

Strasbourg, 9 May 2014
[Inf07e_2014.doc]

T-PVS/Inf (2014) 7

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

34th meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

**Select Group of Experts
on Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds**

(Strasbourg, 19 May 2014)

**- INFORMATION NOTE ON ONGOING INITIATIVES
TO TACKLE ILLEGAL KILLING OF BIRDS -**

*Information note prepared by
BirdLife International*

BRIEFING ON ONGOING INITIATIVES TO TACKLE ILLEGAL KILLING OF BIRDS

Since the 2011 Larnaca conference on Illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds (IKB), there has been an acceleration of international activity to combat illegal killing of birds.

This is a condensed overview of ongoing initiatives where BirdLife Europe is involved and some further additions from other initiatives. For comments and additions please contact willem.vandenbossche@birdlife.org, thanks in advance.

1. EC Roadmap towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds

The European Commission identified actions to be taken at EU, Member State, agency or NGO level with a view to increase effectiveness in measures aimed at eliminating illegal killing, trapping, and trade of birds in the EU. The Roadmap is a non-binding instrument for cooperation and prioritization, a first version was produced in December 2012. The working group following up the Roadmap is formed by the EC, Bern Convention Secretariat, BirdLife Europe, FACE, AEWA-CMS, Impel and Interpol. Coordination by the nature unit of DG Env.

2. Tunis Action plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.

The Bern Convention developed the [Tunis Action Plan 2020](#) to eradicate Illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds, during the 2nd conference on the topic, held in Tunis, Tunisia (May 2013). The Action Plan covers enforcement and legal aspects, biological and institutional aspect and awareness aspects. The AP was adopted by the 51 contracting parties to the Bern Convention in December 2013. Coordination by the Secretariat of the Bern Convention.

3. CMS Working Group on Poisoning of Birds

This WG has developed global guidelines to counter effects on migratory birds by insecticides, lead, poison-baits, rodenticides and veterinary pharmaceuticals (NSAIDs). RSPB is supporting and leading this WG, coordinator is RSPB staff (Symone Krimowa).

Link with IKB by poison baits (SEO, MME, SPEA and other partners provide info).

The guidelines are due for adoption at the CMS COP in November 2014.

4. Project to create an European Network against Environmental Crime (ENEC).

SEO and the RSPB succeeded in launching a two year project (1st April 2014-Nov 2015) funded by the European Commission's DG Justice to:

- improve the implementation and application of the Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law (including an **inventory in the 28 MS of current implementation**).
- create the European Network against Environmental Crime (ENEC) to strengthen the BirdLife's European Partnership work against environmental crime, facilitating exchange of information and experience with **legal and other practitioners working to prevent or prosecute illegal bird hunting, trapping, poisoning and habitat destruction**.
- bring together legal and other practitioners who work in the fight against environmental crime.
- integrate with the activities of other networks and international institutions involved in the protection of the environment.
- create a support facility to organize and present the work of ENEC. Creation of a simple computer platform that facilitates data storage and the exchange of information between ENEC members.

The Stichting BirdLife Europe, Hellenic Ornithological Society and Czech Society for Ornithology participate as Associate Partners in this project.

5. Review of illegal killing in the Mediterranean.

BirdLife has started a privately funded (by Lush Foundation) project to review the scale and extent of illegal killing and taking in the Mediterranean (Europe, Middle East and North Africa +Serbia & Georgia) and the development of protocols for monitoring the extent of such illegal activities. One of the outcomes of this project is the identification of black spots of IKB, which will be tackled intensively in a follow up project (and simultaneously by other initiatives). It is a cooperation between Birdlife's global and regional offices and the partners in the Mediterranean. The project is covering a period of 15 months and started in January 2014.

6. MAVA - Capacity Development for Flyway Conservation in the Mediterranean

BirdLife International is coordinating a MAVA funded project to enhance the capacity of conservation NGOs in the Mediterranean to work effectively as a dynamic self-sustaining network, to better protect key species, sites and habitats at the heart of the Africa-Eurasia Flyway. Our partners that are developing the project are Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Tunisia, Lebanon, Morocco, Macedonia & Montenegro.

7. Cooperation to end the illegal trapping of protected bird species in Egypt and Libya

Following high-level diplomacy and a petition by NABU (BirdLife in Germany) which secured 115,000 signatures, an action plan has been agreed to address illegal trapping of protected bird species in Egypt and Libya (developed by BirdLife International & Europe with CMS/AEWA, and the governments of Egypt, Libya and Germany). The main elements of the Action Plan include:

- Increase knowledge of the scale, socio-economic and legal aspects of bird trapping
- Ensure that effective legislation and regulations are in place and are enforced
- Build capacity of government, NGOs and local communities to effectively address the bird trapping issue
- Increase awareness locally, nationally and internationally to promote bird conservation
- Reduce bird trapping where necessary and possible by creating alternative livelihoods

In Libya government officials are leading on the project, in Egypt our partner Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE) is leading together with the Egyptian government agencies. NABU is supporting the hunting officer in NCE. The project was launched in autumn 2013.

8. A safe haven for wild birds-changing attitudes towards illegal killing.

EU LIFE communication project from our partners LIPU, HOS and SEO (BirdLife in Italy, Greece and Spain) aiming to change attitudes towards illegal killing in Northern Mediterranean to create social pressure to obey and enforce the laws protecting migratory birds by:

- Raising awareness of key stakeholder groups: local communities, local authorities, hunters and the wider public
- Changing socio-cultural attitudes towards illegal killing in the younger generation;
- Improving law enforcement, through increased awareness and better coordination among law enforcement authorities;

The project focuses on three blackspots: autumn trapping in SW Sardinia (Sulcis), spring shooting in the Ionian Islands (Greece), and Parany (lime) traps in Catalonia, Valencia and SE Aragon (Spain).

9. Interpol – project on illegal killing of birds

As part of the global programme of the Environmental security unit, Interpol has launched a proposal to start working more intensively on tackling the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds. The project is funding depending and was first proposed at the Bern Convention Standing Committee Meeting in December 2013.

10. IMPEL – project on illegal killing of birds

The EU IMPEL group of enforcement officers has started in 2013 with thier project on tackling illegal killing of birds. The project is voluntary with an invitation to countries to join. Cyprus, Italy and Malta enforcement agencies have started the project. There have been two workshops in 2013 with contributions of several European countries, exchanging best practices on tackling IKB. Plans for 2014 include:

- Collaboration with the network of prosecutors and judges
- Expert meeting/sharing best practices/investigate techniques,
- Gathering and Sharing information about illegal activities between member states
- Impel Review Initiative -peer review
- Format reporting illegal activities

Coordination by John Visbeen – Utrecht province (NL)

11. Champions of the Flyway

The SPNI – BirdLife project “The Champions of the Flyway Bird Race” is a fundraising, communication project which will be launched in spring 2014. The profits of the project (10.000’s of euro), will this year be used to support the work on IKB in Georgia, since that is the largest blackspot of killing of raptors in our region (as far as we know now) and there is a cooperation between SPNI and our Georgian candidate partner (Bird conservation Georgia). Several teams participated in the bird race which was held in Eilat, Israel on 1st April 2014

Coordination by SPNI (Dan Alon and Jonathan Meyrav)

12. Fact finding exercise on bird hunting tourism in Europe and Central Asia

BirdLife and FACE will do a small fact finding exercise on the type of bird hunting tourism promoted by hunting tourism agencies in the EU. We focus on a legal analysis on how is hunting tourism governed in key countries in the Balkan (FACE), Morocco & Central Asia. Hunting tourism agencies profiling: what types of trips are offered and are they potentially unsustainable practices? Which are the most affected species? In which seasons? (BirdLife). As a result of Good practice we will try to repackage the Hunting Charter of the Bern Convention to match a European hunter audience.

13. IUCN Resolution 2012-029 Combating the illegal or unsustainable capture, trade or killing of migratory birds in the Mediterranean

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012 urges:

...

- a. the countries of the Mediterranean basin which have adequate legislation on hunting of migratory birds to ensure that this legislation is rigorously enforced;
- b. EU Member States in the Mediterranean basin to enforce their bird protection legislation and to rigorously apply the guidelines of the EU Birds Directive. Any use of derogations under Article 9 of this Directive should be very restricted and can only be allowed under certain strict conditions and if stringent controls and reporting can be ensured, with the aim of avoiding any misuse of the derogations permitted by Article 9;

...

<http://portals.iucn.org/docs/iucnpolicy/2012-resolutions/en/WCC-2012-Res-029-EN%20Combating%20the%20illegal%20or%20unsustainable%20capture,%20trade%20or%20killing%20of%20migratory%20birds%20in%20the%20Mediterranean.pdf>

14. Intergovernmental Task Force to combat illegal bird killing in the Pan-Mediterranean Region

RSPB and BirdLife are supporting the initiatives of CMS and the Bern Convention to set up the first ever **intergovernmental Task Force** to combat illegal bird killing in the **Pan-Mediterranean Region**. It is part of the Tunis Action Plan of the Bern Convention. It will be proposed at the Conference of the Parties (COP) of CMS in November 2014, involving all relevant treaties and governments. This is likely to focus on ensuring implementation of existing guidance and action plans already developed by most of these treaties as well as agreeing new guidance as necessary.

15. Other Initiatives:

A: Themis Network

The Themis Network is a regional cooperation platform addressed to environmental and enforcement authorities as well as the judiciary of the EU candidate countries and potential candidates. Themis' activities are focused on environmental law enforcement, and more specifically on increasing capacities in the national authorities to tackle environmental crimes, including those related to natural resources and wildlife. As such, Themis secretariat hosted by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) and the network members are welcoming IMPEL's activities on green issues and propose to play a role as facilitator to help IMPEL reaching out to South East European countries. (contact person: Cecile Monnier)

B: Second Adriatic Flyway Conference

taking place from 01 – 03 October 2014 in Albania.

With this event we will tie up to the First Adriatic Flyway Conference held in Ulcinj, Montenegro, in 2009.

For background information please visit: <http://www.euronatur.org/Adriatic-Flyway-Conference.934.0.html>

his time, regional and international migratory bird conservationists, ornithology experts, governmental representatives, NGOs and international conventions will gather to reflect significant developments along the Adriatic Flyway, urgent threats and potential ways of facing these, as well as the great value of birds in nature.

Organised by EuroNatur and the Adriatic Flyway partner network

16. Table of projects

project	countries	period	budget	workshops	weblink
EU roadmap	EU - 28	2012 - ongoing	N/A	Twice yearly meeting steering group (most recent 26 March 2014)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/illegal_killing.htm
Tunis Action Plan	Contracting parties Bern Convention	2013-2020	??	Technical workshop 19 May 2014	http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/institutions/standing_committee_122013_EN.asp
CMS WG poisoning	Global	2012-...	??	-	http://www.cms.int/bodies/ScC/poison_wg/poison_wg_mainpage.htm
ENEC	Spain, UK lead, covering EU	2014-2015	350.000 euro	4 Workshops...	-
Review of IKB in the Med	Countries along the Med + Georgia & Serbia	2014-2015	115.000 pound	One workshop (jan-feb 2015?)	-
MAVA-eastern Med	Cyprus, Malta, Montenegro, FYR Macedonia, turkey, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco	2012-2014	??	One workshop 21-23 May 2014 in Cyprus	http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/news/stronger-birdlife-partnership-takes-action-mediterranean-migrants
Trapping in North Africa	Egypt, Lybia	2013 - ...	?	Yearly meeting steering group	http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2013/bird_netting_meeting.htm www.illegalbirdkilling.aewa.info (life soon)
Safe haven for wild birds	Greece, Italy, Spain	2013-2015	?	26 & 27 June 2014 Greece + Italy sep 2015 (tbc)	www.leavingisliving.org
interpol	Europe	2014...	343.000 euro/y	tbc	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2112111&Site=&BackColorInternet=B9BDEE&BackColorIntranet=FFCD4F&BackColorLogged=FFC679
Impel - IKB	EU Impel countries	2014	60.000 euro (3 y)	Workshop(s) planned	-
Champions of the flyway	Israel – southeastern Europe	2014+...	30.000 \$	Race on 1 april 2014	www.champions-of-the-flyway.com
Bird Hunting tourism	Balkan, Morocco, Central Asia	2014	N/A	No	-