

BirdLife partnership contributions in tackling illegal killing, taking and trade of birds

MIKT 5 Meeting, Valencia
June 7-9, 2022

Willem Van Den Bossche
Senior Flyway Conservation Officer
BirdLife International





Celebrating 100 years of bird conservation

Where do we work?

- IKB is still widespread across the region
- Flyway approach: local – regional – international level
- Around 11 million Euro invested in 10 years

Poisoning of birds of prey



Illegal pet trade



Poaching of game birds



Illegal trafficking

Illegal shooting



Illegal trapping

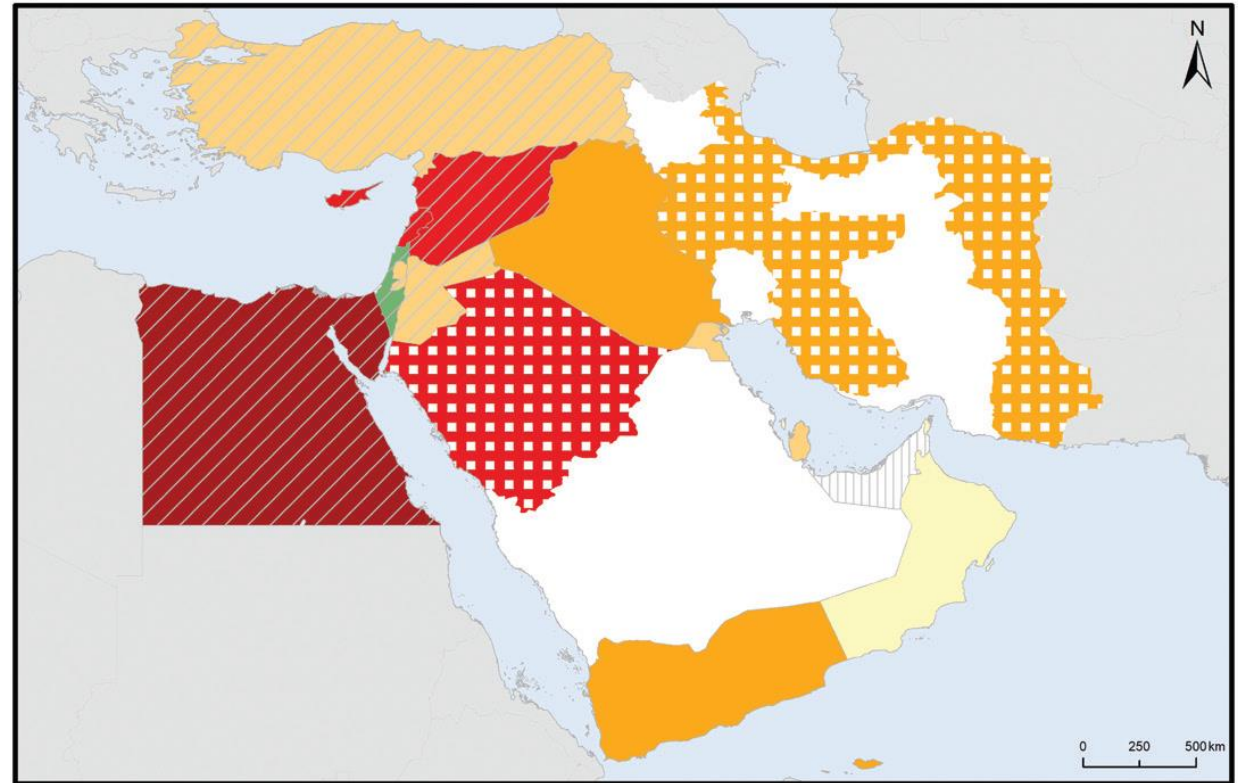


Middle East

- IKB review Arabian peninsula, Iran and Iraq (2019)
- Strategy and Action Plan to tackle the illegal killing, taking and trade of birds in the Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq (2021)

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Desk-based IKB review in sub-Saharan Africa (2021)



Mean estimated number of birds killed/taken illegally per country per year



Success: short-term results

- Egypt: biggest black market for wildlife trade closed down
- Lebanon: Promoting ethical hunting and Responsible Hunting Areas
- Italy: confiscations
- Portugal: sale of bird traps banned
- Croatia: poaching hide removals
- Albania: National anti-poisoning road map approved
- Hungary: stricter animal welfare law after the huge poisoning event
- Czechia: first conviction in bird poisoning case

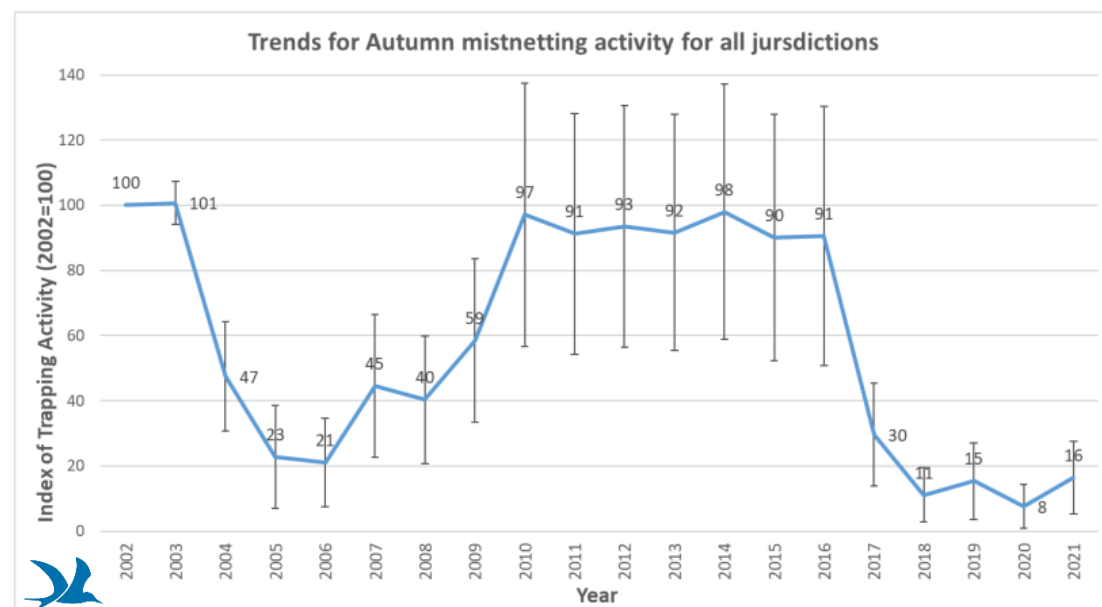
... and more!



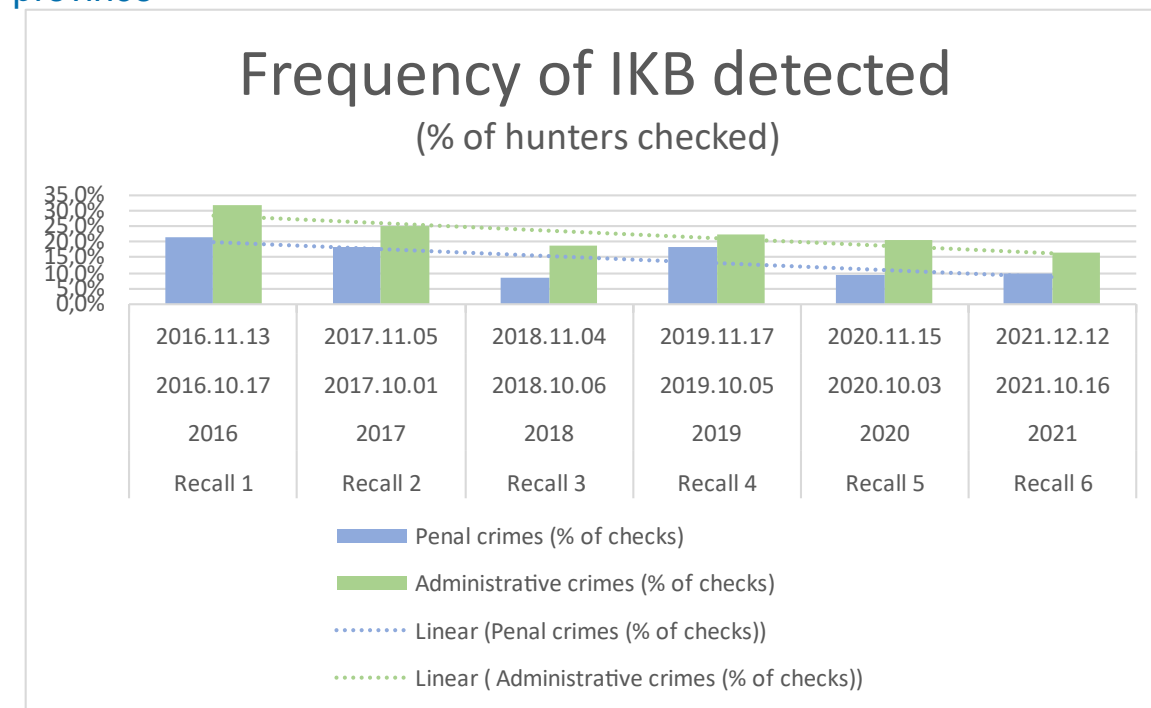
Success: Long-term improvements

Cyprus autumn bird trapping activity

Figure 2. Trends for autumn bird trapping activity with the use of mist nets in Cyprus, for all jurisdictions in the survey area



Italy: Operation Recall frequency of use of electronic lures in Rome province

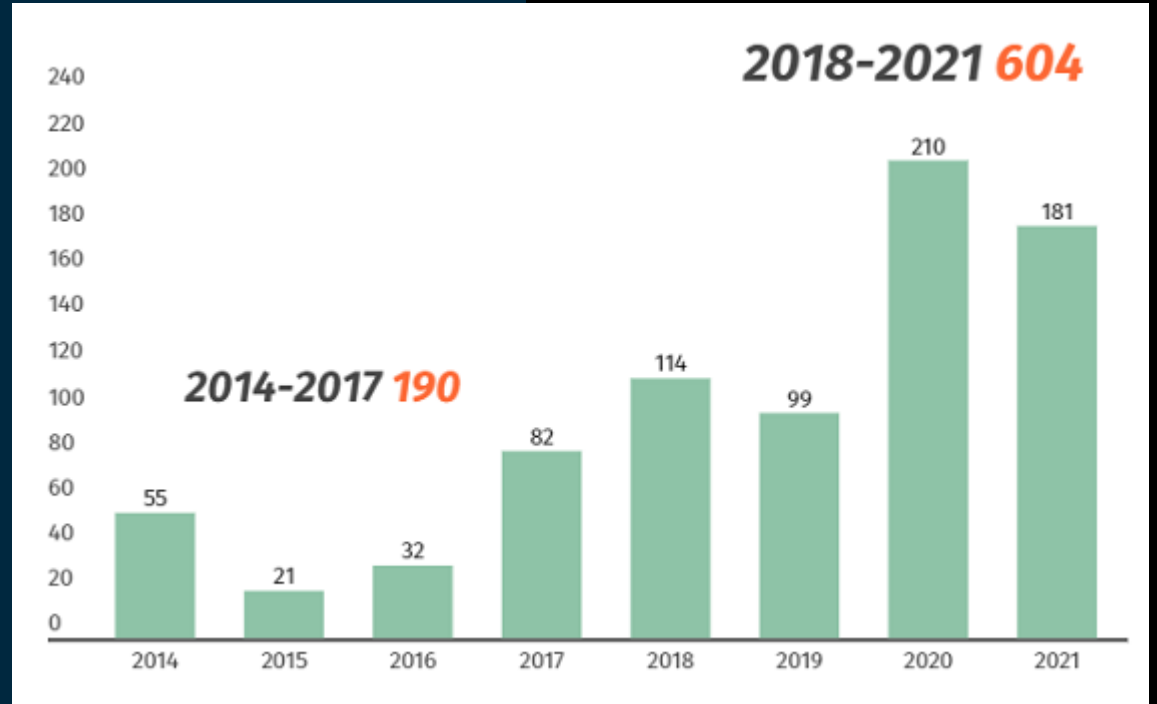


Set-backs

- Cyprus: law relaxation reducing fines
- Malta: spring hunting on Turtle Dove, loophole in the taxidermy law, finch trapping derogations
- Italy: halting the NAP implementation
- Greece: rampant illegal spring hunting
- Lebanon: widespread illegal shooting
- Mass vulture and raptor poisonings throughout Europe

... and more!

Illegally shot protected birds retrieved by BirdLife Malta 2014-2021



Where do we need to concentrate more efforts?

- ***Business as usual won't deliver the RSP ambition of 50 % reduction by 2030!***
- Delays in Rome Strategic Plan implementation should be avoided
- IMPEL, ENPE, EUFJE are crucial networks to support anti-IKB work
- Governments could work more together → e.g. Wildlife Crime Academy is a great example and opportunity
- Stakeholders collaborating can be very effective
- MIKT process: stepping up regional cooperation, improving communication between meetings





**Thank you
for your attention**