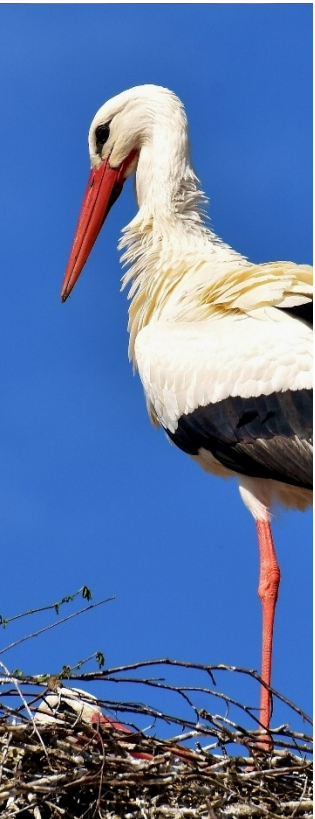


Suggested methodology and guidance for conducting socio-economic research into IKB

Agenda Item 5.1-Conservation of Birds & Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds (IKB)

43rd Standing Committee Meeting
Bern Convention
28 November 2023, Strasbourg



Background and context

- The Rome Strategic Plan (RSP) Objective 1, foresees improving understanding of the motivations driving the illegal killing, taking and trade of birds (IKB) within each individual country or region.
- ***Action 1.2 The motivations behind the illegal killing of birds are fully understood in each country covered by the scope of the Strategic Plan and action to address these drivers is included in the national action plan and implemented***
- BirdLife International was contracted by CMS to draft this guidance on how to conduct sociological studies into the drivers of IKB

Suggested Methodology and Guidance for Conducting Socio-Economic Research into the Motivations behind Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Birds

Document designed to support MIKT members and Bern Convention Special Focal Points on IKB in conceiving and implementing ***national surveys / assessments of the motivations, drivers and modus operandi behind*** illegal killing, taking and trade of birds adapted to their national circumstances.

Consultation



Draft presented at 4th Joint (Bern Convention & CMS MIKT) meeting in Valencia, Spain in June 2022

Circulated for comments 24 June 2022

Comments integrated and document circulated again 10 November 2022.

Comments integrated and circulated for last endorsement to CMS MIKT members on 26 May 2023.

This same document presented here

Document overview _ T-PVS/Inf(2023)09

Final version presented for possible endorsement



Background on IKB and on different terms, e.g. motivations, drivers, social context and IKB

Guidance document:

- Introduction to using Social Science Concepts to understand motivations behind IKB
- Research Approaches
- Main data collection methods

Step-by-Step Guide

- Suggested methodology for conducting a social science research study

Sample Socio-Economic Study report format

- Suggested format for reporting on a social research study on aspects of IKB

Resources, including case studies



Guidance Document



- Introduction to using social science concepts to understand the motivations behind IKB
- Research approaches
 - ✓ Quantitative approaches
 - ✓ Qualitative approaches
 - ✓ Combining quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Key considerations
 - ✓ Ethical
 - ✓ Skillset field team
 - ✓ Sample size
 - ✓ Sampling strategy
 - ✓ Randomness and representativeness
 - ✓ Bias
 - ✓ Reflexivity and Positionality

T-PVS/Inf(2023)09

PART I: GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

3. INTRODUCTION TO USING SOCIAL SCIENCE CONCEPTS TO UNDERSTAND MOTIVATIONS BEHIND IKB

This section introduces social science approaches and outlines examples of evidence generated through social science research to understand the human dimensions behind IKB.

3.1 Applications of social science

Knowledge about the social drivers and motivations behind IKB can contribute to finding effective solutions to tackling IKB. It can also support project and policy design for better social and environmental outcomes.

3.2 Expertise required to undertake social science research to assess IKB

Although a socio-economic study can be initiated by a variety of stakeholders, it should be designed and conducted with the input of a trained social scientist. This work can be commissioned by government or environment bodies or authorities operating nationally or locally. Local non-governmental organisations, universities and consulting firms can provide relevant experience and assistance in undertaking socio-economic analyses.

It is strongly recommended that a multi-stakeholder approach is taken and that stakeholders (both experts in the field and non-experts or locals that may be directly affected by the study) are consulted and involved in the process as much as possible. It is important that the researchers are aware of sensitivities within the local context. Additionally, ideally, researchers should be familiar with the topic of IKB or have experience of working on projects collecting and analysing data on sensitive or illegal activities. The socio-economic study team members can be recruited from the stakeholder groups in the study area.

Guidance Document



- Main Data Collection Methods

- ✓ Surveys
- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ Participant observation
- ✓ Community workshops
- ✓ Other methods
- ✓ Specific techniques to ensure anonymity
- ✓ Data analysis

5. MAIN DATA COLLECTION METHODS

This section outlines some of the main research methods and techniques that can be employed in a social science study. These methods provide instruments and techniques to untangle the complexity of the social causes of IKB, which can be used by themselves or in conjunction with other methods as part of a socio-economic study.

For some techniques included in this section, a case study is provided as an illustration of the method in practice.



T-PVS/Inf(2023)09

PART 2: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

6. SUGGESTED METHODOLOGY FOR CONDUCTING A SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH STUDY ON ASPECTS OF IKB IN A GIVEN COUNTRY

This section provides a suggested step-by-step guide based on best practice that can help guide researchers in developing their own tailored research study. It has been designed to be used in conjunction with the Suggested Methodology template (see Part 3, Section 7). Note that there is no one-size-fits-all protocol for studying the motivations and profiles of those undertaking IKB or for those enabling or accepting it. The techniques that work best depend on the questions being asked and the characteristics of the social context and stakeholders under investigation.

STEP 1: Agree the scope and set aims and objectives

Gather all relevant existing information

- Consider existing knowledge on IKB in the country of interest (understanding the types of IKB that are present and their extent is a prerequisite to undertaking a sociological analysis of motivations behind IKB)
- Consider existing knowledge on drivers of this IKB (e.g., from published and unpublished reports, expert knowledge, etc.)
- Decide the highest priority knowledge gaps to fill in order to best tackle the IKB issue. Identifying knowledge gaps is a crucial starting point in a socio-economic study. Information and data from all relevant sources should be reviewed, including technical reports and studies, academic publications, legislation, policies, and regulations. This step will provide a clear

Step-by-step guide

- A 5-step “how to” guide
- Not prescriptive or an exhaustive list of steps
- Intended to guide through the process and offer further information on a range of methods according to the type of socio-economic question under assessment



Step-by-step guide

- **Step 1:** Agree the scope and set aims and objectives
- **Step 2:** Decide on methodology
- **Step 3:** Plan, prepare, pilot and review progress
- **Step 4:** Collate and analyse data and check results
- **Step 5:** Write up and disseminate your findings



T-PVS/Inf(2023)09

PART 3: SAMPLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY REPORT FORMAT

7. SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR REPORTING ON A SOCIAL RESEARCH STUDY ON ASPECTS OF IKB

This section outlines the basic sections a socio-economic assessment report could contain. This general framework can be adapted and elaborated according to the topic under investigation.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of background information on IKB context in-country (see Part 2, Step 1)

Including:

- Key IKB types/methods
- Species affected
- Scale and intensity of IKB
- Geographic distribution of IKB
- Types of actors involved in IKB
- Known motivations/drivers of actor types
- Key knowledge gaps

Suggested format for reporting

- A section which outlines basic sections of a socio-economic assessment report



8. RESOURCES

8.1 General Resources

More information about methods in the social sciences as applied to conservation can be found in the following links below (listed by publication date):

Conducting Research in Conservation: Social Science Methods and Practice.

Newing, H., Eagle, C., Puri, R. K., & Watson, C. W. (2010). Routledge.

Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices

Bhattacharjee, A, University of South Florida (2012)

<https://www.mendeley.com/reference-manager/reader/7c20e888-ba52-37a1-9517-8b1fc906635c/0d64485d-7502-0659-277f-81b43226c7c6>

A guide to understanding social science research for natural scientists

Moon, K., & Blackman, D. 2014.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24962114/>

Conservation social science: Understanding and integrating human dimensions to improve conservation

Bennett, N. et al., 2017.

<https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezp.lib.cam.ac.uk/science/article/pii/S0006320716305328>

Resources

Section includes more resources and analytical case studies

Some case studies are also interspersed through the document



Thank you!
Questions?

