



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



CAIRO DECLARATION ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

We, the members¹ of the Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean, who met for our first meeting in Cairo, Egypt from 12-15 July 2016 with observers from interested non-Mediterranean Parties², non-Parties to CMS³, MEA Secretariats and international organizations and networks⁴, advisory bodies⁵ and Non-Governmental Organizations⁶,

Aware that illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean Region is contributing to alarming population declines of a number of species that are listed on the CMS Appendices;

Recalling Resolution 11.16 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of CMS, which urged Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, to engage in immediate cooperation through the establishment of an Intergovernmental Task Force to address IKB in the Mediterranean;

Acknowledging the clear regional patterns which define this problem as a serious pan-Mediterranean issue causing a devastating impact on biodiversity;

Mindful of the existing guidelines and action plans to tackle IKB, in particular the Tunis Action Plan under the Bern Convention, the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking and the EU Roadmap towards eliminating IKB;

Conscious of the socio-economic dimensions of IKB and the need to understand the social, economic and cultural drivers by local communities, especially those that depend on bird hunting during the migration seasons for part of their livelihoods;

¹ Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, European Union, France, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia

² Germany

³ Lebanon

⁴ CITES Secretariat, Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit, UNEP, ENPE and IUCN

⁵ AEWA Technical Committee, Raptors MOU Technical Advisory Group, Landbirds Working Group, Flyways Working Group and Tour du Valat Biological Station

⁶ BirdLife International, Committee against Bird Slaughter (CABS), Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the European Union (FACE), Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU – BirdLife Germany) and IAF

Recognize the need for immediate actions at national level to address IKB, including training and capacity-building of law enforcement bodies as well as education and awareness-raising of civil society and specific target groups;

Further recognize that it is necessary to improve legislation to ensure that legal deterrents against crime are adequate, to enforce existing legislation through the deployment of more and better trained personnel in the field to prevent IKB and allow for the effective prosecution of offenders;

Acknowledge that targeted research should be undertaken on the social, cultural, economic and biological aspects of IKB, including species affected, key areas as well as legal and illegal national and international trade and remedial measures;

Commit to adopt a zero tolerance approach to any deliberate IKB which contravenes national law and the commitments under international conventions and MEAs;

Further commit to implement the Task Force's agreed Programme of Work (POW) in a coordinated and collaborative manner with all stakeholders as part of our determination to bring to an end the IKB;

Agree to monitor and evaluate regularly the impact of the measures taken to implement the POW in order to assess what has worked well, to identify and address any gaps and challenges, including to submit national data regularly to the scorecard starting in 2017;

Strongly recommend to follow a collaborative approach when addressing IKB, involving the key stakeholders, government representatives, trappers, local communities, hunting associations, scientists and NGOs;

Request the members of the Task Force not present in this meeting to subscribe to this Declaration and take action in their jurisdictions according to the POW;

Urge multilateral and bilateral donors as well as Mediterranean countries to support financially the operations and activities of the Task Force agreed in this meeting to address IKB in the Mediterranean, and allow for a swift implementation of the POW;

Extend our warm thanks to the Government of Egypt for its hospitality in hosting this meeting and to the European Commission for generously sponsoring this activity through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.