

Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)



Consultative Group Meeting

10 April 2024, 11.00-12.20hrs (CET), online via ZOOM

Meeting notes

Participants:

Consultative Group Members:

- European Commission: Iva Obretenova (IO; DG Environment)
- Bern Convention: Marta Medlinska (MM; Bern Convention Secretariat),
- AEWAs: Sergey Dereliev (SD; AEWAs Secretariat)
- African Eurasian Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP): Olivier Biber (OB; Chair), Elizabeth Yohannes (EY; Coordinating Unit)
- BirdLife International: Jessica Williams (JW; BirdLife International), Nicola Crockford (NC; BirdLife International) Lilla Barabas (LB; BirdLife Europe)
- FACE: Cy Griffin (CG)

MIKT members

- Croatia: Maja Polić (MP; State Inspectorate)
- Greece: Anastasia Stergiou (AS; Ministry of Environment Energy)
- Israel: Ben Rosenberg (BR; Israel Nature and Parks Authority)
- Malta: Jessica Fenech (JF; Wild Birds Regulation Unit, Malta)
- Montenegro: Anela Sijaric (AS; Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Development)
- Morocco: Latifa Sikli (LS; Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (ANEF))
- Spain: Rubén Moreno-Opo (RMO; Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), Spain)

MIKT Observers

Country Observers

Türkiye: Cengiz Öğünç (CO; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)

IGOs-NGOs-Expert Observers

- EuroNatur: Justine Vansynghel (JV), Stefan Fergler (SF)
- SEO/BirdLife: David de la Bodega (DB)
- CMS Secretariat: Iván Ramírez (IR; Head of Avian Team, CMS Secretariat); Claire Papazoglou (CP; MIKT Coordinator), Tilman Schneider (TS; Associate Programme Officer; CMS Secretariat).
- ITTEA: Mark Carey (MC; Australia)



The European Union was recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018 - 2028.



1. Opening of the Meeting and Introduction

Ivan Ramirez opened the meeting welcoming all participants and wishing muslim colleagues Happy Eid al_Fitr.

He announced that the issue of illegal taking of birds has received an added importance and emphasis in the recent CMS COP14, and he announced that CMS was delighted to have received funding from the European Commission that will support the work of MIKT and the coordination of MIKT until 2028. He introduced the objective of the meeting which was to discuss the agenda of the upcoming Joint Meeting of Bern Convention and MIKT in October in Türkiye in the autumn.

2. Update on CMS COP14 outcomes and relevance to MIKT

IR then presented the main outcomes from COP14, mentioning in particular the 1st report on the [Status of Migratory Species](#) and the worrying conclusions about the status of those species. He also presented the new Strategic Plan for CMS for the period 2024-2032. He also mentioned the recently approved ISSAPs (Christmas Island Frigatebird, Great Bustard, Yellow Breasted Bunting) and he highlighted the study of Stephen Garnett on the disaggregation of bird families listed under CMS; the new initiative for CAF and the new approach for Flyways work, mentioning there had been a meeting of the Flyways WG just the day before.

He then handed over to Claire Papazoglou, who outlined the amendments adopted to [Resolution 11.16 \(rev.COP14\) on the Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#) in COP14 and the accompanying relevant decisions directed to Parties, CMS Governing Bodies, Non-Parties and stakeholders. She also mentioned the decisions adopted in the context of Vulture Multispecies Action Plan (MsAP) and for the Saker Falcon.

3. Update on next Joint MIKT and Bern Convention SFP meeting, MIKT Achievements since last meeting, and Rome Strategic Plan targets and milestones

CP presented plans and dates foreseen for the next Joint Meeting, and the approach to give it a shorter name than before, i.e. name it *Joint Meeting of Bern Convention and MIKT*, rather than *Joint Meeting of Bern Convention Special Focal Points and CMS MIKT on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds*. CP then continued by outlining briefly the CMS accomplishments since the last Joint meeting of MIKT and the Bern Convention in Valencia in June 2022. She focused in particular on the Scoreboard exercise which was run in 2023 and the conclusions from this exercise.

She also announced that the European Commission had recently published a new guide titled "[A review of good practices on prevention](#)". The guide had previously been discussed at the MIKT meeting in Valencia in 2022, and several MIKT members provided contributions.

She also outlined the different targets and milestones from the Rome Strategic Plan that are approaching and proposed some items for the agenda of the Joint Meeting for discussion.

In particular she proposed:

The issue of **IKB Monitoring** and in particular she proposed to invite presentations on how technological advances can aid IKB Monitoring. She also mentioned that the survey on motivations (IKB Drivers) which is foreseen in the Rome Strategic Plan, would have to be carried out either in 2024 or early 2025 and could be discussed at the meeting.

On **Enforcement and Judicial training**, she proposed plans to invite representatives from other bodies dealing with wildlife crime, such as Europol, or ENPE (The European Network for Prosecutors for the Environment; EUFJE) or the EU network of Judges for the Environment to stimulate synergies, discuss cooperation and joint activities.

On the issue of **Prevention**, she explained that awareness raising activities were targeted through the relevant objective and it was an important issue to highlight further at the meeting.

Furthermore, she also mentioned fundraising as a possible item to discuss at the Joint Meeting.

She also added that the results of the 2023 Scoreboard exercise will be highlighted at the Joint meeting, and that it is expected that an updated analysis report with more countries included will be presented.

She mentioned that at the Joint Meeting the members will have to agree on the date of the next in-person meeting, by weighing the pros and cons of having the meeting in 2026 or 2027.

Finally, she mentioned that the mid-term of the Rome Strategic Plan was approaching, and MIKT would have to adopt a new workplan as the current plan was running out in 2025, and that the members would have to consider how they would want to assess the progress towards the Overall Goal at the mid-point.

4. Discussion and brainstorm on Rome Strategic Plan milestones and important issues for agenda of Joint meeting

Iva Obretenova, proposed a session on the threat to the European Turtle Dove, especially in the Eastern Flyway. She explained that the European Commission had made good progress with the Turtle Dove in the Western Flyway but challenges remain in the Eastern one and IKB is one of them.

Stefan Ferger, mentioned a BirdLife best practice guide for monitoring illegal killing and taking of birds, for supporting Monitoring IKB and said that the guide had been updated recently. The 3rd edition of the guide is available for [download](#). He also agreed that organising a presentation or breakout on technological advances in monitoring IKB would be very interesting for participants. He also wondered how the Consultative Group could support the preparations of the agenda ahead of the meeting with concrete inputs to specific agenda items.

CP also explained that after the in-person Joint Meeting in 2024, and there will be an online Joint Meeting in 2025, which could be thematic, so if participants felt that there was a particular issue that would warrant a whole meeting, that could be left to the 2025 Joint Meeting.

She invited all participants and members, to send ideas by the end of April, and offer their availability to support Secretariat leading up to the Joint Meeting in the preparation of the agenda and breakout groups.

Ruben Moreno-Opo raised the importance to include enforcement bodies and also involve bodies of the judiciary level more, and added that the upcoming meeting could be an opportunity to raise this again and strengthen involvement. He agreed that having participants from Europol, ENPE or EUFJE would be good especially for the Enforcement and Justice objectives of the Rome Strategic Plan which are the objectives receiving the lowest scores in the Scoreboard.

5. Update on Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds, Marta Medlinska, Bern Convention

Marta Medlinska, new colleague at Bern Convention, mentioned that the Council of Europe was celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2024 and had a new logo. She announced that the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds, would take place immediately after the Joint Meeting in autumn. She presented the conclusions of the previous meeting in 2022, and announced that the meeting in 2024 would follow up from the conclusions of 2022.

6. Questions and discussion

CP emphasized the invitation to all to send ideas and proposals for the agenda by the end of April 2024, so that a smaller group of participants could work together through May and June to finalise the agenda, before another meeting of the Consultative Group in June/July 2024.

Jess Williams emphasized the need to stress the importance of having Baseline values for all countries and asked if something could be done up to autumn in order for countries to prepare their baselines.

Next steps:

- All to send send ideas and proposals for the agenda by the end of April 2024 and to offer support for preparation of agenda
- CMS and Bern Convention Secretariats to work with smaller group of participants through May and June to develop the agenda
- Consultative Group to meet again in June/July 2024 to finalise agenda.

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Consultative Group Meeting

Wednesday, 10 April 2024, 11am – 12.30hrs CET,

Online via Zoom

<https://un-org-unep.zoom.us/j/99302228815>

FINAL AGENDA

(as of 9 April 2024)

All times are Central European Time

Time		
11.00-11.05	1.	Opening of the Meeting and Introduction
11.05-11.15	2.	Update on CMS COP14 outcomes and relevance to MIKT
11.15-11.25	3.	Update on next Joint MIKT and Bern Convention SFP meeting, MIKT Achievements since last meeting, and Rome Strategic Plan targets and milestones
11.25-11.50	4.	Discussion and brainstorm on Rome Strategic Plan milestones and important issues for agenda of Joint meeting
11.50-12.00	5.	Update on Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds, Bern Convention
12.00-12.20	6.	Questions and discussion
12.20-12.30	7.	AOB



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