



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

UNEP/CMS/MIKT1/Doc.4
1 June 2016

Draft Programme of Work (POW) of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean 2016-2020

Prepared by the Secretariat

One of the main objectives of the 1st meeting of MIKT is to develop a Programme of Work for the Task Force for the period 2016-2020, identifying clear priorities and actors and, where possible, providing cost estimates and timelines for the activities proposed.

Based on the above, the Secretariat has drafted a POW which is attached to this cover as Annex 1, with the intention of providing a basis for discussion during the Task Force meeting in Cairo. Nothing in this preliminary draft should be taken for granted and all its content will be discussed and amended as necessary by MIKT members. Some fields (e.g. Budget Estimate, Timeline and Priority) have been deliberately left blank with the idea that they will be completed during the meeting, should a particular action be agreed and remain in the POW.

Previous to the elaboration of this draft POW, the Secretariat invited MIKT members to provide their recommended priority actions. The responses received have been compiled in document UNEP/CMS/MIKT1/Doc.4b and have been duly considered in the preparation of the draft POW.

Action requested:

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) is requested to review and adopt its Programme of Work.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2016-2020 FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK
FORCE ON
ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

June 2016

Prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The priority actions in this draft Programme of Work (POW) are based on the existing guidelines and action plans in place for the Mediterranean region, including the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds. They are also based on the proposals received from participants of the first meeting of MIKT.
2. The implementation of the POW requires cooperation among responsible stakeholders, governments, local communities, international organizations, law enforcement agencies, and nature conservation NGOs, including hunting associations, for greater impact.
3. The present POW includes a zero tolerance approach to illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds, and the adoption of a full and proactive role at national level in fighting against illegal activities related to the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds.
4. This POW contributes to the achievement of:
 - a. the CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023
 - b. the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2011-2020, and its Aichi targets, particularly Target 12¹;
 - c. the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)² particularly goal 15 related to biodiversity which sets a target to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;
 - d. the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (COM (2011) 244) and, in particular, its target 1 “Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives”;
 - e. the CMS Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways adopted through Resolution 11.14.

¹ Aichi Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

² <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>

5. The POW is divided into three main Thematic Work Areas, as follows:
- Legal and institutional aspects
 - Conservation and monitoring
 - Education and public awareness

These Thematic Work Areas are inspired in the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.

6. The AEWA Plan of Action to Address Bird Trapping along the Mediterranean Coasts of Egypt and Libya will be considered as a model in the case of drafting and adoption of Action Plans to address specific issues at national level.
7. The budget estimates are only indicative and subject to the relevant fundraising to implement these activities. Voluntary contributions are invited to realize the implementation of this POW.
8. The implementation of the POW will require coordination. A budget to cover the services of a MIKT Coordinator from 2018 onwards will be required.
9. This POW complements the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU), the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Species Action Plan (AEMLAP) and the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.

ACRONYMS

AEWA	African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
AEMLAP	African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan
BLI	BirdLife International
CABS	Committee against Bird Slaughter
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
EURING	European Union for Bird Ringing
Europol	European Police Office
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
EUFJE	EU Forum of Judges for the Environment
ENPE	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment
FACE	European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime
IKB	Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds
IMPEL	European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law
Interpol	International Criminal Police Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LIFE	EU funding instrument for the environment and climate action
MIKT	Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NABU	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union
NCE	Nature Conservation Egypt
SC	Scientific Council
TBC	To be confirmed
TRAFFIC	Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Convention to Combat Climate Change
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WI	Wetlands International

2.0 PROGRAMME OF WORK MATRIX

Thematic Area	Objective	Action	Expected result	Scope + Responsible bodies	Budget Estimate	Timeline	Priority (Core / High / Medium)
Legal and institutional issues	Ensure that national legislation complies with international and regional law	Adaptation of national legal frameworks regulating bird trapping, hunting and trade	Sustainable use principle is implemented in wildlife hunting, trapping and trade legislation in all Mediterranean coastal countries	National Authorities, EC, CITES, FACE			
	Provide the judiciary sector with clear guidelines for sentencing	Elaboration of sentencing guidelines, identifying aggravating circumstances in non-European Mediterranean countries	Aggravating circumstances are identified and integrated in the legal framework to influence effective prosecution and sentencing in wildlife crimes as serious crimes	Non-EU National Authorities, EUFJE, ENPE			
	Ensure that existing legislation is properly enforced	Set up regular inspections schemes (markets, restaurants, borders, bird trapping areas, customs, etc.)	The level of detection of IKB has been significantly improved	Law Enforcement authorities, INTERPOL			
	Capacity-building of enforcement chain and judiciary	Appointment of environmental prosecutors in those countries with no environmental prosecutors office	Creation of specialized law enforcement units in non-EU Mediterranean countries	Non-EU National Authorities			
		Set up a pan-Mediterranean network of environmental enforcement actors (judiciary and law enforcement officials)	National environmental enforcement chain avail of a platform to exchange best practice in combatting IKB across the Mediterranean	National Authorities			
		Organize a meeting of the pan-Mediterranean enforcement network (this meeting could be held back to back with one of the meetings proposed below)	Engagement of the non-EU Mediterranean environmental practitioners network with the EU networks counterparts	National authorities, EUFJE, ENPE, INTERPOL, IMPEL			

		Organize one training seminar in EU Mediterranean countries on environmental crime for police officers, inspectors, prosecutors, judges.	Legal officers and judiciary are better trained to address IKB in the Mediterranean	EU / EUFJE, UNEP, ENPE, IMPEL, Europol, INTERPOL			
		Organize one training seminar in non-EU Mediterranean countries on environmental crime for police officers, inspectors, prosecutors, judges.		Non-EU Law Enforcement Authorities, UNEP, INTERPOL			
		Creation of a pan-Mediterranean portal/database for environmental enforcement professionals (species affected, methods used, hotspot locations, penalties and sanctions)	The environmental practitioners networks avail of the knowledge and evidence based data to improve their work and exchange information and best practices	Law Enforcement Authorities, CMS, TRAFFIC, ENPE, EUFJE, IMPEL, NGOs			
		Reinforce institutional capacity of national authorities in charge of bird conservation and hunting	National authorities are better organized and have improved capacity to address IKB	National Authorities, CMS, CITES			
Conservation and monitoring	Address illegal killing of birds in trouble spot areas to assist developing appropriate and local solutions	Organize national Workshops involving all key stakeholders to agree urgent measures to address illegal killing taking and trade of migratory birds	A comprehensive picture is provided to national authorities on the scale and impact of illegal trade and the species affected, and national action plans on IKB are adopted	National Authorities, Law Enforcement Authorities, CMS, WI			
		Organize a specific Workshop to tackle IKB of raptors in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East		Eastern Med. National Authorities, Raptors MOU, CITES, BLI			

Undertake research to better understand the impacts of IKB and the species affected	A study is conducted to gather demographic data on the species affected by IKB, its impacts on population levels, migration patterns and stop-over sites	Scientific data is properly collated to better tackle IKB in the Mediterranean region	EC, WI, EURING, BLI			
	Undertake a review on legal and illegal trade of wild birds in the Mediterranean region	Data on illegal trade is collected in the Mediterranean to measure the scale of this wildlife crime.	Range countries / Raptors MOU, EEAA, NCE, CITES			
Improve surveillance of IKB activities on the ground	Increase the number of wardens and rural police that patrol areas where IKB takes place, and provide adequate training	Legislation on bird protection is enforced and illegal activities are discouraged	National Authorities, CABS			
A Knowledge Management base is constructed to better understand the status and trends of IKB in the Mediterranean and as a basis for research and conservation	Establishment of a Knowledge Management Portal and adoption of a regional monitoring scheme of the status and trends of IKB in the Mediterranean	Trends of IKB in the Mediterranean are properly monitored using comparable methodologies at regional level	National Authorities, CMS, BLI			
Alternative sources of income are identified for communities that depend on illegal hunting and trapping for subsistence	Undertake national socio-economic studies on IKB to better understand the drivers of bird crime	Reliable data on the social, economic and cultural dimensions of IKB is available to better tackle IKB at national and regional level and enable conservation efforts	National Authorities, BLI			
	Eco-tourism projects are promoted in non-EU countries involving local people	Local communities in source countries are engaged and benefit from wildlife conservation activities	Non-EU - National Authorities, BLI			

Education and awareness raising	Involve hunters' organizations in training activities on IKB	Organize national seminars to inform and train hunters on species identification, species protected by law, forbidden methods, etc.	The hunting communities promote and encourage understanding and compliance with the law and sustainable hunting	Non-EU / National Authorities, FACE			
	Local communities are informed on a regular basis of the impacts of IKB	Organize national training seminars targeting religious leaders	Awareness raising efforts take place to change behavior of different audiences involved in the illegal bird hunting	Egypt / EEAA, NCE			
		One major awareness-raising campaign per year targeting younger generations at schools					
	Public awareness	Preparation of documentary on the situation of IKB in the Mediterranean to be disseminated at international scale – with the participation of relevant celebrities	The general public is informed of the scale and scope of the IKB situation in the Mediterranean	CMS Secretariat, NGOs			
		Dissemination of the documentary at national and international scale			International and National media, NGOs, MEAs, UNEP		
		Disseminate the results of the Task Force through internet and social media					