



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



1st Meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean

Cairo, Egypt, 12 – 15 July 2016

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***Modus operandi* of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean**

Prepared by the Secretariat

Version adopted is added as Annex 1

Annex 1.

***Modus operandi* of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean**

The Task Force will operate in accordance with this *modus operandi*, as established on the basis of the Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Task Force to address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force (MIKT)), contained in Resolution 11.16.

Background

The Task Force was established in line with the mandate provided by Resolution 11.16 adopted at COP 11 in Quito (Ecuador) entitled “The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds” to assist the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its associated instruments, relevant MEAs and Conventions to fulfil their obligations to protect migratory birds from illegal killing, taking and trade in the Mediterranean region.

Goal

To ensure that no illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds take place in the Mediterranean region.

Role

The role of the Task Force is to facilitate, catalyze, support and monitor concerted efforts and procedures to combat illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean region. It will facilitate the implementation of the existing guidelines and action plans in particular the Bern Convention’s Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds, and consider whether any new guidelines, action plans or other recommendations to respond to specific problems are necessary.

Scope

The Task Force will be regional covering all coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Task Force will cover all migratory bird taxa as identified by CMS and its relevant associated instruments, which regularly occur in the Mediterranean region.

Remit

The Task Force will:

1. Promote and facilitate implementation of relevant decisions and plans adopted in the framework of MEAs or other frameworks;
2. Set priorities and targets for its actions and implement them;
3. Assist in resource mobilization for priority actions;
4. Monitor the implementation of the relevant decisions and plans and their effectiveness and submit progress reports to the governing bodies of the participating MEAs;
5. Stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how; and
6. Strengthen regional and international networks

Membership

The Task Force membership comprises nominated representatives of the European Union and relevant government institutions in the field of environment, game management, law enforcement and judiciary in the Parties to the participating MEAs in the Mediterranean Region.

It also involves observers from the Secretariats of the participating MEAs, as well as academic institutions, the hunting community, NGOs and other stakeholders, as appropriate, including:

- Representatives of Parties elsewhere in the African-Eurasian Flyway and beyond that wish to support the work of the Task Force;
- Representatives of the CMS Scientific Council, AEWA Technical Committee, Raptors MoU Technical Advisory Group and the Bern Convention Expert Group on Birds;
- Representatives of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group, African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Working Group and Flyways Working Group; and
- Independent experts on migratory bird ecology and policy, the different kinds of illegal bird killing, taking and trade and their prevention.

Governance

The Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members.

The Task Force shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the issue will be subject to the Rules of Procedure of the CMS Conference of the Parties as adopted by the CMS Parties at their Eleventh Meeting (Quito, November 2014) (See document UNEP/CMS/MIKT1/Inf.1)

Operation

The work of the Task Force is primarily based on the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, adopted under the framework of the Bern Convention in 2013. Its focus on enforcement will be supplemented with other activities such as promoting research, data gathering, stakeholder engagement, public awareness raising and education.

The Task Force will operationalize the Tunis Action Plan as much as possible and push for its implementation on the ground within its geographic scope as well as beyond to cover the entire Mediterranean coast. The CMS Secretariat will work in close cooperation with the Bern Convention Secretariat to ensure maximum efficiency.

At its first meeting, the Task Force will adopt a work-plan for the period 2016-2020 on the basis of the Tunis Action Plan and other documents.

A communication platform will be established to facilitate the work of the Task Force.

The Coordinator of the Task Force performs the following tasks:

- Organize the meetings of the Task Force and prepare the background documents;
- Maintain and moderate the Task Force communication platform (website and intranet);
- Use the social media to promote awareness of the Task Force and draft popular articles for the CMS web, and Op-Eds
- Facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization;
- Facilitate the implementation of decisions of the Task Force, as necessary
- Facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force;

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary, funding permitting.

Secretarial support to the meetings will be provided by the CMS Secretariat, including the preparation of the meeting schedule and logistical arrangements, agenda and supporting documents circulation, recording of action and minutes.

Between meetings business will be conducted electronically through an online workspace (intranet) within the Task Force's website which will provide the primary mode of communication. At each meeting, a rapporteur will be appointed with their main responsibility of drafting the report of the meeting. The minutes and presentations of the Task Force meetings will be published on the Task Force website to ensure transparency.

Consultative Group

In order to share views and provide advice on the different decisions to be taken, an informal Consultative Group has been set up involving the following organizations:

- EU Commission;
- Bern Convention Secretariat;
- AEWAS Secretariat;
- Raptors MOU Secretariat;
- Chair of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan;
- Chair of the CMS Scientific Council;
- BirdLife International;
- European Hunters Federation (FACE)

This is not an exhaustive list but an open one and could be extended to include any other interested members or observers of the Task Force.

The Consultative Group will be convened by the CMS Secretariat and will work mainly through electronic means, teleconferences or Skype calls. Summary notes of each meeting will be prepared.