

STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TRAPPING AND TRADE OF WILD BIRDS

The UNEP/CMS Technical Workshop on Minimizing Poisoning of Migratory Birds was held in Tunis on 27 and 28 May 2013, at the kind invitation of the Government of Tunisia.

The Workshop analyzed those types of poisoning most likely to cause significant harm to migratory bird populations as indicated in CMS Resolution 10.26, adopted at the 10th Conference of the Parties to CMS in 2011 in Bergen, Norway.

The Workshop brought together experts from all over the world to assess the scale of impact of the various poisoning types, as well as the cumulative impact of poisoning, to highlight knowledge gaps, to develop guidelines on how to address the most important issues and to identify solutions.

The Workshop discussed and agreed the following message to be delivered at the Conference:

Acknowledging the ongoing cooperation on bird conservation between the Bern Convention and CMS, in particular regarding illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds;

Noting the common goal shared by both Conventions to take action for the conservation of migratory species, whenever possible and appropriate, paying special attention to those species that have an unfavourable conservation status;

Foreseeing many possibilities for joint efforts and for cooperatively taking appropriate and necessary steps to conserve

such species and their habitats, as envisaged in the MoU signed by both Conventions in 2009;

Reflecting that the use of poisons to kill protected species has been forbidden by international treaties for many decades, yet regrettably – and despite previous attention – it is still a widespread activity, indicating a degree of urgency to significantly enhance national and international actions to eliminate this damaging practice.

The CMS Working Group on Minimizing Poisoning of Migratory Birds invites

The Conference on Illegal killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds to consider the outcomes of the Workshop;

and the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention to:

1. Take note of the outcomes of the Workshop;
2. Urge Contracting Parties to implement its recommendations and cooperate and coordinate with CMS in their efforts to reduce the risk of poisoning to migratory birds;
3. Invite the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds of the Bern Convention to address the problem of bird poisoning, monitor the development of the CMS initiative and the progress in its implementation, and to share and provide guidance on best practices whenever relevant new developments to reduce the impact of poisoning on birds become available, such as improved mitigation, removal or replacement techniques;

4. Invite the Secretariat of the Bern Convention, in close cooperation with the CMS Secretariat, to take into account and, as far as appropriate, disseminate to their Parties the guidelines that will be produced, once these guidelines have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CMS, and

5. Encourage the Parties of both Conventions to report progress in implementing these guidelines.

Thank you very much for your attention.