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AND NATURAL HABITATS

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**Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Point on
Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the
UN-Environment/CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing,
Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean**

(Rome, Italy 8-10 May 2019)

**ASSESSMENT OF THE 1ST NATIONAL SCOREBOARD
REPORTING BY PARTIES TO THE BERN CONVENTION AND
MEMBERS OF THE CMS INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK
FORCE ON ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF
MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

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INTRODUCTION

The Bern Convention in 2013, recommended¹ “*Contracting Parties to the Convention*” and invited “*Observer States to: Implement without delay the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020*” and to “*[i]nform the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of this Recommendation*”.

The IKB Scoreboard is intended to give the national governments a tool to provide an objective, fact-based national self-assessment of the current status of illegal killing of birds at national level, and also on a regional scale as appropriate, and enable States to measure their progress in implementing their commitments related to this area.

The Scoreboard is a joint voluntary tool of the Bern Convention and the UN Environment / CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT).

The document was first discussed at the joint Meeting of the CMS MIKT and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds in Malta on 22-23 June 2017 and eventually produced in three languages².

The 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CMS, held in Manila in October 2017, adopted Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12)³: The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds where it “*acknowledges the work of MIKT in developing the scoreboard and promotes its use as a voluntary tool for Parties to assess their own progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds included in Annex 1 to this Resolution*”.

In December 2017, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention adopted Recommendation No. 196 (2017)⁴ on the establishment of a Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (hereinafter referred to as the Scoreboard). The Standing Committee “*recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention that are MIKT members, and invites other Parties and Observer States to: [...] periodically use the Scoreboard in the Appendix to this Recommendation as a national tool to self-assess progress in addressing the illegal killing of wild birds*”

Furthermore CMS COP Decisions 12.26, 12.27 and 12.28⁵ on the Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) invited Parties to “[p]eriodically use the scoreboard [...] as a national tool to self-assess progress in addressing” IKB and “[p]rovide, on a voluntary basis and to the extent of availability and relevance of information for the indicators”, encourage IGOs, NGOs and others “to implement the Programme of Work of MIKT 2016-2020” and directs the Secretariat to “[c]ompile the information duly provided by the Parties”.

Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (SFPs) and MIKT Members and Observers were invited to provide, on a voluntary basis, and to the extent of availability and relevance of information for the indicators, the information for the indicators of the Scoreboard, to assess their own progress, provide an overview of the current status of illegal killing of birds in the area covered and, for the purposes of discussion within the forum of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points and CMS MIKT, to facilitate information sharing and best practice.

The Scoreboard provides an overall analysis of the results which will help the Special Focal Points and the MIKT Members and Observers to identify areas where coordinated actions and specific training could be of use for the largest number of countries.

¹ https://search.coe.int/bern-convention/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=0900001680746782

² <https://www.cms.int/en/document/scoreboard-assess-progress-combating-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-wild-birds-ikb-0>

³ https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop12_res.11.16%28rev.cop12%29_e.pdf

⁴ <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-on-the-establishment-of-a-scoreboard-for-measuring-prog/1680722116>

⁵ <https://www.cms.int/en/page/decisions-1226-1228-task-force-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory-birds-mediterranean>

The scoreboard is based on the format developed by the International Consortium in Combating Wildlife Crime⁶ (ICWC). It provides an Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime but was simplified and modified. The changes were done with the view of offering to the national administrations a simple tool, which, given the complexity of the issue at stake, is easy to compile and interpret. The Scoreboard may be applied either at national, or appropriate sub-national scales.

This first exercise carried out by the countries in filling in the Scoreboard defined national benchmarks and a baseline which will allow monitoring and measuring progress in the years to come and help focus national efforts towards those areas that have obtained lower scores indicating that they need more attention devoted to them. The next assessments will be implemented in 2020 and 2023, and every three years after 2020.

Furthermore, it will allow assessing to how efficiently the Scoreboard is able to deliver on one of its declared objectives, namely collecting feedback to identify whether and where improvements need to be made to this tool.

METHODOLOGY

The Scoreboard is composed of 28 indicators, most of which can score between 0 and 3, one (No. 19) can score 1-5, two (Nos. 2 and 4) do not generate a score but cover the provision of data. Due to specific national legislation or conditions, some indicators could be considered as “Not Applicable” and States had the possibility to select this option and indicate the reasons.

The first assessment of the Scoreboard was first sent to MIKT Members and SFPs on 27 June 2017. According to the reporting periods agreed for the Scoreboard assessments, the first assessment would cover the period 2016-2017. However, the data available for some countries had been collected during a shorter or longer period.

Scoreboard assessment	Reporting period
First (Baseline) assessment (2018)	2016 - 2017
Second assessment (2020)	2018 - 2019
Third assessment (2023)	2020 - 2023

The total score for each country is the sum of the rating for each indicator to which responses were given, expressed as a percentage of the maximum score possible, excluding the ‘Not Applicable’ replies.

The indicators are organized in groups for five areas each looking at a specific aspect:

- A. National monitoring of IKB (data management of scope and scale of IKB)
- B. Comprehensiveness of national legislation
- C. Enforcement response (preparedness of law enforcement bodies and coordination of national institutions)
- D. Prosecution and sentencing (effectiveness of judicial procedures)
- E. Prevention (other instruments used to address IKB)

Each responding State is given six scores: one total score and one score for each group of indicators.

The total score is a single figure which provides an overview of the current status of tools available and actions undertaken to address IKB. However, to obtain useful information on the areas on which each State should concentrate to develop a full range of appropriate responses to IKB, the analysis looks

⁶ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>

at the score for each area. Therefore, the results are detailed for each group of indicators, thus helping each State to identify the areas where further efforts may be needed.

For each country responding the results are given according to the following colour code:

Red	Score below 25% of maximum possible score
Yellow	Score between 25% and 50% of maximum possible score
Light green	Score between 50% and 75% of maximum possible score
Green	Score above 75% of maximum possible score

To score each indicator, the compilers were asked to consider the different components of an answer in order to identify which of the four answer ratings – listed from 0 to 3 – best represents the national situation. Each State's Scoreboard was checked for completeness, and no changes were made to the rating given to each indicator even in the cases when the answers offered did not match the rating given. In some instances, the comments provided clearly stated or indicated that the indicator was not applicable; when this was the case the total maximum score was modified accordingly. The lack of input without any justification was calculated as zero.

The results are given country by country as the Scoreboard is intended as a self-assessment of progress in addressing the IKB and the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020, and takes into account the different national scenarios and specific circumstances for each country. It therefore does not compare results or enforcement efforts between countries.

The efforts made and the actions taken need to be balanced with the severity of the IKB problem, considering the 'zero tolerance' approach. Therefore, the total national score needs to be considered alongside the severity of the IKB issue.

National inputs into the scoreboard were collected through an online form⁷ and email exchange.

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https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFr7MRf_O9Lhyl6hHwqJDwa7MJCBv7RwJykhf_aYGPm2Dg3g/viewform

REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

As per 31 October 2019, thirty-two replies were received. Twenty-four scoreboards duly filled in have been received from governments; four countries submitted the data required for Indicators 2 & 4 and some information but did not fill in the entire Scoreboard.

Scoreboards were received from NGOs for three additional countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine).

Fifty per cent of the countries have submitted some information from governmental sources; the replies came from countries where more than 45 per cent of the total IKB estimated by BirdLife International⁸ takes place. When all replies are considered, the percentage of countries providing information reaches 61.9 per cent.

Replies	Number of countries (percentage of countries)	Share of IKB victims
Scoreboard and data	17 (31.5 %)	40.5 %
Only Scoreboard	7 (13.0 %)	5.3 %
Only data and some information	4 (7.4 %)	0.2 %
Scoreboard from NGO	3 (5.6 %)	16.0 %
No reply	22 (40.7 %)	38.0 %

Table 1 - Overview of the responses received by level of completeness and source. The Scoreboard was sent to 54 countries; in one case responses were received from both the government and from an NGO.

Three out of four countries with more than 2,500,000 birds illegally killed per year, thus belonging to severity class I, have submitted a reply. Fifteen out of 19 countries on the northern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean have responded, including the three replies received from NGOs. Tunisia is the only country from of the southern side of the Mediterranean which sent a reply.

IKB severity class	Potential responses ⁹	Responses received		
		Scoreboard and data	Scoreboard or data	Scoreboard from NGO
Class I > 2,500,000	4	2	-	1
Class II 750,000 – 2,500,000	1	-	-	-
Class III 100,000 – 750,000	12	5	4	-
Class IV < 100,000	37	10	8	2

⁸ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bird-conservation-international/article/preliminary-assessment-of-the-scope-and-scale-of-illegal-killing-and-taking-of-birds-in-the-mediterranean/34A06A94874DB94BE2BBACC4F96C3B5F> and <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/birdconservation-international/article/illegal-killing-and-taking-of-birds-in-europe-outside-the-mediterraneanassessing-the-scope-and-scale-of-a-complex-issue/DE4D06F3BD4273B94FD3C9621C615A0A>

⁹ All countries that are Signatories to Bern or part of the membership of MIKT (members and observers), with the exclusion of three countries for which IKB data are not available: Burkina Faso, Senegal and Moldova.

Table 2 - Replies received by class of severity (number of birds illegally killed per year) of the IKB problem.

Overall, the number of replies received is better (31 vs 24) than that obtained in 2016 to the midterm review of the implementation of the Parties of the Tunis Action Plan¹⁰.



Figure 1 - Countries that compiled the Scoreboard are shown in blue. The location of the dots is indicative.

¹⁰ [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/T-PVS-Inf\(2016\)8_mid-term-review-of-the-implementation-of-the-tunis-action-plan-2020.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/T-PVS-Inf(2016)8_mid-term-review-of-the-implementation-of-the-tunis-action-plan-2020.pdf)

REPLIES FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Albania

TOTAL SCORE 57.5%	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): not completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No data on IKB extent and on prosecuted cases were provided.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7%	The existing estimate of the extent of IKB is based on a mix of expert opinion and quantitative data with the information from experts being considered essential.
GROUP B National legislation 63.0%	The national wildlife legislation is considered adequate to deter and combat IKB but does not, yet, have a full range of by-laws for its implementation. Hunting legislation is comprehensive and scores well in terms of clarifying the prohibition to kill, capture and trade wild birds, as well as clarifying under which conditions certain species could be hunted. Areas where improvement could be made include penalties, as IKB results only in administrative penalties; the rare use of criminal law (including the law addressing organized crime) in IKB cases and the full implementation of international commitments.
GROUP C Enforcement response 55.0%	No specific IKB action plan is in place (some other strategies cover it), but IKB was identified as a high priority at the national level. The parliament in 2014 decided to approve the law for two years hunting ban and in 2016 the law for another 5 years hunting ban. . The effectiveness of the enforcement agencies would improve with further support in terms of capacity.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 41.7%	The lack of sentencing guidelines, the fact that IKB is prosecuted solely through administrative penalties and the limited use of criminal law (however, the illegal possession of hunting guns is a criminal offence), judicial procedures require further efforts also to improve awareness and training of the prosecutors and judges.
GROUP E Prevention 60.0%	IKB drivers are known, but more work needs to be done in addressing the demand for illegally obtained birds and increasing awareness of the public.

Andorra

TOTAL SCORE 57.4 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No estimate of the number of birds killed is offered beyond the number of cases prosecuted. Two IKB cases, related to the use of prohibited hunting methods, were reported and prosecuted in the reporting period; there is no clear trend over the last three years.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7%	In the country, IKB is a limited problem and no assessment of its extent is available.
GROUP B	National legislation is therefore considered comprehensive and effective as a deterrent, although it does not allow for exceptions to the protection of the species.

National legislation 91.7 %	
GROUP C Enforcement response 45.0 %	IKB cannot be considered a priority as the number of cases is very low. Enforcement agencies are considered adequate and the effort addressing IKB is assessed as reasonable.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 8.3 %	The awareness and technical knowledge about IKB may be limited but this is justified by the limited occurrence of this kind of crime.
GROUP E Prevention 53.3 %	Prevention and awareness activities are probably adequate to the extent of the issue.

Belgium (Wallonia Region)

TOTAL SCORE 47.5 %	For Belgium the response received was sent only by the Wallonia Region. Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	It is estimated that some 10,000 birds are illegally taken or killed every year in Wallonia. Birds are mainly captured (not killed) for private use (keeping in captivity) but a minority (about ten) of the usual traffickers capture the birds for trade (for keeping in captivity). In addition, 40-50 raptors are estimated to be illegally killed every year. For the reporting period (2016 – 2017), 219 cases were prosecuted involving over 2,000 birds in total.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7 %	The estimated number of birds which are victim of IKB is based on a mix of quantitative data and expert opinion. The estimate is also based on a partial disclosure of information on cases prosecuted.
GROUP B Regional legislation 63.0 %	Legislation regulating the taking of birds is comprehensive but allows for trade and the keeping of European birds, which is the main driver of IKB in Belgium. Furthermore, gravity factors are not taken into consideration; criminal law is rarely applied and as a result, the offender generally is given only an administrative penalty.
GROUP C Enforcement response 35.0 %	IKB is not considered a priority and no specific strategy is in place. The anti-poaching unit should be better staffed as it is estimated that there are only about 10 staff members working 150 days per year on IKB.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 33.3 %	Sentencing guidelines are under development to offer judges support in no longer considering IKB as a minor offence.
GROUP E Prevention 40.0 %	The drivers of IKB in Belgium are known, and to address them captive breeding is being regulated but there is room for improving awareness raising among the regulated community and the general public.

Bulgaria

TOTAL SCORE 41.3 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
On IKB IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	In the period Jan 2017 – June 2019, 342 people were prosecuted on IKB charges, the known number of birds involved was more than 200. The estimate of the size of IKB in the country proposed by NGOs was not carried out with the involvement of the government.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 50.0 %	Data on IKB cases are available and have been shared in this report, but no estimate of the extent of IKB has been produced
GROUP B National legislation 70.4 %	The national legislation integrates the EU Bird Directive, but only partially the Bern Convention: it is nevertheless considered comprehensive and embracing the cases of IKB. Hunting and Nature conservations legislations are separate; the first regulates hunting any killing, trapping, disturbing, selling of all wild birds beyond what is regulated by the first law, is prohibited via Biological Diversity Act. National legislation provides a comprehensive description of specific IKB-related offences, but it gives ambiguous options and the progress depends from the prosecution office. Criminal law is rarely applied and organized crime legislation does not apply to IKB cases.
GROUP C Enforcement response 15.0 %	No national action plan has been developed. Although there is a national strategy on illegal poisoning and IKB is somehow covered by a number of species conservation action plans. IKB is rarely considered a priority by LEAs which are significantly under-staffed and only a few have received specific training on IKB. The surveillance effort is insufficient.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 8.3 %	Although it is not possible to assess the quality of the Judicial processes, they usually take over 2 years and are handled by general prosecutors and judges which have no awareness on the scale and impact of IKB and are not supported by sentencing guidelines. Many cases are dealt through the administrative procedure and many are cases against unidentified offenders.
GROUP E Prevention 46.7 %	The government is scarcely involved in international IKB for a and initiatives. IKB drivers are well known and include hunters not respecting the limits set by the legislation, trapping and trade of wild bird as ornamental and pets, poisoning (targeting mammals, but affecting also birds) and collection of eggs. Awareness activities have been implemented but on a limited scale and not guided by a comprehensive strategy.

Croatia

TOTAL SCORE 48.7 %	The Scoreboard was compiled by the members of a working group representing the NGO Biom, Croatian Society for the Bird and Nature Protection, the Croatian Agency for Environmental and Nature Protection, the Nature Protection inspectorate, Hunting inspectorate and Directorate for Nature Protection. Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	In Croatia, some 370,000 birds are illegally killed every year and numbers are increasing as a result of the growing trend of the use of tape lures to kill quail and waterfowl. The figure is based on the data collected by the NGOs Biom and Croatian Society for the Protection of Birds and Nature (CSPBN) for the BirdLife report (Brochet et al., 2016). These NGOs are conducting monitoring in several IKB

hotspots in Croatia. On the other hand, the number of prosecutions is very limited (21 cases involving almost 10,000. birds).

GROUP A IKB monitoring 50.0 %	The estimate is based on monitoring carried out by national NGOs in several hotspots in the country (Neretva Delta, Adriatic coastline and islands, Carp fisheries, Zadar hinterland and Zadar County and the area of Vrgorac, Imotski, Sinj, Drniš and Knin) and partially on extrapolation. The number of prosecutions is based on partially disclosed data as prosecutions toward strictly protected species are recorded, while most hunting infractions are not.
GROUP B National legislation 85.2 %	National legislation on the killing and use of wildlife is quite detailed with regards to the list of game species, the timing of hunting, methods allowed and derogations, but needs improvements regarding the bylaws and regulations - in particular concerning trade - and it does not yet fully adhere to the EU Birds Directive. Sanctions and penalties range from fines to imprisonment. Criminal law (including organized crime law) are rarely used when persecuting poachers.
GROUP C Enforcement response 25.0 %	IKB is not yet formally considered a priority, no action plan or strategy is yet in place, law enforcement agencies do not include a special nature protection force and currently staff members devoted to IKB are few and require more training. As a result, effort to combat bird crime is not sufficient.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 16.7 %	The prosecution of IKB should also be reinforced as sentencing is generally slow, judges and prosecutors are not particularly aware of the seriousness of IKB and are not supported by specific sentencing guidelines or training.
GROUP E Prevention 40.0 %	While Croatia is actively involved at international fora, further work is required to understand the IKB drivers which are different between regions and need to be addressed involving the regulated community and the general public.

Czech Republic

TOTAL SCORE 67.5 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	The number of IKB victims per year is nine as the estimate is based on number of registered cases, as provided by the Police of the Czech Republic. Most IKB cases are not registered by the law enforcement agency. Only two cases were prosecuted during the reporting time involving 17 birds. Despite the limitation of the data, the trend seems stable.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7 %	Data on the extent of IKB are based on partial prosecution data and because not all registered IKB cases are stored in the police database, it is difficult to assess the extent and trend of bird crimes.
GROUP B National legislation 77.8 %	National legislation on nature conservation and its regulated use score rather high with a range of penalties proportional to the severity of the crime. They nevertheless leave a margin to the discretion of the judge who has the opportunity to use criminal law, although organized crime legislation is not used.
GROUP C Enforcement response 65.0 %	A national strategy has been developed but it is still awaiting formal adoption and equally IKB is not formally identified as a law enforcement priority. The level of law enforcement staff is sometimes below optimal but has succeeded in maintaining IKB under control and the new strategy includes provision for specialized training.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 41.7 %	IKB cases are generally not prosecuted before a criminal court and sentencing can take over 2 years. Judges do not have specific sentencing guidelines and are not very aware of the seriousness of the issue, although more than 50 per cent of the environmental prosecutors have received some training.

GROUP E Prevention 73.3 %	The Czech Republic is actively involved in the international fora and knowledge of the IKB drivers is reasonably comprehensive. Demand of illegally obtained birds does not seem to be a major cause of crime. Raising awareness among all relevant target audiences is among the activities included in the national strategy.
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Denmark

TOTAL SCORE 62.3 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): not completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	
GROUP A IKB monitoring 100%	Only verified data are known cases are considered, data are available but have not been shared. No estimate of overall IKB is produced.
GROUP B National legislation 81.5 %	National legislation is considered comprehensive and effective as a deterrent and complies with international commitments. Exception to the general legal provisions are possible under conditions and reported in details on a yearly basis. IKB. Sanctions are not imposed administratively. Organized crime legislation and investigations methods are employed in case of CITES related cases.
GROUP C Enforcement response 40.0 %	No national action plan has been developed but a national task force handling poisoning of birds (mainly raptors) has been established; IKB is usually identified as a priority among LEAs. NO information is offered regarding the staff resources of national LEAs allocated to IKB but the surveillance effort is considered good.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 33.3 %	IKB cases are prosecuted before criminal courts and not subject to sanctions under administrative regimes. There are very few cases which makes it difficult to make generalizations on the timespan to conclude the cases. Sentencing guidelines are part of the legislation and internal guidelines are in place regarding CITES. No information is given regarding the number and training of specialised judges and prosecutors.
GROUP E Prevention 66.7 %	The government is active in the international for a including CITES EU enforcement working group. Since IKB cases are rarely demand-driven o activities are addressing demand have been implemented, and awareness in particular among the regulated community is generally high.

Finland

TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: not completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	Between 0 and 10 birds are illegally killed per year. Estimates are based on ring recoveries and information received from raptor ringers. Annually some nests of the Eurasian Eagle Owl and Northern Goshawk are destroyed by hunters. In the autumn, after the start of the hunting season some raptors are killed. In general, illegal killing of raptors is not a major problem in Finland. Two persons were prosecuted, one for illegal taxidermy (> 100 birds) and collecting eggs (thousands of eggs), the second for illegally killing five birds.

France

TOTAL SCORE 70.0 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No estimate of the number of IKB victims is offered. A list of all the procedures relating to offenses committed between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2017 involving at least one bird, detailing 2,017 procedures was provided.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7 %	Estimates on IKB are based on partial prosecution data as on average only a small percentage of the cases recorded include information on all the plant or animal species involved (and therefore detailed records are rare as providing this detail of information is optional for the agents). The new monitoring protocol will not record the species involved in prosecutions, thus no further estimates of illegal killing of birds will be available.
GROUP B National legislation 88.9 %	National legislation is considered adequate and effective in offering protection to wildlife, regulating the use of natural resources and deterring most illegal activities with a range of penalties and when appropriate the use of legislation addressing crime and organized crime.
GROUP C Enforcement response 70.0 %	IKB is not considered a priority and it is addressed within more general enforcement strategies. Staff resources of the law enforcement agency charged with addressing IKB are considered good and well trained delivering an appropriate effort.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 41.7 %	The judicial procedures, on the other hand, are rather slow, record more than 50 per cent acquittals and are handled by judges not specialized in wildlife crime but have received some specific training. No sentencing guidelines have been developed so far.
GROUP E Prevention 60.0 %	The French Government participates actively in IKB related international meetings and initiatives and has a good and relatively comprehensive understanding of the IKB drivers, but more can be done to implement activities to address the demand for illegally obtained birds, and to engage the regulated communities and the general public.

Georgia

TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: not completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	The Environmental Supervision Department under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture indicates that IKB involves 1,720 bird every year; data are detailed by region and season. IKB is increasing. 367 birds were the object of prosecutions, but no information was disclosed on the number of people involved.

Greece

TOTAL SCORE 41.5 %	<p>Greece's report was compiled as a joint effort between the Greek Special Focal Point, Mr. Nikos Bokaris, and the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), the national BirdLife partner.</p> <p>Indicators with score: completed</p> <p>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): not completed</p>
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No estimate of the number of birds illegally killed is available from governmental sources. No data or estimate on the number of cases recorded or prosecuted were provided.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 0.0 %	Estimates on the number of birds illegally killed or trapped are based on expert opinion as no centralized database on IKB cases exist and all data are assumed to be available in the local forestry agencies. NGOs have established a database on wildlife poisoning accidents.
GROUP B National legislation 74.1 %	The national legislation is aligned with EU Directives and other international commitments. The hunting law defines timing, methods, required authorizations to hunt, the list of game birds and their bag limits, which are set yearly. Sanctions do not always reflect the severity of the crime and this is limiting their capacity to deter. Criminal law and organized crime legislation could be used in IKB cases, but it does not seem to have happened so far.
GROUP C Enforcement response 20.0 %	Although no national IKB action plan exists, a number of local plans addressing specific forms of poaching have been developed by NGOs and endorsed by the Ministry of Environment setting a good example of joint governmental/NGO policy development that could be expanded. IKB is still not recognized as a priority by national law enforcement agencies. The national law enforcement agency is largely under-staffed and training events are often limited to project-based activities, such as those funded by EU LIFE or private foundations. As a result, the enforcement effort implemented by approximately 1,500 forestry rangers and 350 game wardens employed by the hunting community, have ample room for improvement.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 16.7 %	Criminal proceedings can take up to five years for a first verdict and many wildlife crimes pass the statute of limitations. The judicial system has very limited awareness of wildlife crime and recently the only training offered was a seminar organized by the Academy of European Law
GROUP E Prevention 47.7 %	Participation of Greek government representatives to international meetings has been hampered by the financial crisis, although the permanent representatives attend meetings in Brussels and Strasbourg. Drivers of IKB in Greece are well-known as a result of a number of projects implemented to address wildlife crimes. In particular, poisoning and persecution have been addressed offering shepherds and farmers economic and technical support to protect their properties from wolves, bears and other wild animals. Awareness of the general public and of the regulated community will be further raised by a Ministry of Environment programme which will add to the activities regularly carried out by conservation NGOs and the hunting community.

Hungary

TOTAL SCORE 50.6 %	<p>Indicators with score: completed</p> <p>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed</p>
IKB estimate and number	Based on information obtained from MME/BirdLife Hungary and from the National Bureau of Investigation (Police) and the National Customs Office, it is estimated that on average about 3500 bird are illegally killed in Hungary every

of cases prosecuted	years of which ca. 190 illegally poisoned. Only 4 people were prosecuted, while the number of birds involved in IKB offences dealt in 2016 and 2017 is 12369.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7 %	National IKB estimates are based on a mix of quantitative data gathered by National Park Directorates in collaboration with MME, the national BirdLife partner and on extrapolation. The database of IKB cases does not include illegal trade
GROUP B National legislation 88.9 %	Wildlife legislation is considered adequate and covers international trade as well. Hunting legislation is detailed, clear and complies with international commitments. Penalties are varied and proportional and are calculated based on several criteria including the conservation value of the species involved. Criminal law is used as appropriate in IKB cases, but this does not apply to organized crime legislation.
GROUP C Enforcement response 60.0 %	A national strategy has been developed but more effort should go into its enforcement and updating. Nevertheless, IKB is considered a priority in the National Nature Conservation Master Plan. The engagement of stakeholders is limited in the development of IKB policy-making. Staffing of the several Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) involved is reasonable. Training events, which have been organized regularly over the reporting period, have reached only a limited number of staff members. When and where enforcement efforts are coordinated and focussed on a specific issue (e.g. poisoning of raptors), results are visible.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 33.3 %	The deterrence power of the penalties is reduced by the judges' discretion, as they tend to impose softer penalties. This is caused by the fact that there are no judges specialized in IKB and their awareness of the impact of these crimes is limited. Sentencing guidelines are not needed as the Criminal Code contains all factors to be taken into account in an IKB case.
GROUP E Prevention 66.7 %	Hungary plays an active role in the international IKB meetings, the knowledge of drivers is comprehensive and there is no significant demand for illegally obtained birds in the country as most bird crimes aim at addressing damages caused (or believe to be caused) by wild animals. Awareness raising activities have been implemented, targeting a range of audiences, in the frame of LIFE projects in cooperation with BirdLife Hungary.

Iceland

TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: not completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	Based on data from three years on average 350 birds are killed illegally in Iceland every year. Illegal activities take place between September and November.

Italy

TOTAL SCORE 66.2 %	The replies to the Scoreboard were discussed in the Steering Committee of the National Action Plan, which includes several governmental bodies and agencies as well as representatives of the conservation NGOs and of hunting associations. Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
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IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No official data on the number of illegally taken birds are available. There is a shared feeling that in the long term the intensity of the phenomenon is declining, following years of persistent efforts in some hotspots e.g. the Strait of Messina and to a growing general awareness on the issue. In 2015, last year for which almost complete data are available, 3,743 cases (involving both birds and mammals) were prosecuted, but no information on number of birds involved is available.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7 %	An official estimate of the size of IKB is not available but based on the trend of prosecutions it is believed to be stable; The national action plan includes provisions for improved data collection of recorded events and prosecution cases which will result in improved assessment of the extent of the problem.
GROUP B National legislation 77.8 %	National wildlife legislation is considered adequate and almost completely in line with international commitments, although aspects such as the scientific basis for the definition of bag limits and the timely reporting of bag statistics will require some further effort. The main limitation are the penalties which are not considered sufficiently severe to deter poaching.
GROUP C Enforcement response 70.0 %	A national action plan to tackle IKB as a priority has been developed with the engagement of key stakeholders, it has been formally adopted and is being implemented. Enforcement agencies are affected by staffing and skill shortages, in particular because of a recent shift of competences from provinces to regions. Carabinieri Forestali are regularly trained, while training for other agencies is less frequent. The effort is not uniform at national level. Recently coordination bodies among the LEAs have been established at each of the seven officially identified hotspots.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 41.7 %	Judges are not yet supported by sentencing guidelines and often have limited awareness on the impact, prevalence and severity of IKB and more work can be done in facilitating the sharing of expertise among judges dealing with wildlife crime.
GROUP E Prevention 60.0 %	The Italian Government is playing an active role in international meetings. The knowledge of drivers is reasonably comprehensive, but further effort is required to develop and implement activities addressing the demand for illegally obtained birds including better engagement of the regulated communities and the general public.

Lebanon

TOTAL SCORE 50.0 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No official data on the number of illegally killed or taken birds and on the number of prosecuted cases are available.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 33.3 %	The estimates of the number of birds illegally killed as well as the number of cases prosecuted are based only on expert opinion, anecdotal information and indirect methods.
GROUP B National legislation 63.0 %	The national wildlife legislation is considered adequate to deter IKB although the legislation on regulated use can still be improved both in terms of prohibitions (e.g. of the sale of specimens) and monitoring/reporting of exceptions granted. Penalties are somewhat proportional to the severity of the offence. IKB cases can be prosecuted using criminal law including those addressing organized crime, but no special investigation methods can be used in investigating wildlife crimes. Lebanon is not a member of the Bern Convention, but it is in the process of joining the CMS.

GROUP C Enforcement response 45.0 %	A national action plan is under development and IKB is not yet considered a priority for law enforcement agencies. The engagement of stakeholders, which is envisaged in the national law, will require further work. Law enforcement staff members suffer from understaffing and limited training which affect their capacity of effectively addressing IKB.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 33.3 %	The acquittal level of IKB cases is over 50 per cent, and these are dealt by judges who are not specialized, who do not, yet, have sentencing guidelines, and have limited awareness of the prevalence and impact of IKB in the country.
GROUP E Prevention 53.3 %	The Lebanese Government has attended most of the relevant international meetings. There is some understanding of the drivers, but they have not been directly addressed yet as activities were limited to some awareness raising activities targeted to the regulated community and the general public.

Liechtenstein

TOTAL SCORE N/A	The Government of Liechtenstein replied indicating that IKB was not a concern for the country.
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	Response to questions 2&4: Liechtenstein has no problems with illegal killing, taking or trade of wild birds.

Malta

TOTAL SCORE 91.2 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	The government estimate in 2015 of the total illegal bird mortalities was between 5,000 and 41,000 individuals. Currently the number of birds estimated to be illegally shot or trapped, based on the recovery of shot birds and statistics compiled by inspectors is 301 and the numbers are decreasing. During the reporting period (2015-2017) 274 people were prosecuted for illegal acts involving 3,241 birds.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7 %	The current and past national estimates of birds illegally killed or taken as well as that related to the numbers of people prosecuted are all based partially on quantitative data and records and partially on estimates and extrapolation.
GROUP B National legislation 92.6 %	National wildlife legislation was improved in recent years to better adhere to international commitments. The regulation on use of natural resources offers a good and comprehensive range of measures and control systems prohibiting killing, taking and trading of wild birds unless authorized under a regime of exemptions, permits and derogations in line with the EU legislation. Criminal law is used when appropriate, while laws dealing with organized crime are rarely used in IKB cases.
GROUP C Enforcement response 90.0 %	A national strategy has been developed but not yet formally endorsed by the government, although IKB is formally accepted as a high priority for law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement effort is considered sufficient to properly address IKB although the law enforcement agencies do experience some limitation due to staff shortages.

GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 100 %	Prosecution and sentencing are overall considered in line with the need to address IKB and has delivered sentences in reasonable time and with very low acquittal rates: sentencing guidelines have been adopted and eight severity factors have been embedded into the legislation. The judges are well-aware of the relevance of the IKB issue in Malta and more than 50 per cent have received relevant training. The administrative fines have declined significantly over the last three years (from 677 to 25).
GROUP E Prevention 93.3 %	The Maltese Government is an active player at the international level in the fight against IKB, having hosted the first joint Bern SFPs / CMS MIKT meeting and having been fully involved in the development of the Scoreboard. Drivers of poachers are well-known, and the regulated community and conservation NGOs have been better engaged.

Monaco

TOTAL SCORE 12.8 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): not completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No IKB cases have been reported and therefore no prosecutions cases took place.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 0.0 %	Hunting has been forbidden in Monaco since 1888 and, given the high level of urbanization, it is not a surprise there are no known cases of IKB. In fact, the score for group A should be 100 per cent as the lack of data is due to the lack of crime.
GROUP B National legislation 27.8 %	The environmental code has been approved in late 2017 and still lacks the relevant regulations, but it can be said that the 1888 ban on taking wild birds is fully enforced.
GROUP C Enforcement response 0.0 %	Also, the lack of a specialized law enforcement force or the limited awareness of the judiciary is not an issue. The situation of Monaco is rather particular as there have not been any reported cases of IKB for a long time and probably most of the indicators could be considered as 'non relevant'.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 0.0 %	
GROUP E Prevention 16.7 %	

Montenegro

TOTAL SCORE 30.0 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
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IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	The number of birds estimated to be affected by IKB is between 64,000 and 197,000, as reported by the BirdLife study and detailed estimates are available for 12 areas. In 2018 an estimated 24 people were prosecuted for crimes involving 80 birds.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 33.3 %	The IKB estimate is based on expert opinion as there is not yet a system for officially monitoring IKB events and prosecution cases; the information is gathered, and the assessment is done by the national BirdLife partner. Data of illegal bird mortality in Montenegro are those presented by BirdLife and in 2020 a new assessment will be carried out in collaboration with national NGOs, offering a good example of cooperation between government agencies and NGOs.
GROUP B National legislation 51.9 %	National wildlife legislation is considered to have adequate provision and to be in line with the EU acquis and international conventions. On the other hand, the criminal law does not recognize individual criminal cases such as IKB and a proportionality of the penalties. These limitations result in the rejection by the prosecution of most IKB criminal charges.
GROUP C Enforcement response 15.0 %	A national action plan is under development involving both government and NGOs; IKB is recognized as an important issue, but not formalized because of the lack of administrative capacity at governmental level. Enforcement effort is seriously limited by lack of staff, resources and training.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 0.0 %	IKB cases are not prosecuted before criminal courts and therefore no sentencing guidelines are in place resulting in judges rejecting most of the cases and treatment of IKB by prosecutors as minor offences.
GROUP E Prevention 33.3 %	Drivers are still poorly understood and there is a clear need for awareness raising activities targeting both the general public, the judicial system as well as the regulated communities.

Netherlands

TOTAL SCORE 68.8 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): not completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No official figures are available for the estimated number of victims of IKB or the cases prosecuted and the number of birds involved in these cases.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 100 %	IKB in the Netherlands is considered not to be substantial and, although based on expert opinion, the NGO estimate is considered accurate.
GROUP B National legislation 88.9 %	National legislation complies with international commitments (including rules regarding derogations) and is supported by suitable regulations. Hunting is limited to three bird species and all limitations regarding place, timing and methods of taking are clearly defined. Penalties and sanctions, for which a minimum and maximum are defined and reflect the severity of the offences, generally act as deterrents.
GROUP C Enforcement response 76.5 %	A national action plan is not justified because of the low prevalence of IKB, which is only sometimes identified as a priority. Law enforcement agencies include 640 officers specifically trained and prepared to address IKB.

GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 33.3 %	The quality of the judicial process is considered adequate as less than 25% out of the 73 cases recorded in the reporting period resulted in acquittals. Therefore, no sentencing guidelines of specific training are considered to be required.
GROUP E Prevention 40.0 %	IKB drivers are reasonably understood and no specific awareness raising activities are being implemented as not considered particularly useful given the level of IKB in the country.

Norway

TOTAL SCORE 88.8 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): not completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	The only estimate available is that offered by BirdLife. Cases of IKB (including poisoning) are detected very rarely and probably are not widespread. No information is given on the number of cases prosecuted.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 33.3	The national estimate of the number of birds illegally killed is based on expert opinion.
GROUP B National legislation 100 %	National wildlife legislation is in line with international commitments, defines clear and well-known restrictions and is kept up-to-date by continuous revision and new regulations regarding, among other issues, the list and number of huntable species and damage control activities. Penalties range from fines to imprisonment and criminal law can be used to prosecute wildlife offenders and are considered a sufficient deterrent, as shown with the low occurrence of IKB offences.
GROUP C Enforcement response 90.0 %	IKB level does not require a specific action plan as this type of crime is addressed by general regulations and control activities. Nevertheless, law enforcers have a high degree of awareness about the issue. Stakeholders are involved in policy making through well-regulated and clear processes. Law enforcement effort is considered reasonable with 100 state inspectorate officers, liaising with several hundred police officers and with a central environment police unit with five staff assigned to wildlife crimes.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 100 %	The judicial system is effective. Judges and prosecutors are well informed and trained and have access to experts for advice on the seriousness and impact of the crimes.
GROUP E Prevention 80.0 %	Due to the low level of IKB crimes, Norway has not often participated in specific international meetings. The knowledge of the drivers is considered good. General public and regulated communities are well informed and aware of the rules for wildlife conservation and use also due to the public media and specific materials developed for example by the hunters' associations.

Serbia

TOTAL SCORE 75.0 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): not completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No official estimates on the number of birds which are victim of illegal activities are offered. Also, data on the number of prosecutions are not available.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 50.0 %	Estimates of the number of birds illegally killed are based partially on quantitative data and expert opinion. The IKB cases are gathered by several agencies, which, based on a draft protocol, will cooperate more closely once it is approved.
GROUP B National legislation 100 %	Wildlife and hunting legislation is considered to have adequate provisions to deter and combat IKB, by providing clear definitions, with limits on game species and allowed bags, where hunting can take place, timing and methods. The legislation is in line with international commitments, offers a range of penalties and sanctions, which are proportional to the severity, and a description of the offences. The criminal code and organised crime legislation can be used in prosecuting IKB.
GROUP C Enforcement response 60.0 %	A national action plan has been developed and is awaiting formal approval. As a result of the pressure by the Bern Convention, IKB has become a higher priority issue and resulted in improved cooperation between governmental agencies and NGOs. Enforcement efforts can be improved provided capacity and training limitations are overcome.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 66.7 %	Judges have some awareness of the prevalence of wildlife crimes and IKB cases result in less than 25 per cent of acquittals, but the sentencing guidelines, which are included in the national action plan, are not yet formally endorsed.
GROUP E Prevention 66.7 %	The draft national action plan includes provision for improving actions to address the demand for illegally obtained birds, which is an important driver of IKB in Serbia, and to improve awareness of both the regulated community and the general public

Slovakia

TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: not completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	<p>Every year approximately 50 birds are illegally killed in Slovakia, mainly in the western part of the country. Because of the length of the prosecutions the trend of IKB is not clear in the country.</p> <p>The Slovak Republic has identified and prosecuted the responsible of the death of at least 24 protected bird species (birds of prey especially) which took place between winter 2017 and spring 2018. This was possible thanks to the work of the Department for Detection of Hazardous Substances and Environmental Crime (Presidium of the Police Force). The detection of IKB cases has increased: this is caused by the fact, that the issue of illegal poisoning of birds and other wildlife is also considerably monitored by NGOs and the wider public.</p>

Slovenia

TOTAL SCORE 80.0 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	The number of birds known to have been involved in IKB is 38 in the reporting period (2015-2017) resulting in two persons being prosecuted.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 100 %	Illegal killing of birds is generally considered limited in Slovenia; the Government does not produce an estimate of illegal activities but only the number of all cases reported to the prosecutors.
GROUP B National legislation 92.6 %	The legislation regarding wildlife conservation and its regulated use is considered adequate and effective as a deterrent and in line with international commitments and obligations. Organized crime legislation could be used in prosecuting offenders, although no such cases have emerged so far.
GROUP C Enforcement response 55.0 %	The limited amount of IKB is probably linked to the lack of tradition of bird taking. The situation does not call for a specific action plan or strategy. Nevertheless, Slovenia is contributing to the implementation of the EU roadmap. IKB cases are considered second priority as first attention is given to any case threatening human life and health. Stakeholder involvement takes place for both law and policy development. Staff allocated to wildlife crime is limited but considered adequate to the threat level.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 83.3 %	The judicial system administers sanctions of varying degrees including imprisonment. The cases are generally handled by general prosecutors and judges with some specialization and supported by guidance on sentencing. Although the percentage of prosecutors and judges receiving specialized training is limited, the training targets those operating near the borders (Italy and Balkan countries) as Slovenia is mostly a country of transit for offenders.
GROUP E Prevention 80.0 %	Illegal taking of birds is largely driven by foreigners, so no specific in-country activities addressing demand is considered of use, and awareness of the regulated communities and even more among general public is considered high as the IKB cases receive a great deal of attention from the media.

Spain

TOTAL SCORE 73.8 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	Between 1,580 and 4,625 birds are affected by criminal activities every year in Spain. No information is available on the number of IKB cases prosecuted in Spain.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 50.0 %	The estimate of Spain of the number of birds illegally killed is an extrapolation based on 1) partial quantitative data and records of birds received by 5 of the 19 regional wildlife recovery centres and 2) the reported cases of poisoned birds extrapolated considering that on average the poisoned birds represent 12 per cent of all birds received by recovery centres.

GROUP B National legislation 92.6 %	National legislation on wildlife conservation and use is judged to be an adequate deterrent to IKB as the number of cases is declining. It has clear rules on huntable species, bag and season limits based on biological and conservation considerations and it is in line with international commitments and obligations. Penalties range from fines to imprisonment reflecting the severity of the offences with criminal legislation (including on organized crime) used as required.
GROUP C Enforcement response 70.0 %	A national action plan has been developed in consultation with all major stakeholders and it's currently being implemented by all relevant law enforcement agencies which consider IKB as a priority, although not formally recognized. Enforcement effort is limited by understaffing of relevant agencies, which on the other hand receive adequate specific training on IKB.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 50.0 %	The judicial system is the area which has more room for improvement. It is not yet supported by sentencing guidelines and access to past cases as a support for other prosecutors is not easy. Prosecutors and judges have some awareness of wildlife crimes and tend to collaborate to deliver appropriate verdicts as less than half of them receive training on IKB.
GROUP E Prevention 73.3 %	Spain is playing an active role in international fora on IKB. There is a reasonably comprehensive understanding of the drivers of bird-related crimes, but activities addressing the drivers of bird crime are limited by lack of resources. Awareness activities toward the regulated communities and the general public, although not guided by a communication strategy, are sometimes comprehensive and widespread and mostly implemented by NGOs.

Syrian Arab Republic

TOTAL SCORE N/A	The Syrian Government reply did not include the Scoreboard or the data required by indicators 2 & 4 because of the difficulty in obtaining the data given the current situation in the country.
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No information could be gathered to estimate the number of birds which are victim of IKB, but the report published by BirdLife International about the number of birds caught is considered incorrect. There is a very old hunting law, which is considered outdated and it does not provide clear rules about hunting, such as the list and numbers of game. A new hunting law is under development and a new law or decree will regulate trafficking in wild animal and plant species.

Switzerland

TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: not completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	IKB is limited to occasional (0-3 cases per year) poisoning of raptors with baited pigeons. Only one IKB case is reported to have been prosecuted.

Tunisia

TOTAL SCORE 50.6 %	Indicators with score: completed
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	Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): not completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	
GROUP A IKB monitoring 33.3 %	The estimate of the extent of IKB is based on expert opinion, but the data on cases known to justice is collected and available, but have not been shared.
GROUP B National legislation 75.0 %	National legislation is considered comprehensive with a reasonable range of adequate penalties although no reporting of derogation is envisaged. On the other hand, criminal legislation is rarely applied in IKB cases. Most legislation is in line with international commitments.
GROUP C Enforcement response 40.0 %	No national action plan has been developed but a national Platform, called 'STOP!' is in place to support the LEAs and NGOS' efforts to combat IKB. It produces a yearly report on the conservation status of birds in Tunisia. IKB is rarely identified as a priority by LEAs which lack generally of staff, resources and skills
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 25.0 %	KB cases are concluded within 2 years, but are dealt by prosecutors and judges with limited awareness on the seriousness of IKB, not specialised in IKB or supported by specific guidelines.
GROUP E Prevention 66.7 %	IKB Driver knowledge is moderate and incomplete. No actions have been implemented to address IKB drivers. Some awareness and information activities have been implemented in particular for what concerns the regulated community while limited are the activities aimed to raise awareness of the regarding the general public.

Turkey

TOTAL SCORE 57.5 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	The number of birds involved in recorded IKB cases in 2015 was 13,893, 15,501 in 2016 and 12,933 in 2017 showing some fluctuations but no clear trend. In 2017, 10,822 cases were prosecuted involving 7,071 birds.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7 %	National estimates of the size of IKB are based on the number of cases of bird-related crime recorded in the national database AVBIS (Hunting Ground Information System) without further extrapolation.
GROUP B National legislation 59.3 %	National legislation offers clear rules for the protection of wildlife and its sustainable use, with a defined list of game species, timing and allowed bag sizes, but its enforcement should be strengthened. The law foresees authorization mechanisms and procedures in line with international commitments and offers a range of penalties, which are in general proportionate to the severity of the crime. Criminal law is rarely used and organized crime legislation cannot be applied to IKB cases.

GROUP C Enforcement response 50.0 %		A national IKB action plan is under development and, according to the national law, stakeholders will be involved; law enforcement agencies do not consider bird crime a priority, most of the time, and their efficiency is limited by understaffing and, to a lesser extent, by lack of training.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 58.3 %	D	Justice is dispensed rather quickly and with a low percentage of acquittal. Judges are not specialized in or trained on wildlife crime but are supported by official sentencing guidelines and prosecutors and judges cooperate to deliver verdicts, which are appropriate to the severity of the crime.
GROUP E Prevention 60.0 %	E	The Turkish Government could play a more active role in international fora. Its knowledge of the drivers of IKB is moderate and more activities would be useful to address the demand of illegally acquired birds. Awareness raising activities towards both the general public and the hunting community would benefit from a more strategic effort.

United Kingdom

TOTAL SCORE 97.4 %	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 & 4): completed
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	<p>The UK Government does not collect or publish official, verified estimates of the number of birds illegally trapped, killed or traded each year. The UK Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government record data on all convictions for IKB, but do not disclose this information.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice groups offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 under the following categories (the number of prosecutions in 2016 is bracketed at the end)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary offences in relation to birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (30 prosecutions in 2016) • Summary offences in relation to nests and eggs of birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (12 prosecutions in 2016) • Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds (1 prosecution in 2016)
GROUP A IKB monitoring 100 %	Estimates of the number of illegally killed or taken birds are considered as based on expert opinion.
GROUP B National legislation 100 %	Wildlife and hunting legislation provides clear limits and definitions regarding the list of game species, time when they can be hunted and methods. Individuals need the permission from the landowner to shoot wildlife. Exemptions are granted in accordance with international obligations. The offender is faced with a comprehensive array of sanctions which are proportionate and adequate as a deterrent. Criminal and organized crime legislation are both applicable in relevant cases.
GROUP C Enforcement response 100 %	Several specific plans, strategies and working groups, involving all stakeholders, are in place to combat a range of wildlife crimes in UK and crimes such as raptor persecution and those involving CITES species are currently considered a priority. Law enforcement efforts, delivered by a well-structured and well-staffed organization of specialized personnel composed of the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit and of several hundred police officers in each region (and in Scotland in each division), is considered sufficient to address IKB.

GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 77.8 %	Justice on IKB cases is generally delivered within one year with less than 25 per cent acquittals. Verdicts are not pronounced by specialized judges, who are not guided by specific sentencing guidelines. Guidelines are under development in Scotland. Prosecutors' awareness is ensured through regular meetings of the community panel and the prosecution service has produced legal guidance on wildlife offences.
GROUP E Prevention 100 %	The UK actively participates to international IKB meetings. The knowledge of IKB drivers of the many forms of IKB is considered good and shared among police, policy makers and NGOs. Demand and trade of illegally obtained birds is limited in UK, therefore no specific actions are undertaken. Information on the distribution and size of bird of prey persecution has been produced and in Scotland a yearly wildlife crime report is published

SCOREBOARDS COMPILED BY NGOS

Naše ptice (Bosnia Herzegovina)

TOTAL SCORE 33.8%	The scoreboard was submitted by the Ornithological Society "Naše ptice".
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	No estimates on the extent of IKB in terms of number of birds killed and/or cases prosecuted are provided.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 33.3 %	National estimates on the extent of IKB and of the number of cases prosecuted are both based on expert opinion and/or indirect methods.
GROUP B National legislation 33.3 %	National wildlife legislation is not supported by a suitable framework of regulations. The hunting law seems to provide comprehensive provisions covering the list of game species, the hunting season, the methods allowed and prohibited and an authorization mechanism to allow hunting. The law offers only a limited range of administrative sanctions which are not proportionate to the nature and severity of the crimes and therefore are not considered an effective deterrent. International commitments (CMS, Bern Convention) have not been transposed into national legislation.
GROUP C Enforcement response 35.0 %	No national IKB action plan has been developed and wildlife crime is not considered a priority by law enforcement agencies and engagement of stakeholders in national policy making is envisaged in national legislation but rarely takes place. Police forces are significantly understaffed: NGOs have organized three training session attended by 30 LEAs staff members representing less than 10 per cent of police forces. Field enforcement effort has therefore potential for improvement.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 33.3 %	IKB cases are not recorded and therefore not accessible to prosecutors and judges and report from NGOs are rarely investigated. Judges are not supported by sentencing guidelines and have limited awareness about and limited training on the prevalence of IKB and usually treat them as a minor crime.
GROUP E Prevention 33.3 %	The international engagement of the Government is considered very limited, but there is a moderate understanding of the drivers behind IKB and there is no information on the demand for illegally obtained birds. Some awareness raising activities have taken place but lack of a strategic approach and coordination.

SSCW (Syrian Arab Republic)

TOTAL SCORE 35.1 %	The Scoreboard was submitted by the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife which has collected all data and replies after close consultations with experts and officials at the relevant governmental departments in the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and Ministry of Agriculture as well as the Higher Council for Hunting.
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	Hunting is banned by a ministerial decision that has been renewed periodically since 1995, but weak enforcement results in hunting taking place illegally in some areas that are considered particularly attractive. The NGO estimates that between 2,870,000 and 4,870,000 birds are illegally killed every year. IKB takes place year-round but mainly during autumn and winter. No data are available on prosecution cases.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 33.3 %	The number of birds illegally killed is estimated based on some quantitative data and experts' opinions. No reporting mechanism is in enforce in the country for IKB incidents.
GROUP B National legislation 41.7 %	The wildlife legislation has provisions to combat IKB, but is not supported by an adequate regulatory framework. A new draft hunting law has been recently approved by the Higher Council for Hunting and is awaiting final approval by the Government before being passed to the parliament for implementation. The legislation offers a limited spectrum of sanctions for which only a maximum is set which is not proportionate to the nature and severity of the crime. The new draft law included harsher penalties.
GROUP C Enforcement response 40.0 %	A national IKB action plan was developed by the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife, with participation from governmental departments. This is in line with the participation of stakeholders envisaged in policy making, but has not been fully adopted. This is conditional to the production of the new National Hunting Law. IKB is usually considered a priority by the law enforcement agencies. Wildlife legislation enforcement is carried out by national police with the support of forest and rangeland wardens, but they are often understaffed and untrained resulting in insufficient efforts to fight IKB.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 16.7 %	No information is available on the quality of the judicial system, which considers IKB a minor crime because of the limited awareness among prosecutors and judges, of whom only a few have received some IKB-related training.
GROUP E Prevention 33.3 %	Participation to international meetings is not fully achieved due to the political climate and sanctions imposed on Syrian officials and nationals in general. Some limited awareness activities have been carried out by NGOs but without a general strategy and with limited spread.

Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds (Ukraine)

TOTAL SCORE 54.0 %	The Scoreboard and data for indicators 2 & 4 were submitted by the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife partner in Ukraine). Nine indicators were not filled in and were not included in the calculation of the score.
IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted	At national level, 12,759 - 46,121 birds are affected by illegal activities every year in Ukraine. Research found over 1,000 birds offered for sale online in one year. Overall illegal trade is estimate to involve up to 20,000 birds. The level of IKB is considered stable. No information is available on prosecutions.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 50.0 %	The national estimate of birds illegally killed or taken is based partially on quantitative data and records and partially on estimates and extrapolation.

GROUP B National legislation 95.2 %	Wildlife legislation has adequate provision, although it lacks a supporting legislative and regulatory framework. Hunting law is adequate and provides clear indications of what is allowed and what is prohibited, including the trade of wild birds. Penalties and sanctions prescribed cover a range of options, of which some reflect the severity of the crimes, but ample margin of discretion is left to the judiciary.
GROUP C Enforcement response 11.8 %	No national action plan has been developed and IKB is rarely considered a priority by law enforcement agencies. Stakeholders' involvement is limited to ad hoc consultation with academics. Law enforcement agencies are understaffed and their effort is considered insufficient to address IKB.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 0.0 %	Reports by civil society of illegal bird killing are seldom investigated. No information is available to the compiler concerning the existence of sentencing guidelines, awareness level of judges or training.
GROUP E Prevention 66.7 %	Drivers behind IKB are moderately known, but no information is offered on activities implemented to address demand or raise awareness on IKB among the regulated community and the general public.

CONCLUSIONS

It is possible to draw some important conclusions and make general observations from the replies received and the analysis of the scores obtained from each country.

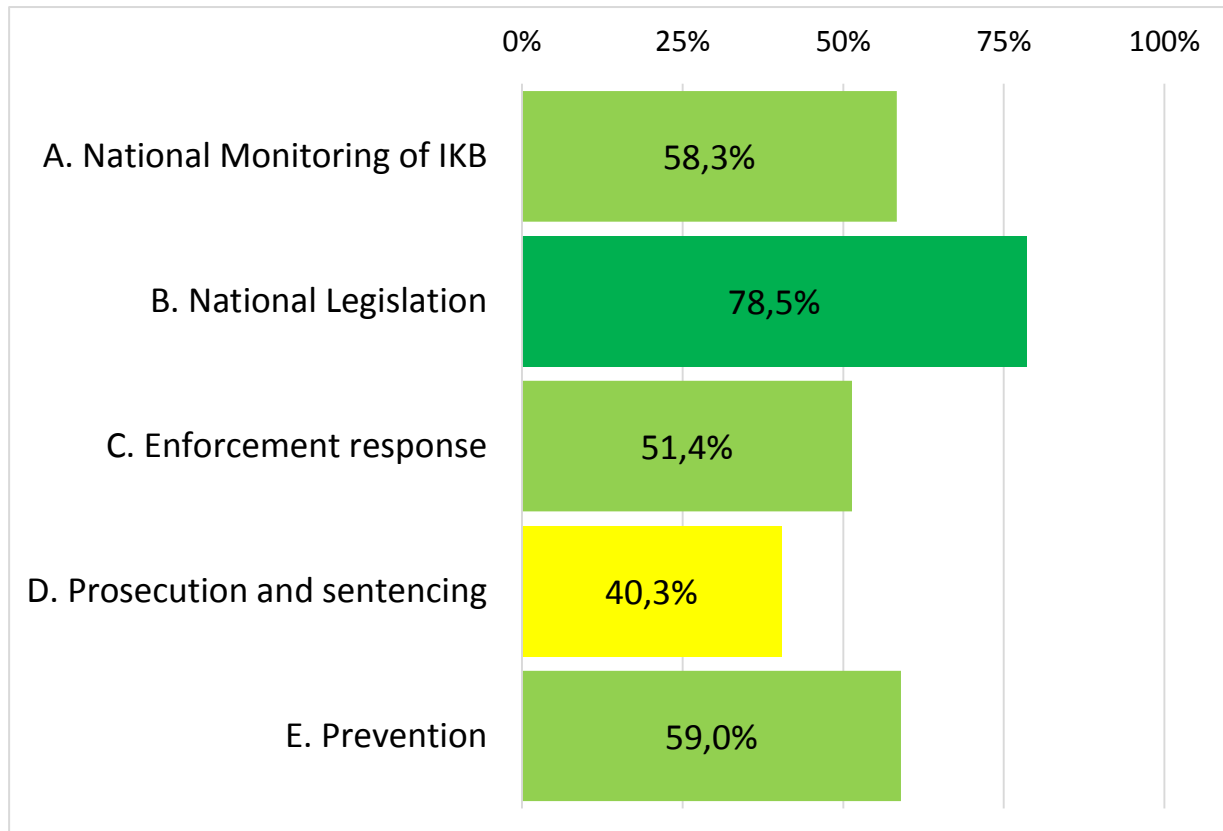


Figure 2 - Average score (percentage of maximum possible score) for each indicators' group.

Monitoring

The indicators in Group A look into the availability of data both in terms of existence and quality of estimates of the number of birds killed and the number of cases prosecuted.

Collecting data and monitoring the number of illegally killed birds are complex and will in all cases require some extrapolation and expert judgement. The replies indicate that assessments, when available, are largely based on partial, anecdotal information; when based on solid, although partial data, these are often collected by or in collaboration with NGOs. Fifteen countries/territories offered an estimate for the size of the IKB: of these, seven countries are the same as the number of birds involved in prosecuted cases. Twelve countries/territories provided the number of IKB prosecuted cases or birds involved; in four cases the data are only partial or estimates as the information collected does not include all details on the taxa involved or data are not available from all LEAs. This will make it a challenge to properly monitor the impact of any improved effort in the fight against illegal killing of birds. And it will leave governments exposed to criticism from the conservation NGOs.

There are good examples of cooperation between governmental agencies and NGOs such as the database on poisoning events in Hungary, which is managed by MME (the national BirdLife partner in Hungary) with the cooperation of the national park directorates. In Turkey and France, specific databases are in place to collect and analyse all cases of illegalities regarding wildlife and biodiversity in general. A similar database is under development in Italy, where the data gathered include not only the cases reported to the police, but also the data from the wildlife recovery centres. Data from the recovery centres have been used in Spain to estimate the extent of IKB.

The availability of data on the number and nature of the cases prosecuted are more widespread. The main challenge is gathering the information from the regional courts or from different law enforcement agencies, which in some cases do not record the details of the cases (e.g. type and number of animals involved, nature of the infraction). The records are sometimes limited to the cases for which criminal sanctions or imprisonment are stipulated. In any case, the trend of cases would give a fair indication of the effort in fighting IKB over time.

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Information provided by the respondents: Estimating and monitoring IKB in Italy

Within the Italian National Action Plan, the Italian Government is developing a number of tools to monitor the extent of IKB in all its forms.

The Carabinieri Forestali, with the support of ISPRA (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), are developing databases and data gathering procedures to collect all wildlife crime reports provided to the law enforcement agencies and all animals collected by the wildlife recovery centres.

The first database builds on an existing one developed to collect data on wolves and bears and to monitor poisoning and poaching events. Expanding its scope to all wildlife and in particular birds, aims eventually at collecting all events involving wildlife reported to any law enforcement agency, which includes provincial/ regional wildlife rangers, local (municipal) police, national police; Carabinieri and Carabinieri Forestali. Reported events may include finding dead or injured animals or poaching events and will contain information on location, species, number and whether a prosecution case was opened. Work is ongoing to integrate, as much as possible, the existing databases.

The second database will collect information through all authorized wildlife recovery centres. Data will include also information on the causes of hospitalization, treatments and outcomes.

The two databases will offer a good idea on the numbers and trend of IKB.

National legislation

The indicator of Group B aims at assessing the quality of national legislations related to wildlife and its use.

The score for Group B indicators is always relatively high, indicating that existing national legislation is rarely identified as problematic or requiring significant changes. Most legislation offer clear rules regarding the limits of the hunting seasons, the list of game species, the hunting methods allowed or forbidden and basic reporting requirements. Also, the indicator regarding penalties generally score high with no countries scoring below 2.

This is probably the result of the sharing of good practices and guidance ensured by international treaties and conventions, which have provided a framework for a relatively good legal infrastructure. This is not only the case among the members of the EU, where the infringement procedure is a powerful legal tool, but also for the Parties to the Bonn and Bern Conventions, where the lack of a similar tool

has been replaced by the requirement of ensuring that the national legislation complies with the texts of the conventions and agreements and – with regard to the Bern Convention - the case file process. In both cases the ‘moral suasion’ has proven effective.

Information provided by the respondents: taking the severity of the crime into consideration

Hungary offers an interesting example on how the severity of the crime is taken into consideration in the sentence.

National legislation identifies the "nature conservation value" of each protected species (e.g. 1 million Hungarian Forints/individual). This is the basis of calculating fines, but various other factors identified in legislation are also taken into account in the authority's calculation. Thus, a maximum penalty is defined (nature conservation value multiplied or divided using the established factors) as per individual of the protected species affected, but there is no minimum penalty, the consideration of factors may result in annulling the amount of the fine. The Criminal Code also takes into account the nature conservation value and defines factors that influence the heaviness of the penalty.

Enforcement

Group C of the indicators covers the preparedness of the law enforcement agencies. This group has received the second lowest average score.

The capacity of the enforcement agencies is considered a serious limitation in addressing IKB. Understaffing, limited training and the fact that illegal killing, taking or trading of birds is not considered an enforcement priority by the decision makers are the main causes of the limited impact of the law enforcement agencies. Five countries (Hungary, Italy, Malta, Spain and the United Kingdom), have developed specific action plans to address IKB and six more countries (the Czech Republic, Lebanon, Montenegro, Slovenia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey) report they are in the process to develop/approve it, while in three more countries (Albania, the Netherlands and Norway) IKB is effectively covered by other enforcement action plans. It is therefore expected that the next Scoreboard will report improvement in enforcement effectiveness.

Information provided by the respondents: the national action plans

The need and usefulness of a national action plan will depend on a number of factors. Several replies indicate that the low level of IKB does not justify developing a specific strategy, while others have a number of policy documents, structures and initiatives that address several forms of IKB.

For example, the UK has developed a Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy of the National Police Chiefs' Council. Aspects of this strategy are delivered by priority delivery groups for priority wildlife crimes such as the Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group. It brings conservation and shooting interests together with police and government to combat raptor persecution. The CITES Priority Delivery Group works to increase the number of disruption activities and detections of illegal trade in CITES priority species, including birds. Furthermore, the joint action plan to increase the Hen Harrier population in England, outlines steps to address threats to the species' population, including from criminal activities.

National action plans have been developed mostly in collaboration with stakeholders and are at different stage of implementation in Hungary, Italy, Malta, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic and are under development in Serbia and Turkey.

Prosecution and sentencing

The area where more work seems to be needed is the prosecution and sentencing. This area has the lowest score. In most of the countries the judges are not aware of the prevalence and impact of IKB and

are not yet supported by sentencing guidelines. There are good examples to be followed: sentencing guidelines have been developed or already included in the existing legislation in six countries (Hungary, Malta, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey) and are under development in six more countries (Belgium (Wallonia), Italy, Lebanon, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom). Only two countries (the Czech Republic and Malta) report that training has reached more than 50 per cent of prosecutors or judges and in three countries (France, Serbia and Spain) between 10 and 50 per cent.

ENPE - CMS Workshop for Government Prosecutors on the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds ¹¹

A good training and networking opportunity is offered by the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), the association of government prosecutors, which is specialized in environmental law enforcement.

Because enforcement of environmental laws across the EU Member States is viewed as uneven and incomplete, the EU LIFE programme has funded ENPE (and certain partners), through the LIFEENPE Project, to work over the years 2015-2020, in four priority environmental areas, including Working Group 1 (WG1), which focusses on wildlife crime.

In 2018, CMS and ENPE collaborated to organize a Workshop for Government Prosecutors on the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean Region. The workshop organized was aimed at prosecutors and specialists involved in the enforcement of environmental crimes against migratory wild birds in the wider Mediterranean region. Thirty-seven delegates attended the workshop, with prosecutors and senior enforcement personnel from most European Mediterranean coastal, countries or Island States, two Middle Eastern and three North African Mediterranean bordering countries.

Overall, the key messages from the workshop were:

Specialist prosecutors greatly enhance the fight against IKB.

The creation of specialized police forces, or their equivalent with police-like powers, that are adequately trained/equipped and work on the ground, greatly increases the possibility of success in the fight against wildlife crime and illegal killing of birds in particular. Spain's SEPRONA provides a good example.

Both of the above are most effective when part of a national commitment by the relevant governmental ministries and departments, and with underpinning of modern and effective legislation.

International co-operation on what is a regional, European, Middle-Eastern and African problem is vital.

Addressing wildlife crime requires specific training; this workshop delivered an important example in this regard.

Legislation (e.g. on hunting) requires improvement in some countries to enable prosecutors/investigators to clearly distinguish between legal hunting and poaching (which is, in effect, IKB).

The readiness of attendees to initiate and/or support the development of, or proposals for, amendment of, national legislation and to assist relevant ministries/authorities in their countries exists and would increase the effectiveness of enforcement against IKB.

Intensification of international cooperation beyond the European network is intended.

¹¹ The report of the workshop for government prosecutors on the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean region can be found at <https://www.cms.int/meeting/workshop-government-prosecutors-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory-birds-ikb>

The Intergovernmental Task Force on IKB in the Mediterranean under CMS (MIKT) can play a vital role as a platform for international cooperation.

Prevention

14 scoreboards indicated that the understanding of drivers is considered good and comprehensive. In all countries, some awareness activities have been carried out, often by NGOs in the framework of internationally funded projects. No countries report on having developed national communication strategies. The strategy could help better focus the communication, select the appropriate message and delivery tool for each audience. Further work from governments in supporting and coordinating awareness raising activities would be useful to raise awareness within the more appropriate, but sometimes less easy to reach, target groups.

Information provided by the respondents - Malta: poachers and their motivation

Knowing the drivers and the benefit related to IKB is important in order to develop the correct approach to address it.

Malta offers a good example.

Although there is no “official” study on the key drivers and “benefits” of bird-related crime in Malta, various private researchers examined these drivers as part of their research. The most prominent driver of illegal targeting of protected birds in Malta is thought to be taxidermy and illegal trophy trade, as well as illegal trade in live birds. However, “recreational satisfaction”, including “thrill killing” aggravated by lack of hunting opportunities and frustration / rebellion against official regulations is also known to be a major driver. Although there are several illegal killing and trapping motivations, they ultimately depend on two qualifying elements:

- 1. An innate desire to shoot or trap protected birds (i.e., individuals must be willing to poach).*
- 2. The individuals’ perception that they will not be caught.*

In the absence of these two elements illegal killing and trapping do not occur. Targeting of protected birds in Malta is not dependent on any specific open season but on the presence of protected birds themselves. IKTB can be compared with the “routine activity theory”, which necessitates the co-existence of three elements: “...the presence of a likely offender [the poacher], a suitable target [protected species] and absence of competent guardianship [enforcement]”. These three elements are inter-related, as an offence is more likely to be committed in the absence of enforcement, and vice versa.

The rationale behind the illegal shooting or taking of protected birds depends on a complex set of motives that define two poacher categories. Category I poachers collect protected birds for taxidermy, illegal trade or other purposes consonant with some form of material or commercial gain. On the other hand, Category II poachers shoot or take either whenever the opportunity presents itself, out of frustration and/or as a form of rebellion. Some offenders combine characteristics of both categories.

Category I poachers -*The first category consists of individuals who illegally shoot or take birds throughout the year for personal possession or illegal taxidermy or trade. They are either seasoned poachers or young individuals who wish to start their own collection of live or dead specimens. The shooting or taking of protected species both for private collections and for commercial gain is a major drive for these poachers.*

Category II poachers -*The second category contains three sub-groups—the opportunists, the frustrated and the rebels. Opportunism, frustration and rebellion are not mutually exclusive since an opportunistic poacher may shoot out of frustration (lack of legal quarry) as well as a form of rebellion. Notwithstanding, a Category II poacher generally adopts only one of the three at any one time—frustration being the most frequent. Individuals forming part of these three sub-groups seldom poach for taxidermy or other form of personal material / commercial gain, but such motives cannot be excluded.*

The opportunists - Opportunists shoot protected birds discreetly, a form of thrill killing / taking. They only poach undercover, thus excel in being elusive, and are particularly afraid of apprehension. If a protected bird is sitting in a concealed spot, flying low or otherwise perceived to be out of sight, the likelihood that opportunists will shoot or take that bird is very high.

The frustrated - Legal hunting opportunities in Malta are perceived by many hunters as being very limited, which can lead to illegal killing or taking out of frustration, sometimes even without the intention to keep or consume the specimen shot or taken.

The rebels - Rebels are at odds with the extremist view of some bird conservationists, hunting laws or authority in general. Some may espouse the view that hunting restrictions are imposed upon Malta by EU institutions as a result of campaigns by foreign conservation NGOs and that these restrictions are thus perceived as a form of “foreign domination” that resonates with anti-colonial sentiments of Malta’s historic past.

Scoring and IKB severity

Bearing in mind that the Scoreboard is a self-assessment tool and that the overall estimate of IKB can only offer a general picture of the issue across Europe and the Mediterranean region, it is useful to look also at how the national total scores reflect the IKB classes.

The total score of the Scoreboard tends to decline with the severity of the IKB issue in the country (Figure 3). Countries with low numbers of birds illegally killed (i.e. below 10,000 individuals taken or killed per year) tend to score relatively high, indicating that the country assesses that it is well set to address IKB in terms of legislation, enforcement and prosecution.

The decline of the scoring of the self-assessment with an increase in IKB indicates that there is an increased awareness about the need for action in the countries with a severe IKB issue.

Each indicator pin-points a specific aspect that needs to be considered to develop a legal and enforcement structure which is well suited to fight IKB and therefore can help each country to identify the areas that most likely need attention to improve their effectiveness and efficiency.

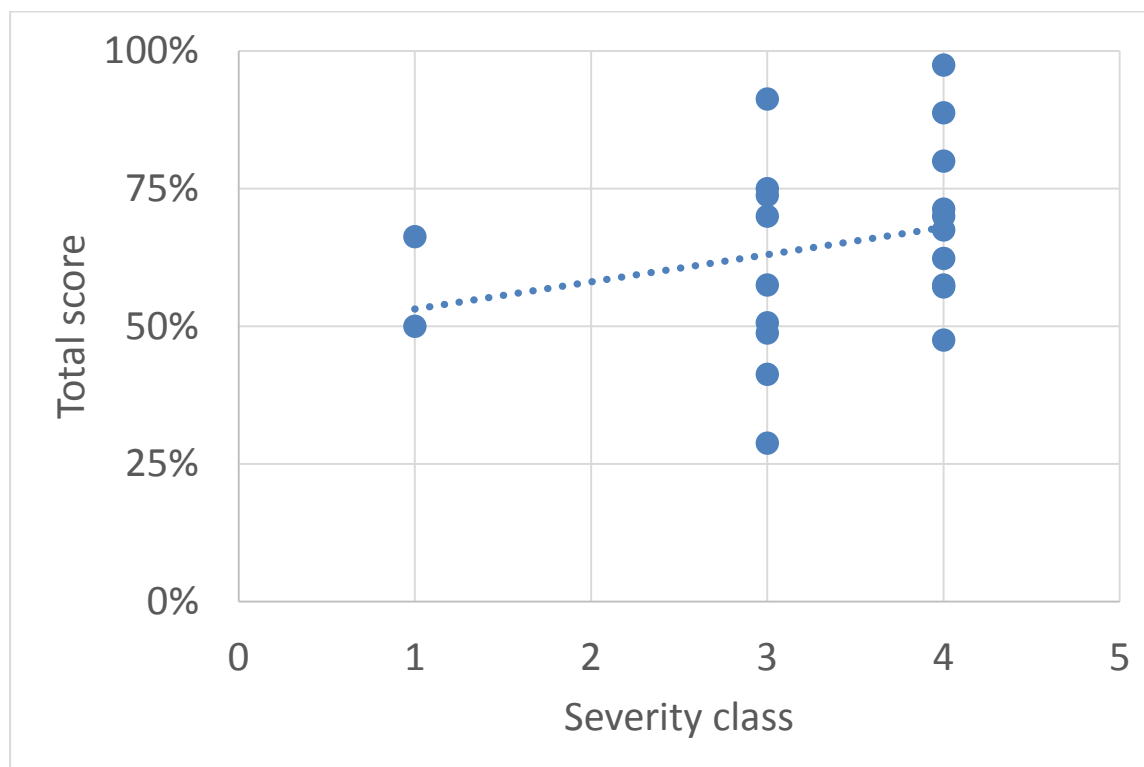


Figure 1 - Total scores by IKB severity class and trend. Each dot represents the total score of a country; the position of each dot is determined by the severity of the IKB problem (axis x) and the Scoreboard score (axis y). The trend line shows how the average score declines by severity class.

The exercise has allowed the vast majority of the countries in Europe and in the Mediterranean area to take stock on how they are addressing IKB. The result of this self-assessment is the benchmark against which they will be able to measure progress in the next round. It further provides examples of good practice in each of the aspects of the IKB, including examples of how cooperation between authorities and governmental agencies and the NGO community can be organized for the benefit of the fight against IKB.