

Addressing illegal killing of birds in given black-spots: the experience of Italy

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*3rd Meeting of the Special Focal Points
for Illegal Killing of Birds*

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Italy stands out for its environmental, biological and cultural diversity

- *high latitudinal extension*
- *three bioregions (alpine, continental, Mediterranean)*
- *high species richness*
- *main flyway followed by migratory birds*
- *many local traditions and uses*

different approaches to IKB



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different approaches to IKB





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In Italy killing and keeping of birds were legal and widespread practices until late 70's

- shooting
- trapping
- netting
- trading
- detention in captivity

very few restrictions on periods, areas and methods



The approach towards wild birds has changed considerably during the last few decades



- Law 968/1977
- Law 157/1992
- EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EU



shortening of:

- hunting season (1 September - 10 February)
- list of huntable species (35)
- list of admitted means (only firearms)

New mentality among people

The repression of IKB in Italy

- National Forestry Corp (CFS - Corpo Ferestale dello Stato, 7000 police officers in 2015)
Antipoaching Unit (NOA - Nucleo Operativo Antibraconaggio)
- District Police Corps (110 Districts, 2500 police officers in 2015)
- Voluntary Rangers (15,000 rangers in 2007)



MATTM is promoting activities to tackle IKB in Italy



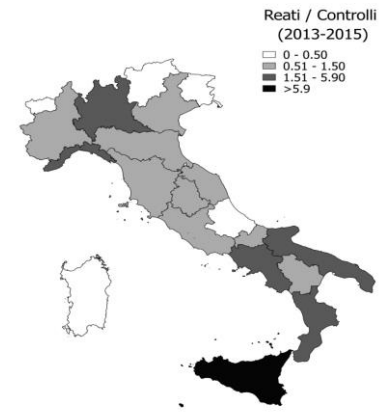
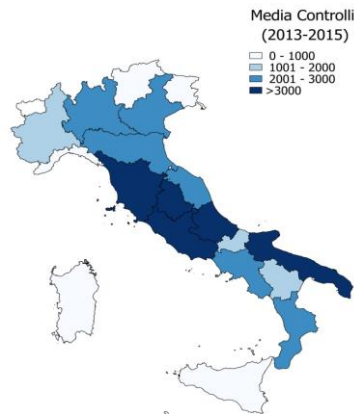
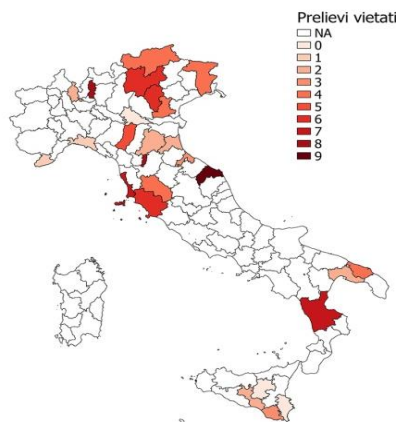
MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

- a national action plan
 - drafted in 2015
 - currently circulating among stakeholders
 - to be discussed in a technical workshop in May 2016
 - to be approved within December 2016

- a public conference involving all main actors and stakeholders
 - to be held in a black spot (Po Delta) in 2016

In this framework ISPRA was committed to update information on:

- typologies and frequencies of illegal activities
- their geographical and temporal distribution
- black-spots
- drivers of IKB
- weakness of law enforcement



Main illegal activities and target species



- catching - **songbirds**
- nest poaching - **songbirds, raptors**
- illegal shooting - **raptors, game species, songbirds**
- poisoning - **raptors**
- trade (illegal import) - **gamebirds, songbirds, raptors**

Main drivers

catching of songbirds: commercial purposes (traditional gourmet cuisine, use as live decoys)

taking from nests of songbirds and raptors: commercial purposes (use as live decoys, ornamental purposes or falconry)

illegal shooting of raptors, game species, songbirds: local traditions, vandalism, taxidermy

poisoning of raptors: predator control (baits for carnivores)

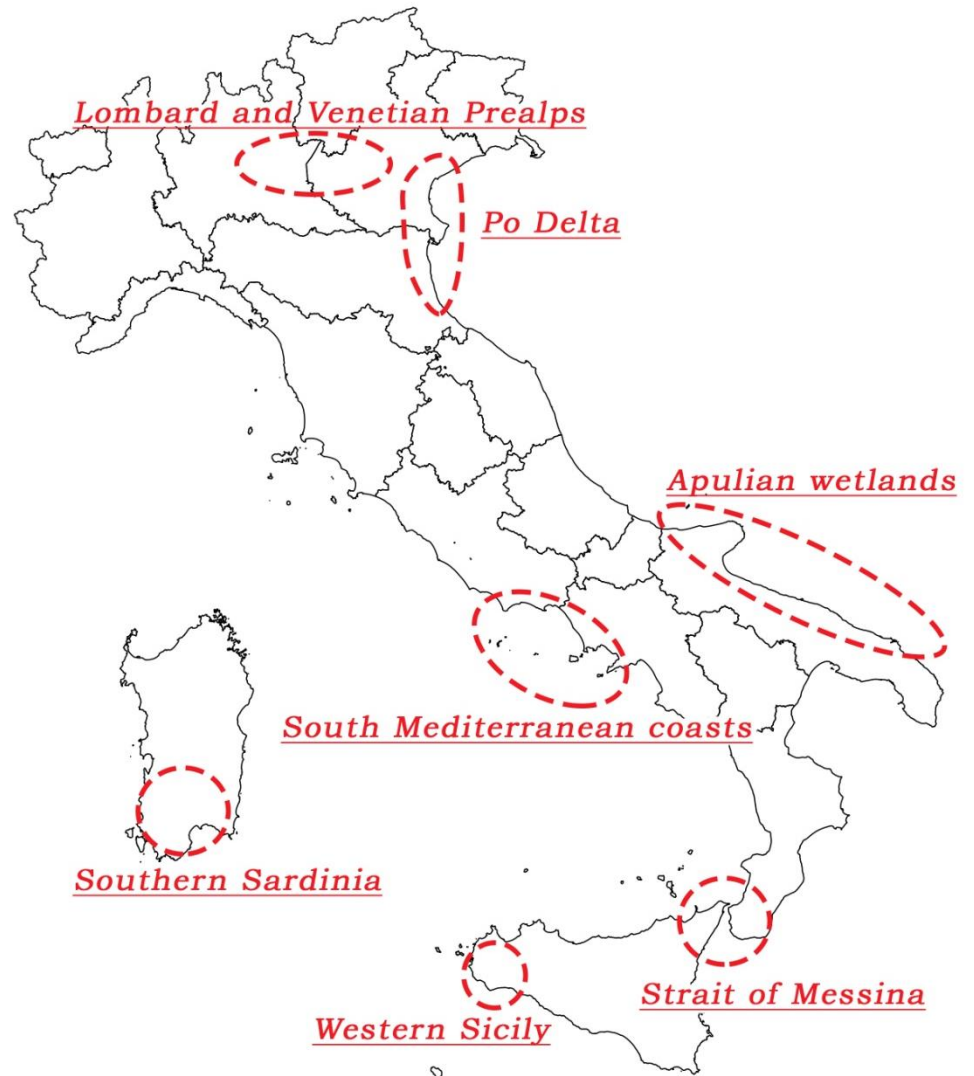
illegal import of gamebirds, songbirds and raptors: commercial purposes



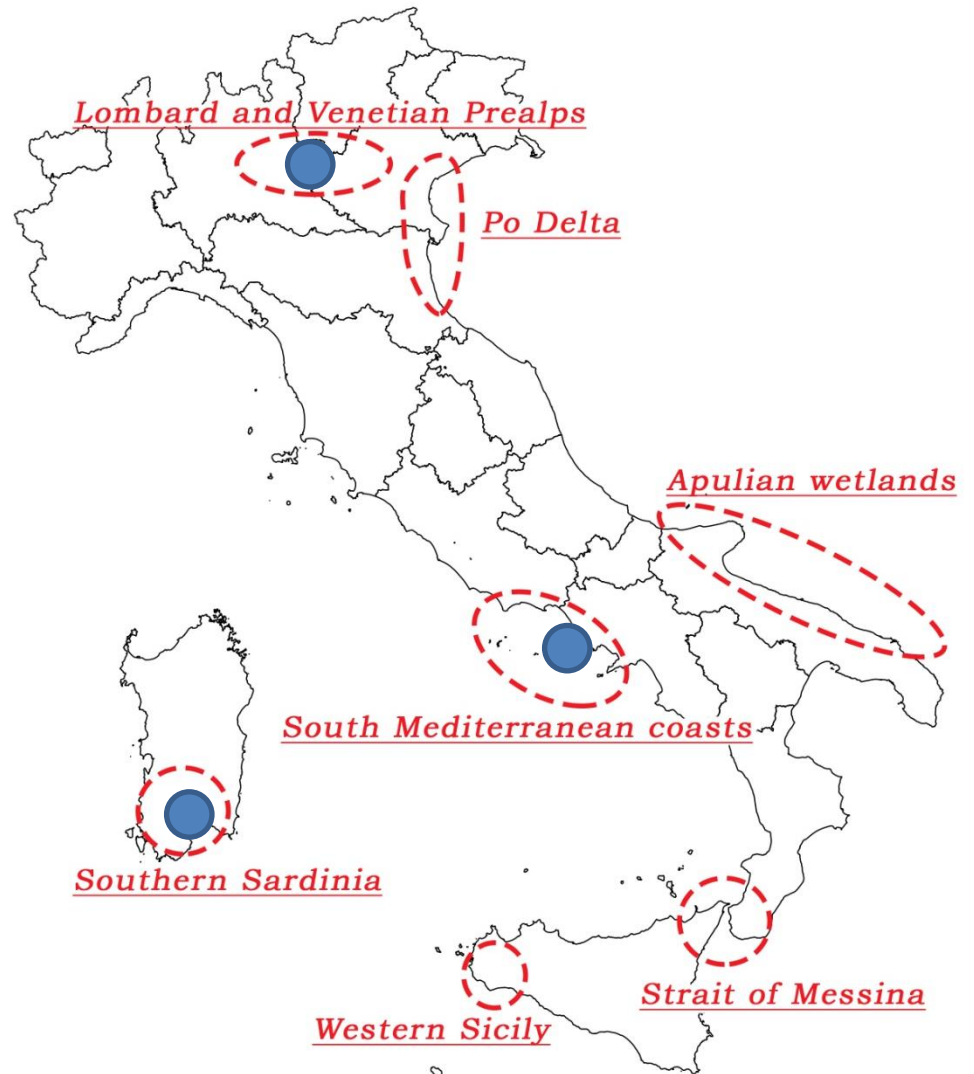
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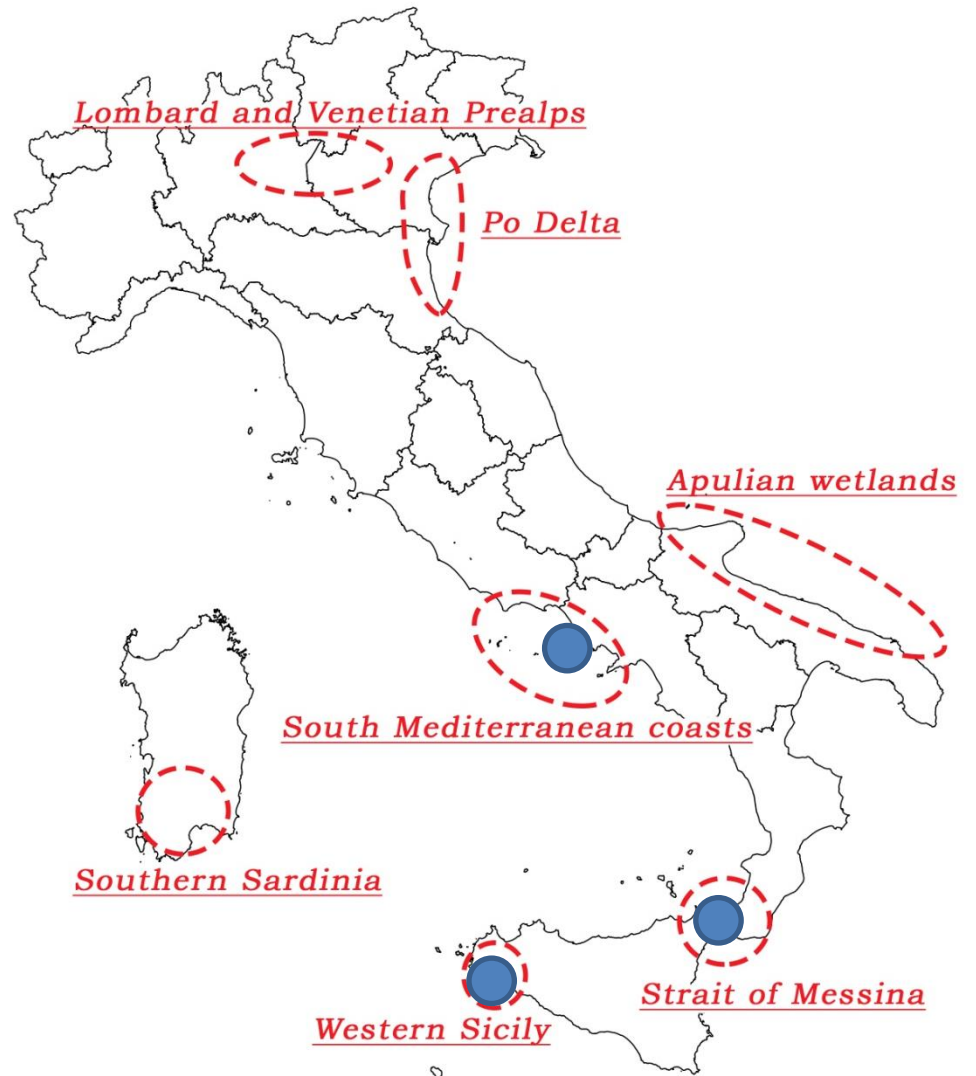
7 black-spots



Catching of songbirds



Shooting of raptors



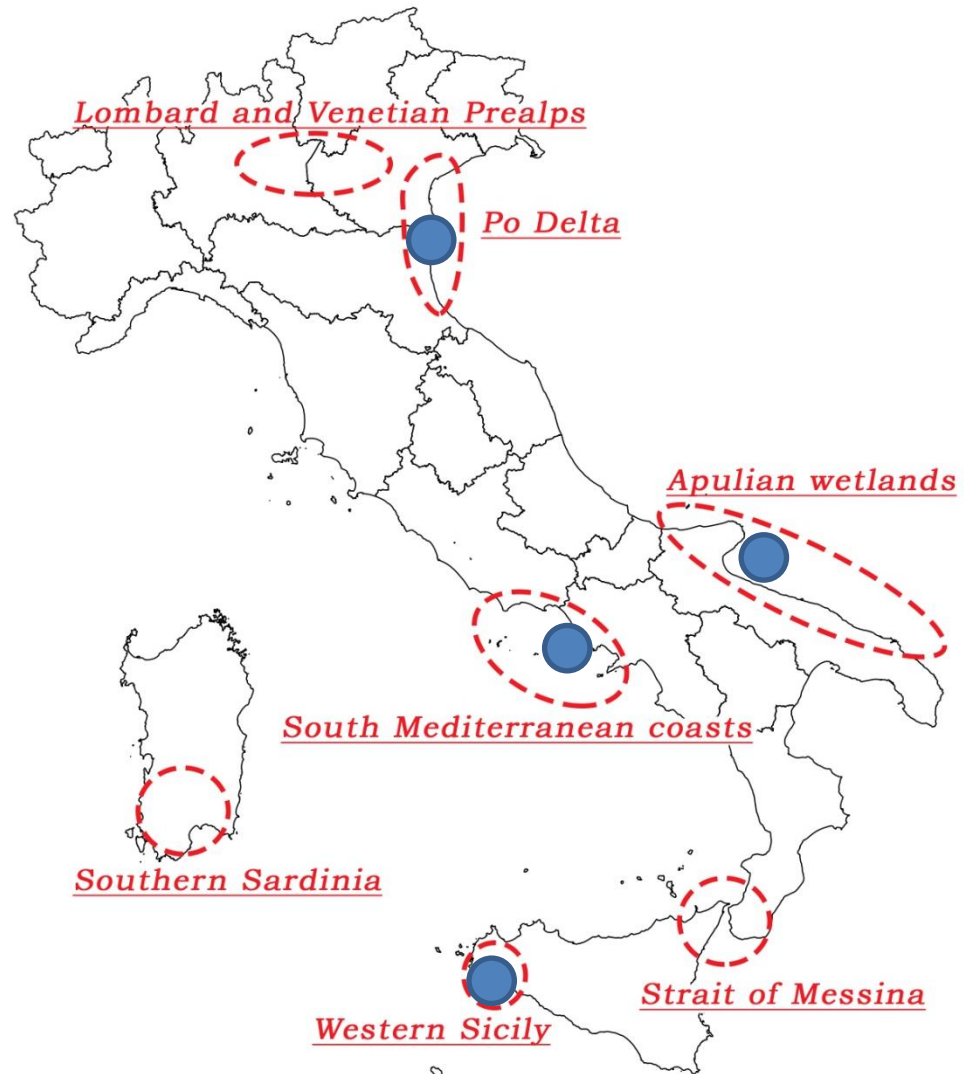
Shooting of waterbirds



infringement of hunting regulation



use of electronic calls





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Anti-Poaching Unit (NOA)

1. Prevention and punishment of crimes
2. Carrying and leading the main operations against poaching in Italy
3. Support activities of the territorial police offices in complex situations.



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Adorno Operation

a centuries old tradition





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Operation Robin

October 2015

119 prosecuted
seized:

1049 protected birds

57 rifles

134 nets

497 spring-traps

310 bow-traps







Two drivers



trading



use of live decoy

trade for gourmet food



CABS
www.komitee.de





use of live decoys for hunting



Trapping devices



nets



bow-traps



spring-traps



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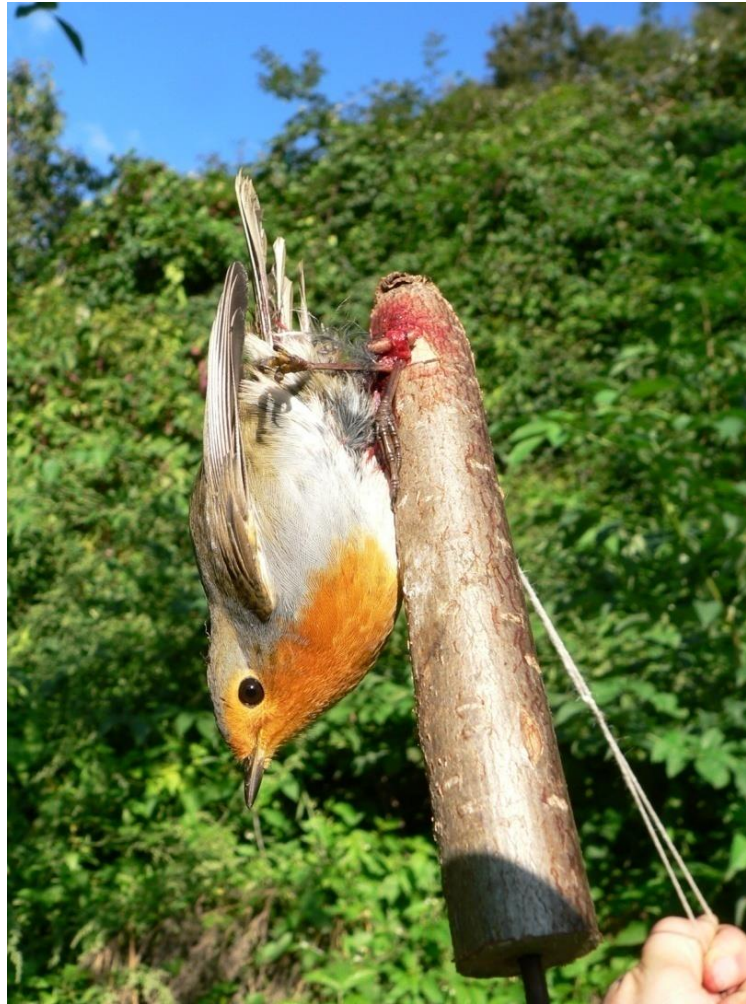




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60S

2015-10-01 15:14



THIS ROBIN WAS LUCKY!



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A specific case: Operation Taxidermy

765 seized specimens

700 taxa (birds, mammals and reptiles)



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NEWS FROM AN INFORMANT



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CROSSCHECK THE INFORMATION

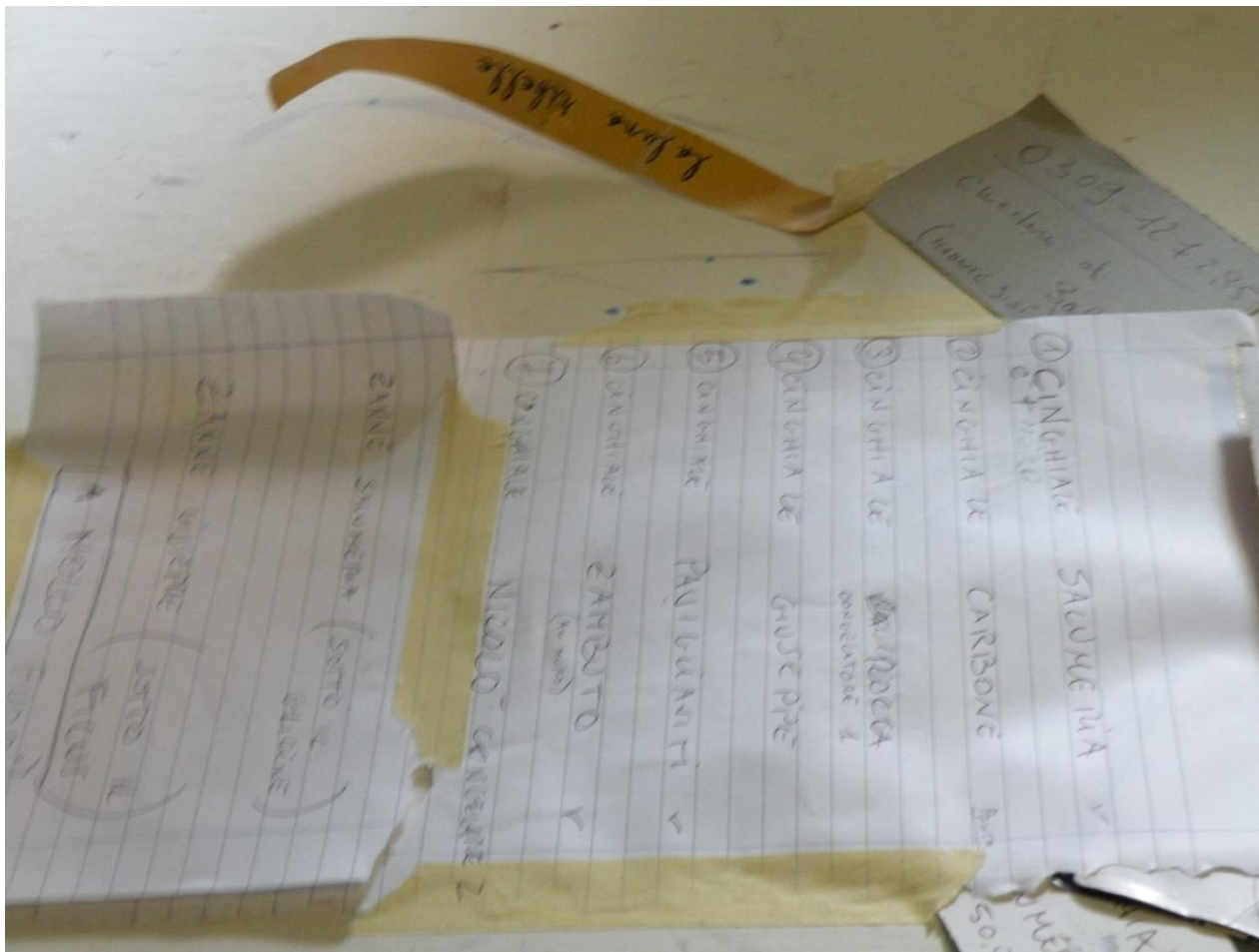


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A SELLER OR A COLLECTOR?





BOTH



Thank you for your attention



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