



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

3th Meeting of the Special Focal Points on illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds

Tirana, 14-15 April 2016

Willem Van den Bossche –
BirdLife Europe & Central Asia

Tackling Illegal killing of birds in Europe and the Africa Eurasia Flyway



Large coalition of the willing

- Ongoing initiatives to tackle illegal killing of birds - T-PVS/Inf(2016)6
- Many stakeholders are joining forces to fight ikb, with on the frontline government authorities, NGOs, research institutes, Interpol, EUROPOL, EnviCrimeNet, ENPE, EUFJE, IMPEL, Bern and CMS Convention and the European Commission
- Follow up and further development of recommendations of the Larnaca Conference (2011), the EU Roadmap (2012), the Tunis Action Plan (2013) of the Bern Convention and recommendations of the CMS Convention.



Widespread illegality

- Illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB) is still a widespread phenomenon in many countries
- Drivers and reasons of IKB are mainly:
 - Killing for food (including by criminal networks)
 - Predator control with illegal means (poisoning, ...)
 - Taking for illegal possession and trade of birds in captivity
 - Hunttable species taken illegally (forbidden methods, outside open season, ...)
 - Taxidermy and trophy hunting



Review of illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean

Objectives:

- review of national legislation on hunting & trapping
- Assess the scale, scope and impact of illegal killing by compiling information on the species, numbers of individuals, blackspots and illegal practices in 26 Mediterranean countries
- Develop best-practice techniques and protocols for systematic monitoring of types of illegal activities
- Promote results through communications and advocacy
- Peer reviewed article published in March issue of Bird Conservation International



Review of illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean

- 11–36 million individuals per year may be killed/taken illegally in the Med
- In each of Cyprus, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon and Syria: > two million birds may be killed/taken on average each year
- Blackcap, Common Quail, Eurasian Chaffinch, House Sparrow and Song Thrush: >one million individuals/year of each species are estimated to be killed/taken illegally
- At 20 worst locations, 34% of regional total is killed/taken per year



Next steps

- Pilot recommended protocols in key countries
- Support targeted conservation action in worst areas
- Start a review in rest of Europe (33 countries) and Middle East (not covered in the Med review) (period 2016-2017)



More actions

LIFE-ENPE - European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (LIFE14 GIE/UK/000043)

- Build a self-sustaining network of environmental prosecutors;
- Improve the sharing of information on environmental crime; and
- Improve capacity and consistency for combating transnational waste, wildlife and chemical crimes.

LIFE Natura Themis - Promoting awareness of wildlife crime prosecution and liability for biodiversity damage in NATURA 2000 areas in Crete (LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026)

More actions (II)

World Migratory Bird Day – 10 May 2016

During the Slovakian EU presidency

From 1st July – 31 December 2016

- EnviCrimeNet & DG Home want to develop an Environmental Crime Action Plan
- Environmental Crime Conference: end of November?

