falconry for Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*).

Hunting regulations are considered out of date and not enforced. Moreover, guns and traps are sold without license and a notable increase in unregulated shooting has been recorded since the political uprising in 2011.

The scale and indiscriminate methods used in today's hunting activities, particularly in the context of wider threats, such as extensive habitat destruction and climate change, is considered potentially unsustainable and could, in fact, already be affecting many African-Eurasian migrants at the population level. A comprehensive and regular monitoring programme is required to assess and disseminate data on the scale of trapping along the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt and Libya.

While certain forms of bird trapping are already illegal in Egypt and there are statutory requirements in place to regulate mist netting (such as minimum distances between nets and maximum stipulated heights), the enforcement of such regulations has become an increasingly difficult task due to regional instability, supplemented by the lack of capacity for law enforcement and awareness of the potential impacts.

3. International Obligations on Bird Conservation

Egypt and Libya have signed international agreements on the protection of birds, including the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). Both countries are also Signatories to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Birds of Prey (Raptors MOU), committed to halting and reversing the declines in the populations of birds of prey.

However, while there is strong commitment at a national level to abide by these agreements, resources and capacity among relevant government institutions and NGOs, for on-the-ground enforcement are limited; thus translating the principles contained in these agreements into measures and actions to address the scale of illegal bird killing has, to date, been minimal. Limited enforcement is exacerbated by poor public and hunter awareness of the potential impacts of hunting and, in some cases, the legal restrictions.

4. Development Process for the Plan of Action

On 29 November 2013, the Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (UNEP/AEWA Secretariat) convened an emergency meeting in Bonn, specifically to address the trapping of birds on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt and Libya. This was the first time a meeting of this type had been convened for this specific issue and it was sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

The meeting was attended by representatives of governments (the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, the Environmental General Authority of Libya and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety), Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the CMS Raptors MOU), the chairpersons of the AEWA and CMS scientific and technical bodies and of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on African-Eurasian Landbirds, and international and national NGOs (BirdLife International, Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE), the Libyan Society for Birds (LSB), the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union in Germany (NABU), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the UK (RSPB).

NCE - the Birdlife Partner in Egypt - had been commissioned by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to develop a preliminary draft Plan of Action, which was revised at the meeting. The Plan of Action was finalized and agreed in March 2014.

5. Implementation Mechanism and Funding for the Plan of Action

This Plan of Action is unique in nature, in that it combines regional goals and priorities, with national and local actions and deliverables. Furthermore, it will be implemented jointly by national governments and NGOs, in collaboration with international organizations and MEA Secretariats. In light of this unique arrangement, the

participants at the Bonn meeting agreed to form an International Task Force to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Each of the actions below specifies the bodies responsible for implementation, whether in the form of single or collaborative actions. Help from any participant organization not involved in a specific action will be welcome and appreciated. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will develop an arrangement with BirdLife International and its Partnership to provide coordination to the International Task Force.

A web site will be established as communication platform for the Task Force.

Funding for implementation of the Plan of Action will be provided by members of the International Task Force, as feasible, or will be raised from donor governments and organizations.

6. Action Framework

6.1 Goal and Purpose

Overall Goal

Bird trapping activities along the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt and Libya are legal and sustainable.

Purpose

The current bird trapping practices are well understood and measures are put in place to end illegal and unsustainable practices.

6.2 Objectives

Objective 1: To increase knowledge of the scale, conservation impact, socio-economic and legal aspects of bird trapping.

Objective 2: To ensure that effective legislation and regulations are in place and are properly enforced.

Objective 3: To build capacity of Government institutions, NGOs and local communities to effectively address the bird trapping issue.

Objective 4: To increase awareness locally, nationally and internationally, in order to promote bird conservation.

6.3 Results

Results Related to Objective 1:

Result 1.1 Reliable data on the scale of trapping practices are obtained on a regular basis, then analysed and disseminated accordingly.

Result 1.2 Socio-economic aspects of bird trapping are studied and documented.

Result 1.3 Legal aspects of bird trapping are clarified.

Result 1.4 Potential impact of trapping on bird populations is identified.

Result 1.5 Migration patterns of (selected) trapped species are identified.

Result 1.6 Lessons learned from other initiatives to address bird trapping in the Mediterranean basin and other regions are considered in the implementation process.

Results related to Objective 2:

Result 2.1 Changes in national legislation and regulations are suggested.

Result 2.2 National legislation and regulations are amended or further developed and adopted, as necessary and as suggested under Result 2.1.

Result 2.3 Enforcement mechanisms are developed, resourced and deployed successfully on the ground, as necessary.

Results related to Objective 3:

Result 3.1 The number of trained staff within the relevant governmental institutions and judicial system is significantly increased.

Result 3.2 NGO staff and volunteers, as well as park rangers, are trained to assist with or coordinate monitoring of bird trapping practices.

Result 3.3 Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) and other champions among local communities are identified, have received training and are involved in activities that ensure legal and sustainable bird trapping practices.

Result 3.4 Communication and interaction is ensured between the stakeholders specified above (in Results 3.1 to 3.3).

Results related to Objective 4:

Result 4.1 Local communities, other relevant social groups, relevant institutions and sectors as well as the broader public are informed and receive information on a regular basis.

Result 4.2 High level leadership by political and/or community leaders on the issue is established.

Table 1: Action Framework

Objective	Result	Action	Priority	Time Scale / Deadline	Responsible Institutions
Objective 1: To increase knowledge on the scale, impact, socio-economic and legal aspects of bird trapping	Result 1.1: Reliable data on the scale of trapping practices are obtained on a regular basis, analysed and disseminated accordingly	Action 1.1.1: Establish monitoring methodology and indicators	Essential	Immediate, 1 year	EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB
		Action 1.1.2: Establish and run a monitoring program, including at inland oases	Essential	Immediate, 1 year / Rolling	EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB
		Action 1.1.3: Produce and distribute annual monitoring reports	Essential	Rolling	EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB
	Result 1.2: Socio-economic aspects of bird trapping are studied and documented	Action 1.2.1: Establish socio-economic survey methodology in coordination with the EEAA EGA, BirdLife International, NCE and LSB	Essential	Immediate, 1 year	EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB
		Action 1.2.2: Conduct out periodic socio-economic surveys	Essential	Immediate, 1 year / Rolling (periodically)	EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB
		Action 1.2.3: Produce and distribute survey reports to the relevant stakeholders	Essential	Immediate, 1 year / Rolling	EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB
	Result 1.3: Legal aspects of bird trapping are clarified	Action 1.3.1: Conduct in-depth legal review of existing legislation, international obligations, administrative structures and enforcement	Essential	Immediate, 1 year	EEAA, EGA, NCE
		Action 1.3.2: Distribute the legal review	Essential	Immediate, 1 year	EEAA, EGA, NCE

Objective	Result	Action	Priority	Time Scale / Deadline	Responsible Institutions
	Result 1.4: Potential impact of trapping on bird populations is identified	Action 1.4.1: Identify the "catchment area" of trapped populations (geographic populations identified) by carrying out, amongst others, analysis of EURING data	High	Short, 3 years	EURING, NABU
		Action 1.4.2: Identify importance of the areas of trapping for bird migration (e.g. passage numbers, conditions of birds) by carrying out, amongst others, capture-recapture study	Medium	Medium, 5 years	EURING, scientific body (ies), national stakeholders (scientific community)
		Action 1.4.3: Develop or utilise existing population models for selected trapped species	High	Short, 3 years	NABU, scientific body (ies), national stakeholders (scientific community)
	Result 1.5: Migration patterns of (selected) trapped species are identified	Action 1.5.1: Analyse existing data	High	Short, 3 years	EURING, scientific body (ies), national stakeholders (scientific community)
		Action 1.5.2: Distribute the report	High	Short, 3 years	EURING
	Result 1.6: Lessons learned from other initiatives to address bird trapping in the Mediterranean basin and other regions are considered in the implementation process	Action 1.6.1: Carry out a desk report and produce a report	Essential	Immediate, 1 year	BirdLife, NCE
Objective 2: To ensure that effective legislation and regulations are in place and are properly enforced	Result 2.1: Changes in national legislation and regulations are suggested	Action 2.1.1: Submit proposal for legislative amendments to the appropriate government body on the basis of deliverables under Objective 1 above	Essential	Short, 3 years	EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Objective	Result	Action	Priority	Time Scale / Deadline	Responsible Institutions
	Result 2.2: National legislation and regulations are amended or further developed and adopted, as necessary and as suggested under Result 2.1	Action 2.2.1: Relevant competent government authorities and/or Parliament develop and introduce the amendments and/or new legislation and regulations, as appropriate	Essential	Medium, 5 years	EEAA, EGA
	Result 2.3: Enforcement mechanisms are developed, resourced and deployed successfully on the ground, as necessary	Action 2.3.1: Establish a hunting management department within the EEAA in Egypt	High	Short, 3 years	EEAA
		Action 2.3.2: Establish Environment Enforcement Service and Environment Court in Libya	Essential	Short, 3 years	EGA
		Action 2.3.3: Strengthen and maintain cooperation between EGA and Coast Guards in Libya	Essential	Short, 3 years	EGA
		Action 2.3.4: Undertake immediate enforcement in protected areas in Egypt, where trapping is illegal	Essential	Immediate 1 year / Rolling	EEAA
Objective 3: To build capacity of government institutions, NGOs and local communities to effectively address the bird trapping issue	Result 3.1: The number of trained staff within the relevant government institutions and judicial system is significantly increased	Action 3.1.1: Organise targeted training workshops	Essential	Rolling	EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB
		Action 3.1.2: Strengthen and maintain cooperation of EEAA with Environment Police, Coast Guards and local governorates (regional administrations) in Egypt	Essential	Short, 3 years / Rolling	EEAA

Objective	Result	Action	Priority	Time Scale / Deadline	Responsible Institutions
		Action 3.1.3: Carry out international exchange and twinning	High	Rolling	EEAA, EGA, international partners
		Action 3.1.4: Make accessible all available training materials or produce new materials, as necessary	High	Short, 3 years	EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB
	Result 3.2: NGO staff and volunteers as well as park rangers are trained to assist with or coordinate monitoring of bird trapping practices	Action 3.2.1: Organise training workshop on data gathering methodology as described under Result 1.1	Essential	Immediate, 1 year	EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB
		Action 3.2.2: Organise training workshops on survey methodology as described under Result 1.2	Essential	Immediate, 1 year	EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB
	Result 3.3: Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) and other champions among local communities are identified, have received training and are involved in activities ensuring sustainable and legal bird trapping practices	Action 3.3.1: Identify LCGs and other possible champions and hold regular meetings	High	Short, 3years / Rolling	EEAA, EGA , NCE, LSB
		Action 3.3.2: Organise training workshop on bird ID, monitoring and awareness raising	High	Short, 3years Rolling	EEAA, EGA , NCE, LSB
	Result 3.4: Communication and interaction is ensured between the stakeholders specified above (in Results 3.1 to 3.3).	Action 3.4.1: Organise periodic meetings of the involved stakeholders	High	Rolling	EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB
		Action 3.4.2: Establish other communication means based on the results of the conclusions of the socio-economic study under Result 1.2	High	Short, 3 years	EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Objective	Result	Action	Priority	Time Scale / Deadline	Responsible Institutions
Objective 4: To increase awareness locally, nationally and internationally, in order to promote bird conservation	Result 4.1: Local communities, other relevant society groups, relevant institutions and sectors as well as the broader public are informed and receive information on a regular basis	Action 4.1.1: Identify target groups, produce and implement a target-group-oriented awareness and communication programme including on the basis of the conclusions of the socio-economic study under Result 1.2	High	Short, 3 years	EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB
		Action 4.1.2: Develop and implement an education and awareness programme for pupils	High	Short, 3 years	EEAA, NCE, BirdLife
		Action 4.1.3: Coordinate media work amongst all stakeholders on major international outreach activities	Essential	Rolling	MEA Secretariats and UNEP, EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB
	Result 4.2: High level leadership by political and/or community leaders on the issue is established.	Action 4.2.1: Ensure support from respected political and community leaders	Essential	Short, 3 years	EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

7. Detailed Description of the Agreed Actions

Result 1.1
Reliable data on the scale of trapping practices are obtained on a regular basis, then analysed and disseminated accordingly.

Action 1.1.1
Establish monitoring methodology and indicators
Standardized monitoring methods and data gathering techniques are to be developed, tested and agreed upon by a specialized team including the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), in coordination the Environmental General Authority (EGA), Libya, with the BirdLife International Secretariat, Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE) and the Libyan Society for Birds (LSB).

Deliverable 1.1.1
An agreed set of standardized monitoring methods and data gathering techniques is to be applied and evaluated in Egypt and Libya, in order to achieve reliable data on the scale of bird trapping.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB

Action 1.1.2
Establish and run a monitoring program, including at inland oases
Using the standardized methods and techniques developed under Action 1.1.1, monitoring programmes will be established and maintained by EEAA and NCE in Egypt and EGA and LSB in Libya. The monitoring has to be implemented annually at least throughout the autumn season using the same methods.

At least during the first year, it also has to be applied during the spring migration season to assess the scale of bird trapping in spring. Depending on the level of bird trapping identified for spring, a decision will have to be taken, whether annual monitoring of spring trapping is also required.

Deliverable 1.1.2
Reliable data will be produced on the scale of illegal and unsustainable trapping, allowing for determining conservation for proper local decision-making to take place.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year / rolling
Responsible institution: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Action 1.1.3
Produce and distribute annual monitoring reports
Reports are to be produced annually from the data acquired via Action 1.1.2, then distributed regularly amongst local stakeholders and international partners.

Deliverable 1.1.3
Readily available monitoring data will be accessible on an annual basis, so that better informed decisions can be taken regarding the progress of implementation of the PoA.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: rolling
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Result 1.2
Socio-economic aspects of bird trapping are studied and documented.

Action 1.2.1

Establish socio-economic survey methodology

A socio-economic survey protocol will be designed by a specialised socio-economist in coordination with the EEAA EGA, BirdLife International, NCE and LSB.

Deliverable 1.2.1

The methodology developed under this action will allow for producing credible and comprehensive data on the socio-economic motives behind illegal and unsustainable bird killing and trapping along Egypt's and Libya's Mediterranean coasts. This data will guide the future steps of the PoA.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, Birdlife, NCE, LSB

Action 1.2.2

Conduct periodic socio-economic surveys.

Using the standardised surveying methodology developed under Action 1.2.1, socio-economic surveys will be periodically conducted along the Egyptian and Libyan Mediterranean coasts.

This survey aims to provide credible and comprehensive data on the different socio-economic factors behind illegal bird killing and trapping practices. Data produced will reflect the following: how to sustainably manage hunting in coordination with local communities; segmentation of hunters/trappers; potential leaders for sustainable hunting and/or conservation; crucial market research to indicate the supply and demand of trapped birds; potential alternatives to bird trapping; guidance for potential communication and awareness strategies.

The survey will be conducted periodically to assess potential changes in the socio-economics of bird trapping and hunting. The first survey should be implemented as soon as possible. The periodicity does not need to be annual. It is recommended to repeat the survey every five years or when significant changes in the socio-economic circumstances of bird killing and trapping can be expected.

Deliverable 1.2.2

Reliable data will be available on the socio-economic circumstances of bird trapping and killing, in order to allow for the determination of the most effective preventative actions and their possible impact on the society.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year / rolling (periodically)
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Action 1.2.3

Produce and distribute survey reports to the relevant stakeholders

Reports are to be produced periodically from the data acquired via Action 1.2.2, then distributed regularly amongst local stakeholders and international partners.

Deliverable 1.2.3

Readily available monitoring data will be accessible periodically, to enable informed decisions regarding the progress of the programme.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year, rolling
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Result 1.3
Legal aspects of bird trapping are clarified.

Action 1.3.1
Conduct in-depth legal review of existing legislation, international obligations, administrative structures and enforcement
A team of legal experts will identify current gaps in knowledge regarding Egypt's and Libya's laws and regulations, obligations under international conventions, and local administrative bodies.

The study will also identify any contradictions between international obligations and national regulations, as well as identify any shortcomings in the enforcement of current regulations on bird hunting and trapping.

Ambiguity regarding the region's hunting laws and regulations are commonplace and may involve contradiction between existing national laws, lack of awareness of laws, inadequacy of national legislation as well as misalignment between national and international legal requirements. This in-depth legal study of existent legislations and administrative structures as well as their enforcement will set the foundations for instating clear and concise legislations.

Deliverable 1.3.1
An in-depth legal review will be available as a basis for recommendations to improve these regulations and their enforcement.

Priority: Essential Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Action 1.3.2
Distribute the legal review
The legal review produced under Action 1.3.1 is to be distributed among local stakeholders and international partners.

Deliverable 1.3.2
The information provided by the legal review will guide future priorities and needs to achieve the objectives of this PoA.

Priority: Essential Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE

Result 1.4
Potential impact of trapping on bird populations is identified.

Action 1.4.1
Identify the "catchment area" of trapped populations (geographic populations identified) by carrying out, amongst others, analysis of EURING data
In order to determine the effect the bird killing has on the overall populations of certain species, it is not sufficient to obtain data about the amount and species-distribution of the birds affected (see Result 1.1.).

These data have to be considered in relation to the affected populations. Generally, good data are available about the size of European breeding populations. However, only the part of these actually migrating through Egypt and Libya will be impacted by bird trapping in these countries.

The aim of this action is therefore to determine the areas of origin of the birds migrating through Egypt and Libya for each individual species affected (as determined in Result 1.1.).

This needs to be done through an analysis of existing ringing data (especially those registered in the EURING Data Bank), published bird migration atlases based on the same ringing data and to, a lesser extent, based on satellite-tracking data of migratory birds.

Based on the area of origin, it is possible to quantify the size of the populations affected and to review their specific population trends.

Deliverable 1.4.1
Report on the area of origin and the size and trend of the populations migrating through Egypt and Libya separately for each species affected by bird hunting and trapping in the region.

Priority: High Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years Responsible intuitions: EURING, NABU

Action 1.4.2
Identify the importance of the areas of trapping for bird migration (e.g. passage numbers, conditions of birds) by carrying out, amongst others, capture-recapture study.

It is important to get as detailed information as possible on the overall size of the populations of migrants staging along the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt and Libya. In order to do so, information on stopover duration is a key factor. Monitoring protocols based on standardized mist-netting, ringing and local rate of recapture of marked birds will allow estimating stopover duration. These data will be matched with visual counts of staging migrants along standardized transects.

Such monitoring activities will also offer insights on the reasons why birds are staging along the Mediterranean coastal sites affected by illegal trapping; this will be provided by data on physical conditions of staging migrants, at the same time improving our understanding of the conservation value of such areas.

Deliverable 1.4.2
Enhanced analysis depicting the migration patterns of birds vis-à-vis Mediterranean coast trapping. Improved understanding of overall population size of staging migrants and adaptive reasons, governing the birds' decision to stopover along the coastal areas affected by illegal trapping.

Priority: Medium Time scale/deadline: Medium, 5 years Responsible institutions: EURING, scientific body(ies), national stakeholders (scientific community)

Action 1.4.3
Develop or utilise existing population models for selected trapped species
The aim of this action is to determine the effect the bird killing in the region has on the population of the trapped species by using the numbers of trapped birds from the monitoring results (from Action 1.1.2), the data on the populations affected established within Action 1.4.1, and feeding these into population models of each species that consider natural mortality and breeding productivity rates as well as other mortality factors.

Through this exercise, it will be possible to identify species, for which the bird trapping in the region is of particular concern, causing or enhancing negative population trends.

This information will help to understand population trends in the areas of origin, but will also inform awareness work on the topic and help developing suitable solutions for the problem.

Deliverable 1.4.3
Report on the impact of bird hunting and trapping in the region on the population trends of every species affected in the breeding areas of origin.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: NABU, scientific body(ies), national stakeholders (scientific community)

Result 1.5
Migration patterns of (selected) trapped species are determined.

Action 1.5.1
Analyse existing data
Existing data on migratory species produced by EURING, as well as other members of the international ornithological community will be analysed. These analyses will provide a better understanding on the seasonality of passage of single selected species, as a contribution to the assessment of the impact caused by the illegal trapping. Given the frequency of patterns of differential migration of sex- and age-classes, these analyses will also improve our assessment of the impact of illegal killing on the demography of the most frequently caught migrants.

Deliverable 1.5.1
Increased knowledge and precision of knowledge on the migration seasonality and routes of the affected species.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EURING, scientific body(ies), national stakeholders (scientific community)

Action 1.5.2
Distribute the report
Reports are to be produced from the data acquired via Result 1.4 and Result 1.5, then distributed regularly amongst local stakeholders and international partners.

Deliverable 1.5.2
Data will be available to all stakeholders to assist in the implementation of the PoA.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EURING, BirdLife, scientific body(ies), national stakeholders

Result 1.6
Lessons learned from other initiatives to address bird trapping in the Mediterranean basin and other regions are considered in the implementation process.

Action 1.6.1
Compile a desk report and provide it to the Task Force
Similar cases from other regions will be provided to acquire the knowledge of the success and failure cases.

Deliverable 1.6.1
Being aware of the success and failure case studies to adjust the PoA as needed.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year
Responsible intuitions: BirdLife, NCE

Result 2.1
Changes in national legislation and regulations are suggested.

Action 2.1.1

Submit proposal for legislative amendments to the appropriate governmental bodies on the basis of the deliverables under Objective 1

In light of the legal review (Deliverable 1.3.1), and in coordination with the outcomes of the socio-economic surveys and other conducted research, the national implementing partners shall submit proposals for legislative amendments, to ensure a solid legal foundation to end unsustainable killing and trapping practices and their enforcement.

Deliverable 2.1.1

The proposals for legislative amendments shall set the foundations for future hunting legislation and management systems adopted by the competent legislative and/or executive authorities in each country.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Result 2.2
National legislation and regulations are amended or further developed and adopted, as necessary and as suggested under Result 2.1.

Action 2.2.1

Relevant competent government authorities and/or Parliament develop and introduce the amendments and/or new legislation and regulations, as appropriate

Competent legislative and/or executive authorities are to develop and introduce the amendments and/or new legislation and regulations as appropriate. This process is to be guided by the governmental partners in Egypt and Libya.

Deliverable 2.2.1

A hunting management law should set the legal foundations for managing hunting practices in Egypt and Libya, and putting an end to unsustainable hunting.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Medium, 5 years
Responsible Institutions: EEAA, EGA

Result 2.3
Enforcement mechanisms are developed, resourced and deployed successfully on the ground, as necessary.

Action 2.3.1

Establish a hunting management department within the EEAA in Egypt

For hunting to be officially addressed by the Egyptian Government, the first step is to establish a competent body specialised in all issues pertaining to the hunting of wildlife, specifically management and mitigation, which builds its approaches on a solid scientific basis.

Deliverable 2.3.1

Hunting management department set up with EEAA in Egypt. This department should assist in establishing legislation and implementation of hunting laws and regulations. Furthermore, the existence of a governmental department specialising in hunting should provide a solid foundation for the implementation of said laws and regulations.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EEAA

Action 2.3.2
Establish Environment Enforcement Service and Environment Court in Libya
In consultation with international partners, the Libyan implementing partners will prepare for establishing an Environment Enforcement Service and an Environment Court.

Deliverable 2.3.2
The environment enforcement and environmental court we will have the influence to enforce and update the environmental legislations. The environmental cases will be raised in front of a specialized court where the judges are familiar with environmental issues.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EGA

Action 2.3.3
Strengthen and maintain cooperation between EGA and Coast Guards in Libya
Due to the current difficulties in bridging conservation efforts of the EGA and the Libyan Coast Guards, support should be provided to strengthening and maintaining cooperation between the two entities, to ensure that the technical expertise is merged with the law enforcement mechanisms available in Libya.

Deliverable 2.3.3
Collaboration and coordinated actions between EGA and other Libyan governmental bodies, to ensure a collaborative approach to bird conservation. Increased capacity of staff of coast guard agency in the field of environment protection and conservation.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EGA

Action 2.3.4
Undertake immediate enforcement in protected areas in Egypt, where trapping is illegal
Coordination action between the EEAA and local authorities, including coast guards and police, to ensure that mist nets are confiscated if they are found within protected areas.

Deliverable 2.3.4
Protected areas are a safe pass for the migrants and give the upper hand to the responsible authorities to implement the law where it is well known that hunting is illegal.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year / Rolling
Responsible institution: EEAA

Result 3.1
The number of trained staff within the relevant governmental institutions and judicial system is significantly increased.

Action 3.1.1
Organise targeted training workshops
Workshops for judges, law enforcement staff, and park rangers will be carried out in Egypt and Libya to ensure that the bird trapping issue is effectively addressed.

Deliverable 3.1.1
The knowledge about bird trapping, its sequences and how to deal with it is well known to the governmental staff.

Priority: Essential Time scale/deadline: Rolling Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB, BirdLife

Action 3.1.2
Strengthen and maintain cooperation of EEAA with Environment Police, Coast Guards and local governorates (regional administrations) in Egypt
Designated security personnel, responsible for the implementation of hunting/trapping regulations in Egypt, shall undergo training and shall receive the required awareness materials and activities, to ensure the better implementation of existent and potential laws and regulations.

Deliverable 3.1.2
Through an increase in awareness of law enforcement personnel, chances for minimizing unsustainable hunting practices may be significantly magnified. Such trainings can raise the awareness of designated security personnel, but may also target the awareness of law enforcement officials in both the Ministry of Interior, as well as the Egyptian Coast Guard.

Priority: Essential Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years / rolling Responsible institutions: EEAA

Action 3.1.3
Carry out international exchange and twinning
Governmental staff will visit other protected areas within the Mediterranean basin with similar hunting issues to acquire knowledge on how these areas deal with hunting.

Deliverable 3.1.3
Local representatives can acquire the practical knowledge on how these areas are managed and how areas hunting matters are dealt with.

Priority: High Time scale/deadline: Rolling Responsible institutions: International partners, EEAA, EGA

Action 3.1.4
Make accessible all available training materials or produce new materials, as necessary
Soft and hard copies of the scientific, legal and operational material will be made available to governmental staff and the volunteers.

Deliverable 3.1.4
Increasing the knowledge of the involved governmental stakeholders will effectively address the bird trapping issue.

Priority: High Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB

Result 3.2
NGO staff and volunteers as well as park rangers are trained to assist with or coordinate monitoring of bird trapping practices.

Action 3.2.1

Organise training workshop on data gathering methodology as described under Result 1.1

Training workshops will be organised to explain the standardised methodology to be implemented on the Egyptian and Libyan Mediterranean coasts.

Deliverable 3.2.1

Well-trained teams of field observers have acquired necessary skills in standardized data gathering techniques. Field observer teams will be informed theoretically about the standardised method that will be used along the whole cost, in preparation for the pilot study in spring 2014 and the main survey/count in autumn 2014.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB, EURING

Action 3.2.2

Organise training workshops on survey methodology as described under Result 1.2

A training workshop will be implemented to explain the socio-economic survey techniques to be implemented on the Egyptian and Libyan Mediterranean coasts.

Deliverable 3.2.2

Well-trained team of surveyors have acquired necessary skills in standardized data gathering techniques; survey teams will be informed theoretically about the standardised method that will be used along the whole coast, in preparation for the pilot study in spring 2014 and the main survey in autumn 2014.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Immediate, 1 year
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB

Result 3.3
Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) and other champions among local communities received training and are involved in activities ensuring sustainable and legal bird trapping practices.

Action 3.3.1

Identify LCGs and other possible champions and hold regular meetings

LCGs will be identified through the survey (Action 1.2.2) and regular meetings will be held.

Deliverable 3.3.1

Local NGOs and key persons feel affiliated to the conservation bodies and the PoA.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years / rolling
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Action 3.3.2

Organise training workshop on bird ID, monitoring and awareness raising

A training workshop will be tailored to each LCG to improve their knowledge about bird identification and conservation.

Deliverable 3.3.2

Local conservation groups act as a conservation body.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years / rolling
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Result 3.4
Communication and interaction is ensured between the stakeholders specified above (in Results 3.1 to 3.3).

Action 3.4.1
Organise periodic meetings of the involved stakeholders
Periodic meetings will be carried out through Egypt and Libya among the involved stakeholders to update the knowledge among them.

Deliverable 3.4.1
Sharing knowledge and success stories among different stakeholders.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Rolling
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Action 3.4.2
Establish other communication means based on the results of the conclusions of the socio-economic study under Result 1.2
To understand through the socio-economic study the communication channels that are the most effective means of communicating with local communities.

Deliverable 3.4.2
An awareness-raising campaign through the effective communication channels could influence addressing the bird trapping issue.

Selecting community members to represent the local community and to coordinate with the national stakeholders to assure that the local community and the stakeholders are in contact

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

Result 4.1
Local communities, other relevant society groups, relevant institutions and sectors as well as the broader public are informed and receive information on a regular basis.

Action 4.1.1
Identify target groups, produce and implement a target-group-oriented awareness and communication programme including on the basis of the conclusions of the socio-economic study under Result 1.2
Implement segment-oriented awareness activities with a wide reach for high impact on the hunting community.

Deliverable 4.1.1
Increased awareness of illegal and unsustainable bird trapping and killing; reduced illegal and unsustainable activities.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB

Action 4.1.2

Develop and implement an education and awareness programme for pupils

School curricula will be produced based on a separate study conducted to analyse the current status of local curricula, which will be done in parallel with Action 4.1.1. All produced materials would be reviewed and amended before finalization so that they comply with the results of the socio-economic study under Result 1.2.

Deliverable 4.1.2

Increased knowledge and awareness amongst the young generation with regard to bird conservation, in particular related to the issue of illegal and unsustainable bird killing.

Priority: High
Time scale/deadlines: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EEAA, NCE, BirdLife

Action 4.1.3

Coordinate media work amongst all stakeholders on major international outreach activities.

Media work and major outreach activities by the International Task Force or its individual members on the topic of bird hunting and trapping will be carried out in a coordinated manner.

Deliverable 4.1.3

Coordinated outreach activities (press releases, web announcements, media events etc.) amongst the International Task Force members on the topic of bird hunting and trapping. Outreach activities will aim to support the implementation of the PoA as well as fundraising efforts to support activities identified in the PoA.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Rolling
Responsible institutions: MEA Secretariats and UNEP, EEAA, EGA, BirdLife, NCE, LSB

Result 4.2
High level leadership by political and/or community leaders on the issue is established.

Action 4.2.1

Ensure support from respected political and community leaders

Changing community behaviour will be facilitated by public support for the objectives of the plan by respected political and/or community leaders.

Deliverable 4.2.1

A change in behaviour by those undertaking trapping.

Priority: Essential
Time scale/deadline: Short, 3 years
Responsible institutions: EEAA, EGA, NCE, LSB

For more information please visit:
www.illegalbirdkilling.aewa.info