

Safe Flyways!



**6th Meeting of the Group of Experts on
the Conservation of Wild Birds**

Sliema, Malta, 21 June 2017

Willem Van den Bossche – BirdLife International

BirdLife in the Mediterranean

- Represented in 22 Med countries (including Serbia)
- BirdLife Strategy African Eurasian Flyway - focus on:
 - illegal killing (including poisoning)
 - energy
 - capacity for nature conservation

Safe Flyways!

Civil Society contributing to the conservation of migratory birds and vultures in the Mediterranean:

new BirdLife and VCF led projects against illegal killing, poisoning and collision with energy infrastructure

Strong coalition

- BirdLife International
- Vulture Conservation Foundation
- EuroNatur
- IUCN Med
- WWF Greece, WWF Spain
- And crucial: NATIONAL NGOs (mainly BirdLife Partners)

Three new projects

- Safe Flyways – reduce illegal bird killing in the Mediterranean
- Safe Flyways – reducing energy infrastructure related bird mortality in the Mediterranean
- Fighting poisoning – reducing vulture (and other scavengers and predators) mortality due to the use of poison baits and lead ammunition across the Mediterranean

Illegal Killing of birds

Building on:

- IKB review for Med
- Action of Med Flyway Network of Conservation NGOs
- Increased government commitment (e.g. Tunis Action Plan, EU Roadmap, CMS resolutions and MIKT PoW)
- Increased public concern and awareness
- Support from EC, MAWA and others



(<http://www.birdlife.org/illegal->

priority actions 2017-2019

Poisoning

- Documenting Vulture populations
- Campaign to ban diclofenac
- Action against illegal poison baits
- Action against use of lead ammunition

Illegal Killing

- Scientific underpinning of strategic action
- Raise awareness
- Support international and national policy work
- Pilot projects in selected priority black spots
- Support to capacity of stakeholders

Collision with Energy infrastructures

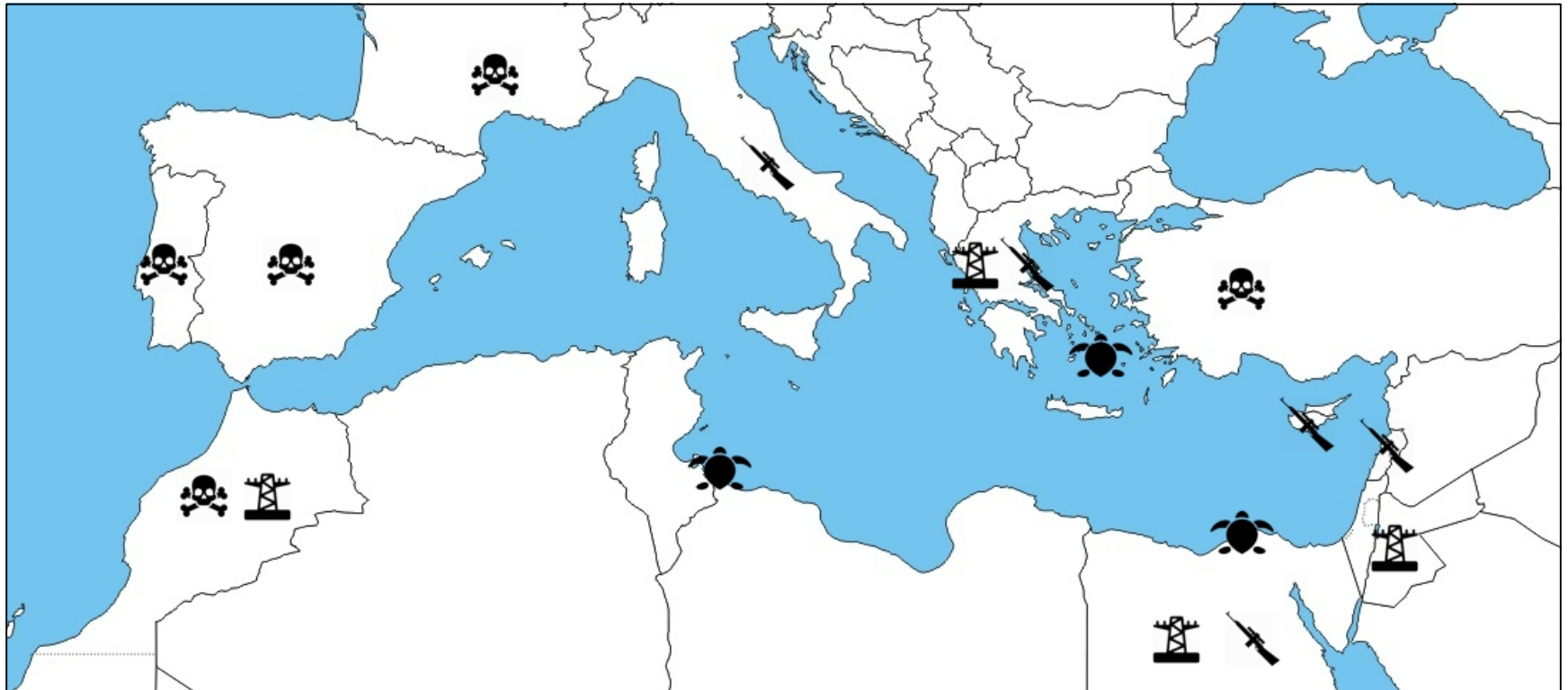
Building on:

- Best practices and tools Migratory Soaring Birds (e.g. Sensitivity Mapping, guidance documents)
- Action of Med Flyway Network of Conservation NGOs
- Increased governmental commitment (e.g. Bern Convention and CMS resolutions, Energy TF Work Plan 2017-2018), EC guidance
- Increased public concern and support
- Support from EC, GEF, MAVA and other donors

Energy priority actions 2017-2019

- Improve understanding impacts and identification of sites of high risk
- Assessment of effectiveness of mitigation measures and support to international policies
- Strengthening national guidelines, legislation and their implementation
- Support to implementation of mitigation measures
- Strengthen capacity of stakeholders

Priority countries

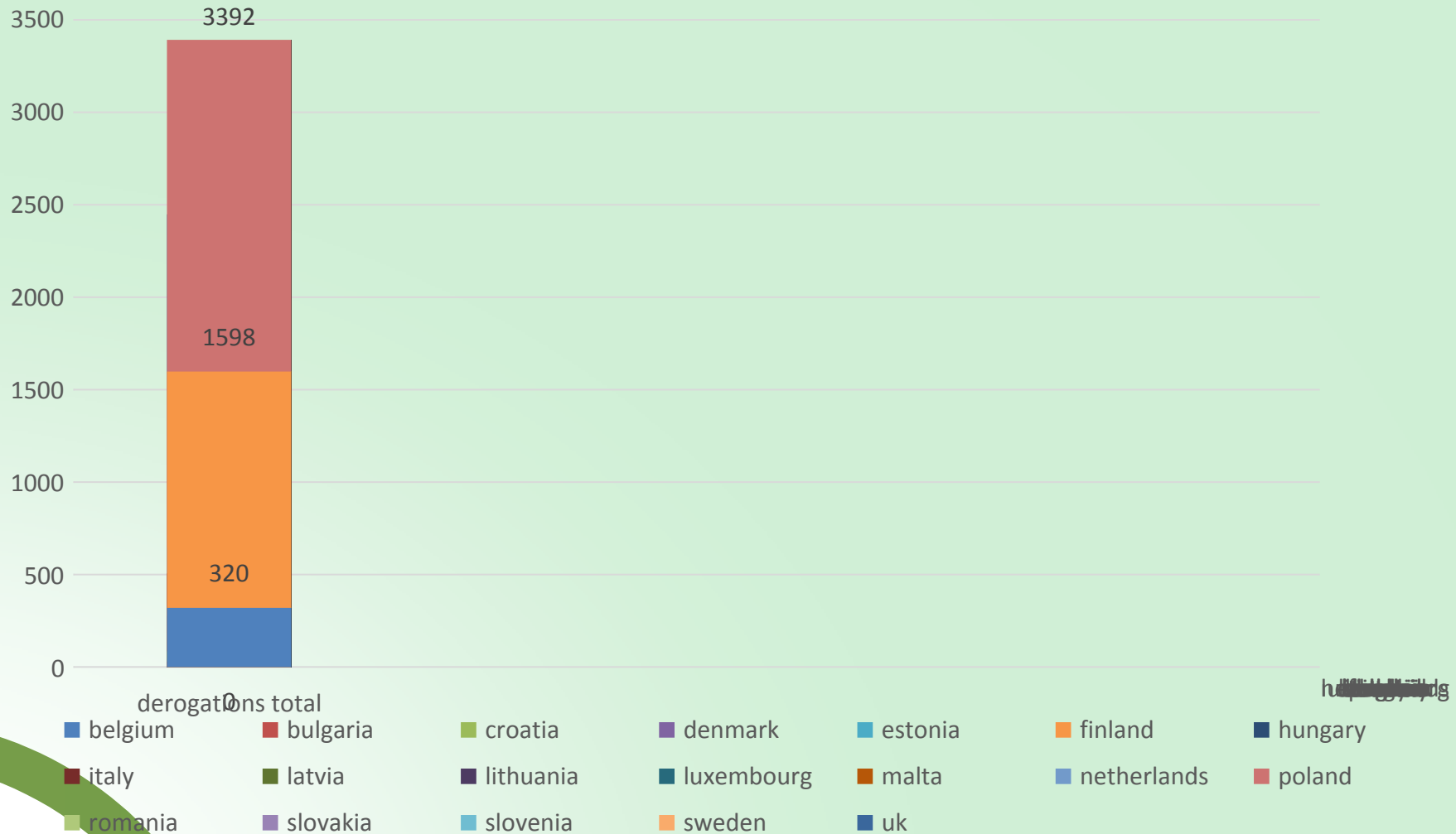


In addition Mediterranean wide capacity building, information sharing and awareness raising

How do EU, AEWA & Bern Convention deal with derogations?

- Important that derogations are:
 - specific
 - well justified
 - damage is quantified
 - lack of alternatives argued
 - strict controls are carried out
- But what is the situation in the contracting parties and Member States???
- For EU & Bern Convention parties the reporting is synchronised

Derogations reported to EC for 2015



Reported derogations AEWa – EU for 2015

- Aewa derogations (2012-2014 report): only 8 European countries/N African countries reported (BE-NL-IT-SK-DK-LV-SI-MOR)
- Eu derogations (2015): 19 received, 6 not, 3 incomplete

Examples of species reporting 2015: AEWA & EU

- *Aythya ferina*, **Common Pochard**
- **Italy** c 2013-2014: 200 (part of SAP?)
- **Netherlands**
 - a, b 2011-2027 : 15295 ind, 12322 eggs
 - EC 2015: not in the report of NL

Examples of species reporting 2015: AEWA & EU

Species	Party	Reason	Year(s) granted	No. of individuals	No. of eggs
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Common Shelduck	Netherlands	a, b	2011-2027	14	19588

- Report EC 2015, for NL: 0

Rook derogations in The Netherlands

Rook: 28 derogations in NL in 2015. 6 derogations for shooting and 9 for destructions of nests.

Numbers killed only available for 4 (out of 6) derogations: 1286 Rooks in 2015.

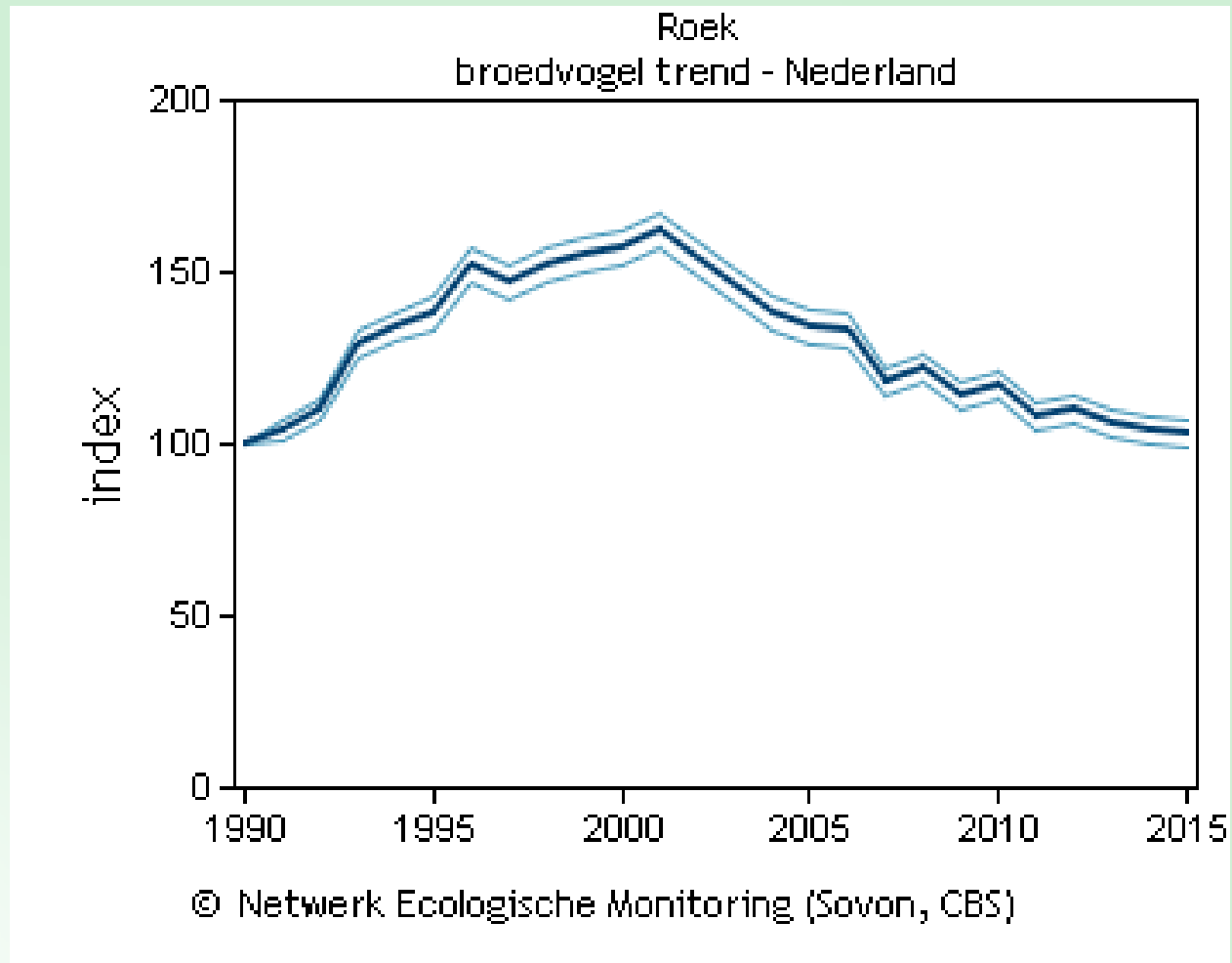
Number of nests destroyed unknown.



Rook derogations in NL (2)

- Publication on Rook *Corvus frugilegus* status and trend in NL:
https://www.sovon.nl/sites/default/files/doc/Vlerk2016_2_Roeken_high%20res.pdf
- In province Gelderland, up to 15% of population killed per year (while declining in this province by 16%/year)
- Unreported derogations – e.g. Province of Overijssel, land owners can shoot up to 5 rooks per day

National breeding trend of Rook (SOVON, CBS) – significant decline



BirdLife asks on derogations

- One standardised database
- Analysis of current standards of reporting (and as a follow up recommendations to MS)
- Control for conservation impact
- Best practices on alternatives