



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

*(Bonn Germany, 13 to 15 May 2025)*

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### **ASSESSMENT OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL SCOREBOARD (2023) REPORTING BY CONTRACTING 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**

*(Updated by CMS Secretariat based on the original analysis prepared by Bern Convention in November 2023)*

*(March 2025)*

#### **Summary:**

This document presents an updated analysis of the 2023 Scoreboard submissions. This updated analysis includes the submissions of three additional countries (total 25) which submitted their contributions after the deadline of the 2023 Scoreboard.

The original document had been presented to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Bern Convention Standing Committee and included the analysis of the submissions of 22 countries.



The European Union was recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2015 - 2028.



Strasbourg, XXXX

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

XXX meeting  
Strasbourg, XXXX

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**ASSESSMENT OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL SCOREBOARD  
REPORTING BY CONTRACTING 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**

**Update March 2025**

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## ACRONYMS

AVBIS	Av Yönetim Bilgi Sistemi (Hunting Management Information System)-Türkiye
CUFAA	Comando unità forestali, ambientali e agroalimentari of the Carabinieri (Carabinieri Forestali have been assimilated in this Command). In English: Command of the Forest, Environmental and Agri-food units
ENPE	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment
IKB	Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of wild birds
ISPRA	Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research)
MASE	Ministero dell'ambiente e della sicurezza energetica (Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security)
MIKT	CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean
NAP	National Action Plan
NWCU	National Wildlife Crime Unit, UK
RSP	Rome Strategic Plan
SEPRONA	Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza de la Guardia Civil- (Nature Protection Service of the Spanish Civil Guard)
SFPs	Special Focal Points
TiIFIES	Plan de acción español contra o tráfico ilegal e a caza furtiva internacional de especies silvestres (Spanish Action Plan against the Illegal Trafficking and International Poaching of Wildlife Species (TIFIES Plan))

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB)*<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the Scoreboard) is a voluntary assessment tool jointly developed by the Bern Convention and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT).

The Scoreboard comprises of 28 indicators organised under relevant questions in five areas, considered critical to assessing the effectiveness of a national response to IKB. These are: Monitoring; National Legislation; Enforcement Response; Prosecution and Sentencing and Prevention. The Scoreboard 2023 questionnaire included additional narrative questions to help assess progress related to the objectives, milestones and targets of the *Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region*, which was adopted in 2019, shortly after the original Scoreboard.

The report presents the analysis of submissions to the third Scoreboard report, which took place in 2023. This updated analysis report includes analysis of submissions of the three extra countries, which submitted their answers after the deadline in July 2023.

In total 25 countries submitted responses to the third Scoreboard exercise, 15 of those had also submitted responses in 2018 and 2020, six had also submitted responses in 2020 or 2018, and four submitted the Scoreboard for the first time in 2023. Annex 1 lists all the countries and which years they reported.

The illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds remains an important threat for birds in the Mediterranean and Europe. The RSP sets the overarching goal of eradicating IKB within the geographic extent of the Bern Convention and the CMS MIKT. Additionally, it sets the goal of reducing the scale and scope of IKB by 50% by 2030 compared to a 2020 baseline.

As can be seen from the analysis of the results all areas still need attention from the countries, and support from the Bern Convention and CMS MIKT, but some seem more critical than others:

- a) **Monitoring:** monitoring IKB is notoriously difficult, but results demonstrate that some countries are making progress, defining a baseline and deciding on a methodology and beginning to have a scale against which to compare progress. This can be an opportunity for countries to learn from each other and make progress. Arriving at an accurate estimate of IKB is critical, not only for assessing progress, but also for building support and ownership.
- b) **National Legislation:** most countries report good scores on legislation but problems with enforcement or prosecution. But as there are still countries requesting support, it means the issue of national legislation is still valid and important, as legislation is the basis for many other actions.
- c) **Enforcement:** this area has been relatively low scoring from the first Scoreboard and continues to score lower than other areas. Results are related to capacity at national level which depends on many factors. However, there are also very important examples of good training opportunities and the role of projects and exchanges between countries, that should be built upon and expanded to include more countries.
- d) **Prosecution:** similarly with Enforcement, this area can benefit from training and capacity building and following the examples of countries which have best practices to share.
- e) **Prevention:** this area has shown most improvement since the last Scoreboard exercise but is also an area in which most countries agree a lot more can be done. Awareness raising and training around those issues is very linked to available funding, and funding seems to be available in EU countries through the LIFE fund. Countries in north Africa and the Middle East report no funding, and they experience difficulty in implementing many of the needed actions.
- f) **National Action Plans:** About a third of the countries report that they have an IKB Action Plan or similar document or strategy or plan, that guides their actions on IKB. Given the general importance

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms\\_cop13\\_res.11.16\\_rev.cop13\\_annex%201\\_scoreboard\\_e\\_0.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_res.11.16_rev.cop13_annex%201_scoreboard_e_0.pdf)

of having an action plan in order to organise action, build ownership, coordinate stakeholders and monitor progress, this seems like an area in need of support too.

- g) **Publicly accessible data on IKB:** Very few countries have IKB prosecution data accessible in the public domain, but it is encouraging that some countries report they plan to make a database and to publish it online.

The analysis of the results supports continuation and redoubling of actions to combat IKB.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Mandate and Scoring

The *Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB)*<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the Scoreboard) is a voluntary assessment tool jointly developed by the Bern Convention and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT).

The document was first discussed at a joint meeting of the CMS MIKT and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) on Eradication of IKB in Malta on 22-23 June 2017.

The Scoreboard is intended as a framework for national governments to provide an objective, fact-based, national self-assessment of the status of IKB at the national level. It also aims to enable national governments to measure their progress in implementing their commitments related to this area. The Scoreboard was developed in English but has been also produced in French and Spanish<sup>3</sup> to facilitate the use by the different countries within the area range of the Bern Convention and the CMS MIKT.

The Scoreboard was adopted as an Annex 1 to Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP13)<sup>4</sup> on the Prevention of IKB during the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to CMS, in Manila in October 2017. Paragraph 5 of Resolution 11.16 states ‘*Acknowledges the work of MIKT in developing the Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds and implementing the first Scoreboard assessment 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 [...]*’.

In December 2017, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention adopted Recommendation No. 196 (2017)<sup>5</sup> on the establishment of a 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*’.

Additionally, the CMS COP13, held in February 2020 in Gandhinagar, India, adopted Decision 13.27<sup>6</sup>, addressed to CMS Parties, and invited Parties that are members of MIKT to ‘*[...] a) periodically use the Scoreboard in Annex 1 of Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13) Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds as a national tool to self-assess progress in addressing the illegal killing of wild birds; b) provide voluntarily and to the extent of availability and relevance of information for the indicators the Secretariat with the information identified in the Scoreboard, for the purposes of discussion within the MIKT, and to facilitate information sharing and best practice.*’

While Decision 13.31<sup>7</sup>, also adopted by the CMS COP13 and directed to the CMS Secretariat, encourages the Secretariat to compile the information duly provided by the Parties through the Scoreboard and share the information with the MIKT members for the purposes outlined in Decision 13.27 above.

The Scoreboard is based on a format developed by the International Consortium in Combating Wildlife Crime<sup>8</sup> (ICWC), which has been modified and simplified in order to provide a simple tool, that can be easy to compile and interpret at national or sub-regional level.

The Scoreboard comprises of 28 indicators organised under relevant questions in five areas, considered critical to assess the effectiveness of a national response to IKB. These are:

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms\\_cop13\\_res.11.16\\_rev.cop13\\_annex%201\\_scoreboard\\_e\\_0.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_res.11.16_rev.cop13_annex%201_scoreboard_e_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/document/scoreboard-assess-progress-combating-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-wild-birds-ikb-0>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms\\_cop13\\_res.11.16\\_rev.cop13\\_e\\_0.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_res.11.16_rev.cop13_e_0.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-on-the-establishment-of-a-scoreboard-for-measuring-prog/1680722116>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/page/decisions-1327-1331-task-force-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory-birds-mediterranean>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/page/decisions-1327-1331-task-force-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory-birds-mediterranean>

<sup>8</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/icwc.php>

- A. National monitoring of IKB (data management of scope and scale of IKB) – Questions A1-A4 (four indicators);
- B. Comprehensiveness of national legislation – Questions B5-B13 (nine indicators);
- C. Enforcement response: preparedness of law enforcement bodies and coordination of national institutions – Questions C14-C19 (six indicators);
- D. Prosecution and sentencing (effectiveness of judicial procedures) – Questions D20-D23 (four indicators);
- E. Prevention (other instruments used to address IKB) – Questions E24-E28 (five indicators).

## 1.2 Workplan 2013-2020 and Strategic Framework post 2020

The Scoreboard was developed when the workplan and Strategic Framework for the Bern Convention SFPs and the MIKT was the Tunis Action Plan (TAP)<sup>9</sup> and the five areas of the Scoreboard are largely based on the TAP. The TAP covered the period 2013-2020 and had been adopted in 2013, by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. The Standing Committee through Recommendation No.164 (2013) had recommended to Contracting Parties to implement the TAP and to *‘[i]nform the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of this Recommendation’*.

The first Programme of Work<sup>10</sup> of the CMS MIKT was also based on the Tunis Action Plan. It was adopted in 2016 and covered the period 2016-2020.

For the period of 2020 and beyond, the Bern Convention and the CMS MIKT jointly developed a new Strategic Framework called the *Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region*<sup>11</sup>, hereinafter the Rome Strategic Plan (RSP). The Bern Convention Standing Committee adopted the RSP in 2019 through Recommendation No.205<sup>12</sup>. The CMS COP13, in Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP13) welcomed<sup>13</sup> the work on the development of the RSP, as a joint coordinated effort between the MIKT and the Bern Convention. The RSP was adopted by the MIKT members through consultation in June 2020.

The CMS COP13 also adopted Decision 13.28<sup>14</sup> addressed to Parties, IGOs, NGOs and others, encouraging them to [...] *‘to finalize and adopt a strategic framework for the MIKT on eradicating illegal killing, taking and trade in migratory birds in the Mediterranean region, with a view to be implemented as a scientifically sound and robust tool for the period 2020-2030’*.

The goals, objectives and indicators of the RSP are very similar but not identical to the Scoreboard. That meant that the Scoreboard could remain the main instrument for self-assessment of progress even after the adoption of the RSP. However, because the RSP and the Scoreboard are not identical, and to improve the Contracting Parties’ self-assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the RSP in 2022, additional narrative text to support the Scoreboard submissions was adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee at its 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting<sup>15</sup> and by MIKT members at MIKT5 in Valencia in June 2022.

This additional narrative aims to encourage countries to report on important milestones and objectives that are clearly defined in the RSP and would not necessarily be clearly reported through the Scoreboard. The scoring has remained unchanged, and the additional narrative is recommended but voluntary.

This is the third time the Scoreboard has been completed. The first time was in 2018, the second time in 2020, and in 2023. The original Scoreboard document, adopted in 2017, foresees that assessments would take place every three years, following the first two assessments in 2018 and 2020. The Fourth assessment is expected to take place in 2026, as per the table below.

Scoreboard assessment	Reporting period
First assessment (2018)	2016 - 2017

<sup>9</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/1680746782>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/uploads/unep\\_cms\\_mikt1\\_doc-04\\_program-of-work\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/uploads/unep_cms_mikt1_doc-04_program-of-work_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/tpvs-2019-03rev-draft-romestrategicplan-ikb-rev-06-12/168099315b>

<sup>12</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/2019-rec-205e-ikb/1680993e0c>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms\\_cop13\\_res.11.16\\_rev.cop13\\_e.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_res.11.16_rev.cop13_e.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/page/decisions-1327-1331-task-force-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory-birds-mediterranean>

<sup>15</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/inf21e-2022-draft-instructions-narrative-scoreboard-/1680a6a645>

Second assessment (2020)	2018 – 2019 (2020)
Third (current) assessment (2023)	(2020) 2021 – 2022
Fourth assessment (2026)	2023 - 2025

The results of the first assessment which took place in 2018, were reported to the 39<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee in December 2019<sup>16</sup>, and the results of the second assessment, which took place in 2020, were reported to the 40<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee in December 2020<sup>17</sup>. However, as further submissions arrived after the report in December 2020, a second draft for the second assessment, dated April 2021, was presented to the 41<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee in December 2021<sup>18</sup>. The results of the third assessment<sup>19</sup> were presented for the first time at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee in November 2023. This is an updated analysis including three more countries which submitted their Scoreboard after the deadline in July 2023.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The Scoreboard assessment in 2023, as in previous years, was completed using the CMS Online Reporting System (ORS) and it was available in English, French and Spanish. The CMS and the Bern Convention jointly held an online training seminar on how to use the ORS and the changes in the Scoreboard narrative text (explained in 1.2 above) on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, ahead of launching the Scoreboard. The website<sup>20</sup> for the meeting provided relevant information.

The launch of the Scoreboard 2023 exercise was through an email sent out to all country Respondents on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023, informing them that the online tool was open to receive answers and the initial deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was given. Following some requests for extension, a small extension was granted until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023. As in the previous two times, a total of 54 countries were invited to complete the Scoreboard. These were members of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) on Eradication of IKB and/or members of CMS MIKT. The list of countries invited can be found in ANNEX 1.

The majority of the 28 Scoreboard indicators, described under 1.1 above, can score between 0 and 3, one (No. C19) can score 1-5, two (Nos. A2 and A4) do not generate a score but countries are encouraged to submit detailed data for those in the form of an excel sheet. The maximum score that can be obtained is 80. Additionally, respondents can answer ‘Not Applicable (N/A)’ in two questions, if the national legislation or practices do not apply to the possible answers provided. In such cases, the total maximum score is adjusted accordingly, without taking into account the scores of the questions which do not apply, i.e., maximum score can be 77 or 74 in those cases.

Each country that fully completes the Scoreboard gets six scores, one overall score, and one score per each area. These scores are presented as a percentage of the maximum score, per area and overall. The percentage scores are also presented visually using a colour code, depending on the percentage gained.

If a country has submitted an incomplete Scoreboard, i.e., only completed some questions, it might not be possible to obtain an overall score or an area score. In that case, a grey colour is used to denote that a score cannot be determined. In a few cases, where questions in one area have been answered fully (e.g., questions in area A and B), but other areas have not been answered, although a score cannot be attributed overall, a colour may be attributed, based on the results of the answered questions and the severity of the IKB situation in the country.

The colour codes used are the following:

Red	For a score below 25% of the maximum possible score
Yellow	For a score between 25.1% and 50% of the maximum possible score

<sup>16</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/assessment-of-the-1st-national-scoreboard-reporting-by-parties-to-the-/1680986e7c>

<sup>17</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/-assessment-of-the-2nd-national-scoreboard-reporting-by-contracting-pa/1680a06e8a>

<sup>18</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/assessment-report-2nd-ikb-scoreboard-reporting-/1680a29ff3>

<sup>19</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/tpvs26-2023-3rd-ikb-scoreboard-analysis/1680acfd8a>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/meeting/online-workshop-scoreboard-asses-progress-combating-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-wild>

Light green	For a score between 50.1% and 75% of the maximum possible score
Green	For a score above 75.1% of the maximum possible score
Grey	Scoring not possible due to incomplete answers

The results are presented per country as the Scoreboard is intended as a self-assessment of progress in addressing the IKB, and not as a way of comparing efforts between countries. First, the countries that have completed the Scoreboard all three times are presented, then the ones that have completed the Scoreboard two times (i.e., in 2023 and in 2020 or 2018), and finally the ones that have completed the Scoreboard for the first time in 2023. The countries that have completed the Scoreboard all three times, provide the most useful and complete picture of progress in combating IKB.

In order to also report on the objectives and milestones of the RSP, additional information was added to each country's results, to reflect the answers to the additional narrative added in 2023, as explained under 1.2 above.

The severity of the IKB situation in a country was presented in the original Scoreboard, where four severity classes were defined as follows:

IKB Severity class	Number of IKB victims	Proportion of IKB	Number of countries
Class I	More than 2,500,001	72.4%	4
Class II	Between 750,001 and 2,500,000	9.5%	1
Class III	Between 100,001 and 750,000	14.6%	11
Class IV	Less than 100,000	3.3%	23
	IKB insignificant (included in Class IV)	0.2%	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>54</b>

Fifteen countries are considered to have insignificant levels of IKB, but for the purpose of the analysis they are included in Class IV. These are countries where annual toll is below 7,000 birds.

The level of severity is calculated using the data reported by the countries that have set baselines, however, if they have not set a baseline, in order to maintain consistency with the previous analyses of the Scoreboard, they are classified according to the IKB numbers proposed by Brochet *et al* (2016)<sup>21</sup> and Brochet *et al* (2017)<sup>22</sup> for those countries.

The results and conclusions need to be examined in the context of the IKB severity issue in a country. Countries which do not have an IKB issue might also not have many measures to combat it because it is not a priority. Therefore, as long as the 'zero tolerance' approach to IKB is maintained the lack of action needs to be balanced with the severity of IKB.

<sup>21</sup> <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>

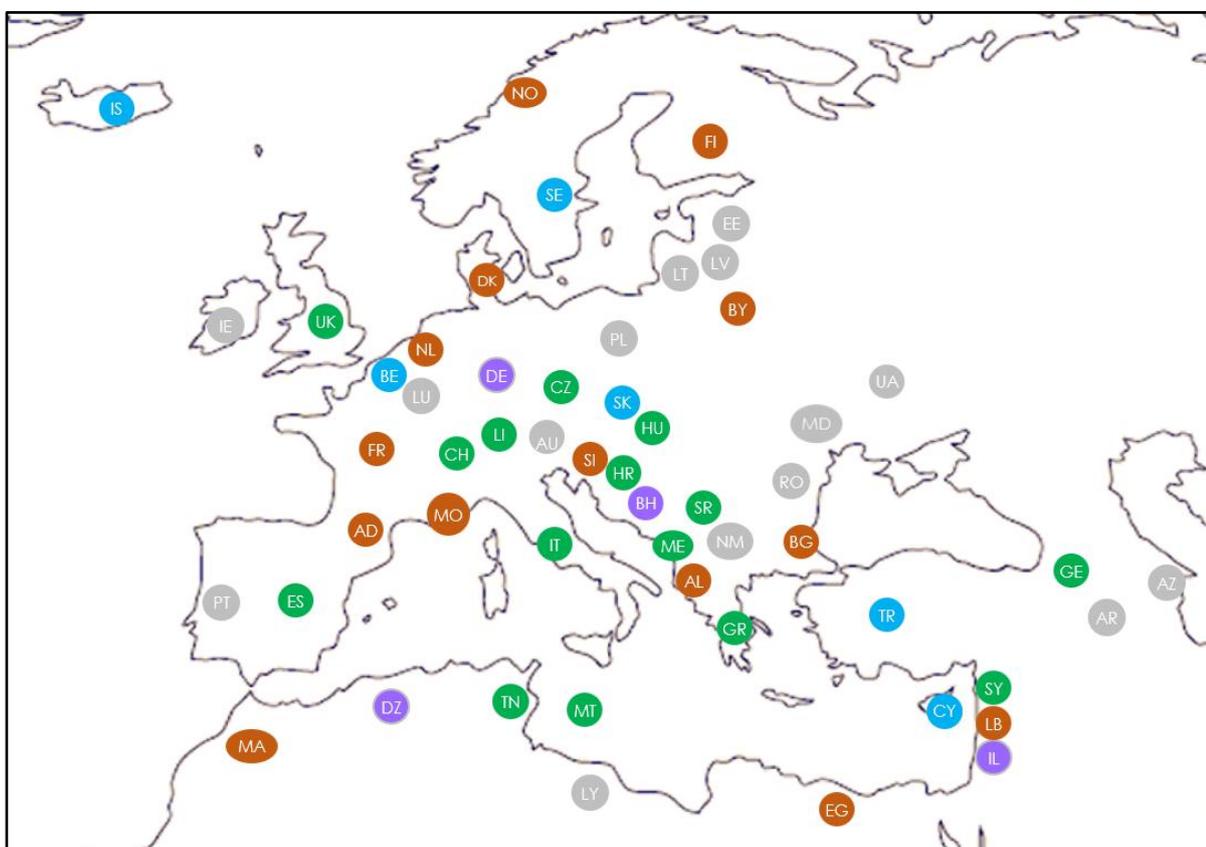
<sup>22</sup> <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bird-conservation-international/article/illegal-killing-and-taking-of-birds-in-europe-outside-the-mediterranean-assessing-the-scope-and-scale-of-a-complex-issue/DE4D06F3BD4273B94FD3C9621C615A0A>

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Analysis of the replies to the Questionnaire

As of 30 July 2024, 25 countries had successfully sent replies out of the 54 countries invited to contribute. Most countries submitted the Scoreboard through the CMS Online Reporting System (ORS) while a couple of countries sent documents with the answers completed. Of the 25 responses received, 21 were from countries that had completed the Scoreboard previously, either in 2018 and / or 2020 (15 had replied all three times, and six had replied two times), and four were from countries completing the Scoreboard for the first time. These were Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and Israel.

Additionally, two NGOs submitted their evaluation of the Scoreboard for their country, in the form of shadow reports, but these assessments were not included in the analysis. *Figure 1* below shows a map of the area of interest and explains with colour coding which countries replied in 2023 or earlier.



*Figure 1*– The map above shows the Scoreboards received over the three reporting periods. In Green are countries that sent contributions all three times (2018, 2020 and 2023); in light Blue are countries that submitted a full Scoreboard in 2023 and in 2018 or 2020; in Brown are countries that submitted Scoreboards in 2018 and/or 2020, but not in 2023; in Purple are countries that submitted a Scoreboard for the first time in 2023; in Grey are countries that have yet to submit a Scoreboard.

*Table 1* below shows the numbers of countries that replied according to IKB severity class, and share of the IKB victims in the three times that the Scoreboard exercise has been run. In total, 15 countries have submitted the Scoreboard all three times, and a total of 39 have submitted it at least once. A table with the detailed list of responses received per year by the 54 countries invited to submit the Scoreboard during the three assessments, can be found in ANNEX 1.

**Table 1-** Overview of the responses received for the three Scoreboard assessments in 2018, 2020 and 2023, number and percentage of countries responding at least once or all three times to the Scoreboard, according to IKB severity class and share of IKB victims.

IKB severity class	Potential responses	Share of IKB victims	Responses received				
			2018	2020	2023	At least 1 reply	All three times
Class I >2,500,001	4	72%	3	3	2	4 (100%)	2 (50%)
Class II 750,001- 2,500,000	1	10%	-	1	1*	1 (100%)	0
Class III 100,001- 750,000	11	15%	9	9	7	9 (82%)	6 (55%)
Class IV <100,000	38	3%	20	11	15	25 (66%)	7 (18%)
<b>Total</b>	54	100%	32	24	25	39	15

- \*According to 2023 data submitted by Cyprus, Cyprus shows a significant decline and no longer falls in the Class II for IKB severity but as no baseline has been submitted it is maintained in Class II.

In 2023, two countries from severity Class I and one country from severity Class II submitted a reply. Four countries which are considered to have an insignificant IKB problem also submitted a response, and these are included in Class IV. The total share of IKB of the countries submitting a response in 2023, was 57%, significantly lower than that of Scoreboard 2020 and even 2018.

Of the 25 countries which submitted a response, eleven are members of MIKT and the Bern Convention, eleven are members of the Bern Convention only and three are members of MIKT only.

**Table 2-** Overview of the number of responses by countries and the share of IKB they represented for the three Scoreboard assessments in 2018, 2020 and 2023, according to completeness of information. Share of IKB victims as per baselines provided, or if not, as per Brochet et al (2016 and 2017) (see Methodology).

Replies	Number of countries (percentage of countries)			Share of IKB victims		
	2018 assessment	2020 assessment	2023 assessment	2018 assessment	2020 assessment	2023 assessment
Scoreboard and data	15 (27.8%)	21 (39%)	23 (43%)	41.00%	65.86%	40.4%
Only Scoreboard	5 (9.3%)	3 (5.5%)	2 (3%)	3.90%	16.43%	16.6%
Only data and some information	7 (13%)			0.30%		
Scoreboard from NGO	3 (5.5%)			16.00%		
No reply	24 (44.4%)	30 (55.5%)	29 (54%)	38.80%	17.71%	43.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54 (100%)</b>	<b>54 (100%)</b>	<b>54 (100%)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

As the Scoreboard was designed as a self -assessment tool and not for carrying out comparisons between countries the main purpose of presenting the results is to report on approaches taken by different countries and assess progress in achieving the agreed goals.

Nevertheless, this third assessment is especially interesting because it is the first one since the RSP was adopted, and therefore aims to respond on progress made to achieve the objectives, milestones and goals agreed as part of the RSP.

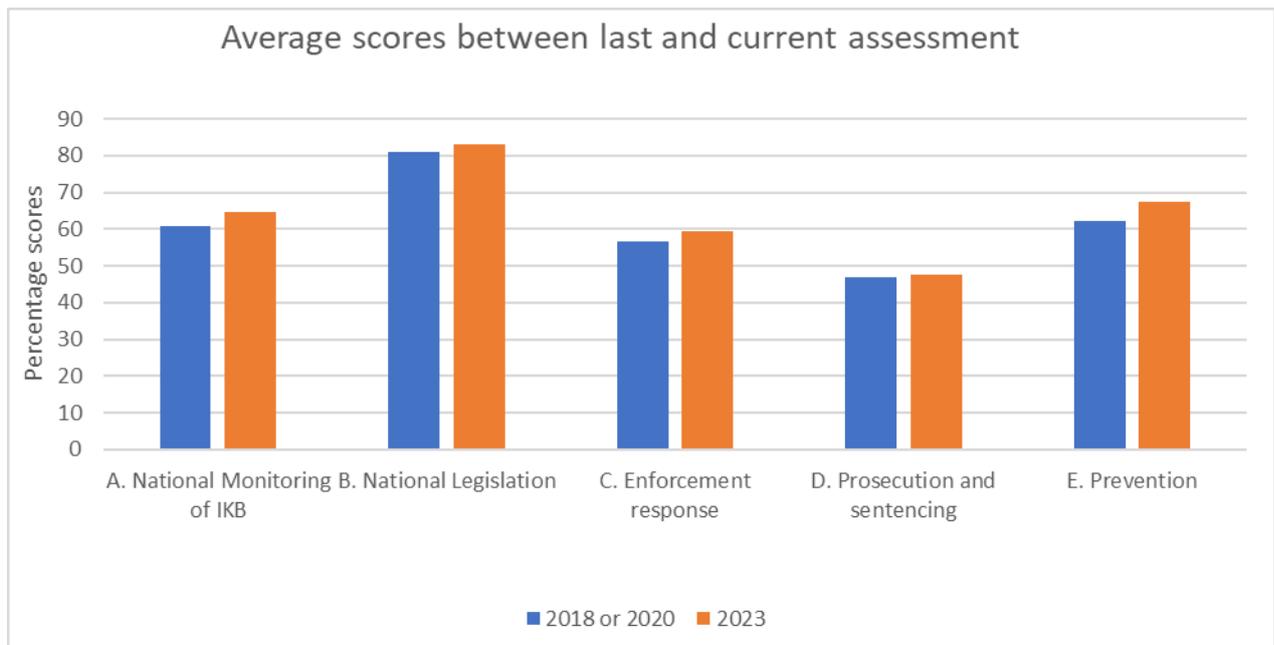
When examining the scores reported by countries, it is noticeable that some countries award lower scores to themselves, compared to other countries, for the same or similar action. This is an issue of calibration and self-perception, but it is notable when examining all the results together, and especially in relation to the IKB situation in each country.

Figure 2, below, shows the mean scores reported by 17 countries. These 17 countries comprise 14 of the 15 that submitted the Scoreboard all three times, and three of the six that submitted the Scoreboard two times, i.e., first time in 2018 or 2020 and in 2023. A score could not be obtained for the analysis due to incomplete answers for the 15<sup>th</sup> country of the 15 that submitted three times, and three of the six that submitted two times, and they were consequently excluded from the analysis. For those that reported three times the analysis below used the results from 2020 to compare against 2023, i.e. the most recent previous results.

The analysis presented in Figure 2 below shows that:

- A. On average, countries report that the area of National Legislation (B) is the best performing area of the five areas identified as critical for combating IKB, receiving average scores of around 80%. In contrast, the two worse performing areas are Enforcement response (C) and Prosecution and Sentencing (D), receiving scores around 50% on average. Furthermore, Prevention, which is about awareness raising, involving the regulated community (mainly hunters) and addressing demand receives scores of between 60%-65%, but has shown the highest average increase from the previous round of reporting. Finally, National Monitoring of IKB which is around 60%-65% needs improvement too as it is critical for being able to judge if the RSP goal is being met.

B. On average, according to the countries' self-assessment, there is improvement from one Scoreboard to the next, suggesting that engaging in the process also stimulates and guides action, sets priorities and brings results. This improvement is noted even though some countries' scores are lower in 2023 than in 2020 because of more accurate scoring or reconsideration of scores. Nevertheless, the average shows improvement. The largest improvement is recorded for the area of Prevention (E) with a 5.10% increase, while the smallest (0.49%) is for Prosecution and Sentencing (D), which is also the lowest performing area. Monitoring (A), National Legislation (B) and Enforcement response (C) have shown increases between 2.30%-3.92%.



*Figure 2 –Average score per Scoreboard area as attributed by 17 countries which submitted all three Scoreboards or at least two.*

Table 3 below, presents the results obtained through the Scoreboard scoring and through the answers to the additional narrative which countries completed to assess progress in the goals, objectives and milestones of the RSP, presented per IKB severity class. Presenting the results per severity class can highlight better those areas most in need of support in order to have the highest impact in terms of eradicating IKB.

The table lists the main objectives and milestones of the RSP up to 2023 and those which have been included in the questions of the additional narrative in 2023.

Examining Table 3 can help identify those areas where more support and guidance in the form of training, coordinated actions or funding could be provided to Bern Convention SFPs and MIKT Members and Observers in order to have the maximum impact on eradicating IKB.

It is worth noting that:

A. Most countries still have not defined a baseline against which to monitor progress towards achieving the RSP. Of those that submitted the Scoreboard, only six have defined a baseline, even though this was an important milestone of the RSP for assessing progress. Similarly, only four have adopted a methodology to assess the scale of IKB. Furthermore, looking at the trends reported, it is striking that four countries report an increase in IKB, and eleven report that the trend is unclear. Finally, it seems that the motivations and drivers for IKB have been identified for less than half of the countries. All those results highlight that monitoring IKB is an area which requires additional support and attention.

- B. Most countries (76%) consider that their legislation is sufficient for addressing IKB, although there were three countries that called for support in completing their national assessment. This result agrees with the result of the average scores.
- C. It is very encouraging that 72% of countries collect and analyse prosecution data on IKB, which can help them understand a lot about the drivers of IKB. Prosecution data can also provide other interesting data about the scope of IKB in a country.
- D. Enforcement sufficiency and policing priorities are deemed sufficient for half of the countries. This result too agrees with the average scores obtained. Apart from a shortage of staff, the countries also often report a lack of opportunities for training and capacity building for wardens in the field and other officials tasked with enforcement and prosecution. This is an area in great need of training opportunities and capacity building.
- E. About a third of the countries report that they have an IKB Action Plan or similar document or strategy or plan, that guides their actions on IKB. Given the general importance of having an action plan in order to organise action, coordinate stakeholders and monitor progress, this seems like an area in need of support too.
- F. Funding on IKB is patchily distributed. Most EU countries reported that they have received funding, mainly from the EU LIFE instrument, and this has been instrumental in delivering training, capacity building, awareness raising, analyses, reports and other critical actions. However, countries in the north of Africa and the Middle East report no funding, and therefore they experience an added difficulty in implementing many of the needed actions to combat IKB.
- G. Finally, it is noticeable that very few countries have data about prosecutions, or IKB, fully in the public domain. Although there may be reasons for this, it is a well stated goal of the RSP that databases recording the instances of IKB in each country should be kept and be available to the public. However, it is encouraging that some countries report that they plan to make such databases and to publish them online.

All the results in *Table 3* should be read in relation to the severity class; insufficient results of countries in Class I, II or III would clearly be more urgent and important to address than those of countries in Class IV.

**Table 3: Results reported per number of countries, per severity class for the most important Rome Strategic Plan milestones.**

Rome Strategic Plan Milestones		IKB Severity Class					Total (% of respondents)
		Class I > 2,500,000	Class II 750,001-2,500,000	Class III 100,001-750,000	Class IV <100,000	Class IV but IKB Insignificant	
<b>BASELINE</b>	Defined			2	2	2	6 (24%)
	Not Defined	2	1	5	7	4	19 (76%)
<b>TREND</b>	Increasing	1		1	1	1	4 (16%)
	Decreasing		1	1	1	1	4 (16%)
	Stable			2	2	2	6 (24%)
	Unclear	1		3	5	2	11 (44%)
<b>MONITORING METHODOLOGY</b>	Adopted			1	1	2	4 (16%)
	Not Adopted	2	1	6	8	3 & (1 N/A)	20 (80%)
<b>MOTIVATIONS / DRIVERS IKB</b>	Identified	1	1	3	3	3	11 (44%)
	Not Identified	1		4	6	2 & (1 N/A)	13 (52%)
<b>NATIONAL IKB ACTION PLAN OR OTHER POLICY DOCUMENT</b>	Exists	1	1	2	3	2	9 (36%)
	Does not exist	1		5	6	1 & (3 N/A)	13 (52%)
<b>ASSESSMENT NATIONAL LEGISLATION</b>	Sufficient	1	1	5	7	5	19 (76%)
	Insufficient	1		2	2	1	6 (24%)
<b>ENFORCEMENT SUFFICIENCY / POLICING PRIORITIES</b>	Sufficient		1	4	3	3	11 (44%)
	Insufficient	2		3	6	3 N/A	11 (44%)
<b>PROSECUTION DATA</b>	Reported	1	1	6	6	4	18 (72%)
	Not reported	1		1	3	2 N/A	5 (20%)
<b>FUNDING FOR IKB</b>	Exists	1		4	2	3	10 (40%)
	Does not exist	1		1	2		4 (16%)
	Not clear		1	3	6	1 N/A	10 (40%)
<b>DATA POLICY</b>	Data public	1		1	2	1	5 (20%)
	Not public	1	1	3	2	1	8 (32%)
	Not clear			3	5	4 N/A	8 (32%)
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25 (100%)</b>

### 3.2 Replies from Governments that submitted the Scoreboard all three times

#### CROATIA

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted complete Scoreboards all three times. In 2023, information submitted shows slight improvement mainly in Enforcement, Prosecution and Sentencing, and Prevention. Main issues reported are quail and duck poaching linked to hunting tourism; catching songbirds, especially finches for pets; and illegal killing of herons and cormorants at fishponds.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>Yes. Set at 370.007 (Class III)</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	No nationally adopted methodology. Hotspots identified. Monitoring carried out mainly by NGOs. The baseline 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 <i>et al.</i> , 2016). 324907 IKB victims reported in this report, a slight decrease compared to the previous two ones reporting around 375000 IKB victims a year.
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Identified and researched. Socio-economic survey in main hotspot Neretva delta.</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>Decreasing (stable in some areas)</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Data on prosecutions, suggest nine persons were prosecuted and 69 birds were affected. In the previous report of 2020, 12 persons were prosecuted, and 38 birds involved, while in 2018, only 21 cases were reported involving almost 10,000 birds, so a dramatic fall the number of birds involved in prosecutions since the first report.
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	No, but EU Member State complying with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	No National Action Plan or other relevant document, but process for development of one supported by workshops organised by BIOM Association in 2021-2022, in cooperation with CMS Secretariat and BirdLife European and Central Asia.
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	Funding is mainly through EU LIFE projects, and funding from international donors like MAVVA, awarded through NGOs.
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	Combating IKB is a priority for the Nature Protection inspection (although not formally adopted or acknowledged as such in some formal document), but not for other national law enforcement agencies.
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>	Data from NGOs is publicly available. No national wildlife crime database.

First assessment 2018		Second assessment 2020		Third assessment 2023	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 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.	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 51.3%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> partially completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 60.0%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed Improvement mainly due to Enforcement Prosecution and Sentencing, and Prevention actions.
<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 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.	<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 50.0%	No change in data availability. Data in IKB come from Monitoring carried out by the two NGOs as in the previous assessment in several sites. National data on cases of illegal activities on strictly protected birds are collected and available on request but they are not published and they have not aggregated annually. Data on court cases is not available.	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring</b> 50.0%	Monitoring carried out mainly by NGOs (BIOM Association and Croatian Society for Birds and Nature Protection). Some changes in the law and Covid helped reduce Quail and waterbird poaching. Overall trend is decreasing, but some hotspots are stable. No change in terms of data on court cases.
<b>GROUP B National legislation</b>	National legislation on the killing and use of wildlife is quite detailed with regards to the list of game	<b>GROUP B National legislation</b> 88.9%	No apparent change, the increased score not clearly justified.	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation</b> 88.9%	No change to affect the score. Some changes in the law in

85.2%	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 laws (including organized crime law) are rarely used when persecuting poachers				relation to the start of the hunting season for Quail hunting are reported to have been effective at reducing IKB.
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 current staff members devoted to IKB are few and require more training. As a result, the effort to combat bird crime is not sufficient.	GROUP C Enforcement response 30.0%	During 2018, Nature Protection Inspection and NGO "BIOM" conducted specialized training for 600 police officers (out of 20.000+ police forces). Regular training of law enforcement staff on IKB related aspects does not exist in Croatia, so this training is considered a significant improvement.	GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 35.0%	Mostly no change. An informal national working group for improvement of wildlife crime cases management has been established with the participation of government institutions dealing with wildlife management, wildlife forensics and prosecution, in close cooperation with NGOs - Biom Association and WWF Adria. But process is informal. A lot of training offered through EU LIFE projects.

<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 16.7 %</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 16.7%</p>	<p>No change reported</p>	<p><b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing 33.3%</p>	<p>Significant improvement in training of judiciary reported, delivered mainly through LIFE projects (BalkanDetox LIFE) and LIFE SWiPE.</p>
<p><b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 40.0%</p>	<p>While Croatia is actively involved in 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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 40.0%</p>	<p>No change reported</p>	<p><b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28)</b> Prevention 66.7%</p>	<p>Improvement in awareness raising actions. Socio-economic survey conducted in main hotspot to support action. Events and Conferences organised. Funding through EU LIFE and international donors, like MAVA.</p>

## CZECH REPUBLIC

<b>Overall comments:</b>					
		Country has submitted complete Scoreboards all three times. In 2023, information submitted shows small improvements in Prosecution and Sentencing and Prevention. Accurately monitoring IKB remains a challenge.			
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>		<b>None given. Class IV as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2017)</b>			
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>		No methodology provided, and monitoring remains a challenge. Level of IKB reported as 250 per year, but unclear how it is calculated. In previous reports, numbers were reported as nine in 2018, and 69 in 2020, but data is not collected in a consistent manner.			
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>		<b>Knowledge of drivers reasonable comprehensive.</b>			
<b>IKB Trend</b>		<b>No clear trend</b>			
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>		Data provided show problem mainly with illegal killing or poisoning of wild birds and relate to 122 birds and two persons. No prosecution data were provided in 2020, and in 2018, only two cases were reported involving 17 birds, because IKB cases were not registered specifically. Not clear if this has now changed.			
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>		No, but EU Member State complying with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)			
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>		Yes, a national Strategy to prevent poisoning and illegal killing of wild animals was adopted in January 2020 by the government of the Czech Republic.			
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>		No details on funding.			
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		Given low score and no details provided.			
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		There is a police database, but it is not public.			
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
TOTAL SCORE 67.5 %	Indicators with score: completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 &amp; 4):</b> completed	TOTAL SCORE 71.4 %	Indicators with score: completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 &amp; 4):</b> partially completed	TOTAL SCORE 75.3%	Indicators with score: completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed

					Improvement mainly due to Prosecution and Prevention actions.
<b>GROUP A</b> 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.	<b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 16.7%	An estimate of the IKB events obtained from the NGOs, which is a different source from the previous report. No data on prosecution available for the reporting period	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> IKB monitoring 16.7 %	Monitoring IKB a challenge. Data is ad hoc.
<b>GROUP B</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.	<b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 91.7%	No known cases of Organized crime. Increase of score largely due to more accurate scoring of the relies. No actual change.	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 91.7 %	No change reported.
<b>GROUP C</b> 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	<b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 75.0 %	The National strategy on IKB and poisoning was adopted in January 2020, with the involvement of the main stakeholders.	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response 75.0 %	No change reported.

	strategy includes provision for specialized training				
<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 41.7 %</b>	IKB cases are generally not prosecuted before a criminal court and sentencing can take over two years. Judges do not have specific sentencing guidelines and are not very aware of the seriousness of the issue, although more than 50 percent of the environmental prosecutors have received some training.	<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 50.0 %</b>	Awareness of the Judiciary seems to have improved as a result of the preparations of the National Strategy: prosecutors and judges have asked the Ministry of the environment to develop training on IKB.	<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 58.3 %</b>	Although sometimes agencies are reported to be understaffed, they are regularly trained and keep up with changing wildlife crime trends. The Ministry of the Environment organised training for prosecutors in 2021 on IKB related issues.
<b>GROUP E Prevention 73.3 %</b>	The Czech Republic is actively involved in the international fora and knowledge of the IKB drivers is reasonably comprehensive. The demand for 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.	<b>GROUP E Prevention 73.3 %</b>	Increasing the public awareness and adoption of a communication strategy is foreseen in the National Strategy	<b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 86.7 %</b>	Information collected nationally suggests that there is very little demand for illegally obtained wild birds in the country. The new National Strategy on preventing poisoning and illegal killing of wild animals foresees awareness raising for the regulated community.

## GEORGIA

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted Scoreboards all three times, but in 2018 did not complete the scores.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>Yes. Set at 120 birds/year (Class IV).</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	There is no specific methodology for monitoring IKB or identifying hotspots, but inspection and patrolling activities are scheduled for areas that meet certain criteria, such as high occurrence of migratory species, areas with established traditional hunting practices, and locations with a high number of reported illegal activities by the general public. In 2023, 120 cases of IKB are reported in different regions in Georgia. The Region with the highest number being Imereti. In previous reports, the Environmental Supervision Department under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture indicated that 1,720 birds were involved every year.
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>No survey has been conducted yet.</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>Decreasing.</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	There is a national wildlife crime database. In the current report, 1059 persons were prosecuted, involving 1273 birds. Most of those concerned hunting without a licence or hunting outside the open season, however, around 65 persons were prosecuted for illegally killing or trapping protected bird species, and/or possessing them. In the 2018 report, 367 birds were involved in prosecutions, but no information was disclosed on the number of people prosecuted. And in the 2020 report, 437 people were prosecuted for IKB cases involving a total of 15 birds. There is a discrepancy observed between the number of IKB victims involved in prosecutions and the number of IKB victims reported, as the number of birds involved in prosecutions is higher than those reported as IKB victims and the baseline.
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	There are expert assessments for specific processes regarding IKB, but not a fully comprehensive assessment. A new Biodiversity Law is in preparation.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	None developed, however, there is an established practice whereby the Ministry holds regular consultations with academics and scientists and discuss the challenges. A Species Action Plan being developed in 2023, will include provisions for various migratory species. Additionally, several general provisions of the Rome Strategic Plan will be part of the new NBSAPs.
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	It is reported that donors provide funding for training of patrolling employees, but no details provided.
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	IKB is considered a high priority for enforcers.

<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		The national wildlife crime (IKB) database is not available for public use. It is maintained within the Ministry, specifically in the Environmental Supervision Department, where it exists in the form of excel sheets and an electronic database.			
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
TOTAL SCORE N/A	<b>Indicators with score:</b> not completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 45.0%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 67.5%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed  Improvement mainly due to Enforcement and Prevention actions.
GROUP A IKB monitoring N/A		<b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 100.0%	Data on estimates on the extent of IKB events are given based on official figures of prosecutions based on official and comprehensive data.	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> IKB monitoring 100.0%	The detailed data of birds illegally killed or taken is presented per region and suggests the number is 120 a year. However, this is not supported by a methodology and is quite small related to the prosecuted cases reported which involve 1273 birds.
GROUP B National legislation N/A		<b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 51.9%	Hunting legislation is considered adequate to deter IKB but rules and control mechanisms can be improved also for what concerns the trade and the implementation of exceptions to the law. Maximum and minimum penalties are not fully defined in the legislation	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 74.1%	Some improvements in national legislation reported, especially in relation to new law on Biological Diversity protection, aiming to bring Georgia in line with EU Nature Directives, as per its association agreement. The new Law will include

			and therefore do not penalize adequately IKB cases. Special investigation methods are rarely used for IKB. A new Law on Biodiversity is being drafted and it will fully incorporate international commitments		provisions of the Rome Strategic Plan.
GROUP C Enforcement response N/A		GROUP C Enforcement response 40.0%	No national action plan is in place and IKB is only sometimes considered a high priority by the Law enforcement agencies. Training of enforcement staff is limited as are staff resources themselves resulting in insufficient effort in place to combat IKB.	GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 65.0%	There exist specialised enforcement units dealing with wildlife crime, but staffing is low. Additionally, they suffer from turnover, and they have training needs. Regional patrolling teams receive training annually but needs remain high.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing N/A		GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 8.3%	Georgia lacks specialized or specifically trained judges and sentencing guidelines; therefore, the judges have limited awareness of the seriousness of IKB crimes.	GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 50.0%	A platform has been developed to foster collaboration among various stakeholders involved in combating the illegal killing of animals, including birds. Training has been organised for judges and prosecutors in collaboration with NGO Fauna Flora International.
GROUP E Prevention N/A		GROUP E Prevention 46.7%	More effort is needed to improve the understanding of the drivers of IKB and	GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention	There is no indication that there is illegal trade at national level, thus no

			therefore no actions have been taken to address the demand for illegally obtained birds. Awareness-raising activities are limited and reactive and there is no communications strategy behind them	60.0%	demand-side activities. The hunting community is involved in consultations and platforms.
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**GREECE**

<b>Overall comments:</b>					
Country has submitted the Scoreboard all three times. Main issues relate to illegal shooting in spring, trapping of songbirds and poisoning.					
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>					
None given. Class III as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)					
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>					
There is no methodology for estimating IKB, data is ad hoc and mainly collected by hunting associations. A rough estimate of 4000 birds is given, concerning mainly songbirds. The Ministry of Environment has aggregate data for all of Greece through the study that is compiled and submitted every year by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Vlachos <i>et al.</i> ).					
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>					
Known.					
<b>IKB Trend</b>					
Stable					
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>					
Data provided how that 514 persons were prosecuted on four different categories. Number of birds affected is not reported. In the 2020 report, 858 prosecutions were reported, covering eight categories of offence. Most refer to prohibited methods, hunting outside open season, but also include illegal killing or taking of protected species.					
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>					
No, but EU Member State complying with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). Recent amendment to law foresees increased penalties.					
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>					
No overall National Action Plan on IKB. However, there is an agreed course of action for poisoning incidents and local action plans for IKB.					
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>					
Funding is mainly through EU LIFE projects awarded through NGOs.					
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>					
IKB a priority in new law (5037/2023)					
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>					
Data not available online in a public database.					
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 41.3%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> not completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 50.0%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 61.3%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed

<p><b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 0.0%</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 66.7%</p>	<p>National estimate of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based partially on quantitative data and records and partially on estimates and extrapolation.</p>	<p><b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> IKB monitoring 33.3%</p>	<p>More accurate scoring, given that no methodology or systematic way of collecting data on IKB exists.</p>
<p><b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 74.1%</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 70.4%</p>	<p>No change, reassessment of the indicators.</p>	<p><b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 92.6%</p>	<p>New law (Art. 188 of law 5037/2023) foresees increased penalties for IKB. No other change reported.</p>
<p><b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 20.0%</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 45.0%</p>	<p>No National Action Plan or Strategy exists. There exist either local plans or plans for specific IKB issues, such as poisoning or particular species. There are local plans for Amvrakikos and for the Ionian Islands the latter developed under a LIFE project, and specific plans for poisoning and the Lesser white-fronted goose.</p>	<p><b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response 50.0%</p>	<p>No change from 2020 report.</p>

	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		But the local plans are not activated or implemented yet. Enforcement is somewhat improved. The efforts of about 1000 forest wardens (not specialized in wildlife crime) are supplemented by the effort of 350 private game wardens employed by the hunting organizations In the ten (10) years the Game Keeping Brigade has carried out more than 1,000,000 inspections and in excess of 18,000 violations of the Forestry Code have been ascertained, in respect of which all of the procedures provided under the Law have been observed. Moreover, the wardens of the Protected Area Management Bodies offer support too, although they lack investigative tasks.		
<b>GROUP D</b> 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	<b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 16.7%	No change.	<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing 41.7%	More accurate scoring, as judges are to a certain degree aware of and sensitive to wildlife crime issues.
<b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 46.7%	Participation of Greek government representatives to international meetings has been	<b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 40.0%	No change, reassessment of indicators.	<b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28)</b> Prevention	National campaign against illegal trapping and trade of wild birds

	<p>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</p>			46.7%	launched by NGO, HOS/BirdLife Greece.
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## ITALY

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted complete Scoreboards all three times. Updates provided after consultation with National IKB Action Plan Steering Committee.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>None given. Class I as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	It is reported that national estimate of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based partially on quantitative data and records and partially on estimates and extrapolation, but only data from Sardinia are reported where for 2022, 351 birds are reported killed. The Carabinieri Forestali are working to produce a database on IKB There is no official national estimate or methodology.
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Well understood</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>No clear trend.</b> It is reported that there is a decreasing trend in almost six out seven hotspots monitored, but trend is unclear at national level.
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Prosecution data provided for 2019, 2020 and 2021 and refer to 3296 cases, prosecuted under the law for protection of birds and mammals, and hunting. In 2017, it was 3776 cases reported and in 2015, 3743 cases (involving both birds and mammals), but in all three reports there is no information on the number of birds involved.
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	No, but EU Member State complying with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	National IKB Action Plan exists since 2017 but has not been updated to include milestones and actions of the Rome Strategic Plan (RSP). Additionally, the NAP Steering Committee has not undertaken an assessment to review if and how the plan in delivering against the RSP. The national Steering Committee of the IKB NAP includes, regions, autonomous regions and provinces, ministries (Health, Justice, Interior, Agriculture), Carabinieri Forestali (now called Comando unità forestali, ambientali e agroalimentari of the Carabinieri (CUFAA)), Research institutes and NGOs (Environmental and Hunters Association).
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	The Ministry of Environment (MASE) has provided extra funding to CUFAA for addressing IKB.
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	IKB is considered a priority for the CUFAA and all hotspots are controlled annually, however capacities vary between provinces and regions.

<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		There is no single database for IKB available for the public although still planned. However, a single public <a href="https://avvelenamenti.izslt.it/">national database for poisoning incidents</a> <sup>23</sup> was launched by the Ministry of Health and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana “M. Aleandri” (National Reference Centre for Veterinary) in 2019. This database contains all records of suspected poisoning cases, in accordance with current legislation. This database permits a constant monitoring of the phenomenon and its temporal and spatial characteristics; it also provides both useful information to citizens and police authorities for the prevention of poisoning.			
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 66.3%	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 hunting associations.  <b>Indicators with score:</b> completed  <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 65.0%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed  <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 61.3%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed  <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed  Slight decline in score in Enforcement (C) and Prosecution and Sentencing (D) areas.
<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 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.	<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 66.7%	No changes	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring</b> 66.7%	There is no methodology and estimates were provided only from the region of Sardinia, also because the prosecuted cases are not separated into bird cases they are not in suggesting types of crimes or motivations.
<b>GROUP B</b>	National wildlife legislation is considered adequate and almost completely in line with	<b>GROUP B</b>	No changes	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b>	No change but legislation considered adequate.

<sup>23</sup> <https://avvelenamenti.izslt.it/>

National legislation 77.8 %	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 is the penalties that are not considered sufficiently severe to deter poaching.	National legislation 77.8 %		National legislation 81.5%	
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 the national level. Recently coordination bodies among the LEAs have been established at each of the seven officially identified hotspots.	GROUP C Enforcement response 65.0 %	The decline of the score is due to a correction of the previous submission. No actual change occurred.	GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 55.0%	All updates are provided after consultation with NAP Steering Committee. Enforcement effort varies between different regions being more adequate in the autonomous provinces. The score is an average for the whole country. All hotspots are controlled by CUFFA every year. There is annual training for officers and specialised lessons on IKB. CUFFA is using new techniques increasingly for fighting IKB, such as drones, wildlife cameras, dog units for anti-poisoning and anti-poachers, those latter ones include dogs that are trained to find nets, weapons, ammunition, traps and leghold traps commonly used by poachers.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 41.7 %	Judges are not yet supported by sentencing guidelines and often have limited awareness of the impact, prevalence, and severity of IKB, and more work can be done in facilitating the sharing of expertise	GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 41.7 %	No changes	GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 25.0%	There are still no sentencing guidelines, however, in 2022, in the framework of the NAP Action 2.1.2 “Promote greater awareness among prosecutors and judges of wildlife crime, with particular reference to the various illegal practices and the

	among judges dealing with wildlife crime.				repercussions they may have on the state of conservation of the ornithological species involved” ISPRA edited a technical document “ <a href="#">Crimes against wild birds. A thematic focus for an effective law enforcement</a> ” <sup>24</sup> (in Italian only) with the contribution of Carabinieri Forestali and several experts to promote awareness for all those called upon to enforce the rules for the protection of wildlife, including prosecutors and judges.
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.	GROUP E Prevention 60.0 %	No significant changes. The Italian Government hosted the Joint Bern Convention / MIKT meeting in Casterporzano, Rome in May 2019.	GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 60.0%	No significant changes.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/files2022/pubblicazioni/documenti-tecnici/i-crimini-contro-gli-uccelli-selvatici.pdf>

## HUNGARY

<b>Overall comments:</b>		Country has submitted complete Scoreboards all three times. Main IKB issue is poisoning. Good structures for monitoring, enforcement, prosecution, and awareness raising.			
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>		<b>Yes. Set at 178 birds/year (Class IV).</b>			
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>		MME/BirdLife Hungary manages a comprehensive database on most but not all of crime categories on IKB and shares it regularly with the Department for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture and with the National Bureau of Investigation. 817 birds are reported killed in this report, whereas only 178 were reported in the 2020 report, which was set as the baseline. However, during this period there has been an increase in effort too.			
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>		<b>Well understood</b>			
<b>IKB Trend</b>		<b>Increasing.</b>			
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>		Prosecution data provided through MME/BirdLife Hungary database, as the police have data on prosecution of cases, but not to the extent requested for the Scoreboard. The data show 40 persons prosecuted, and 1330 birds involved. In the previous report, 99 cases involving 5927 birds were reported for 2018-2020. The numbers reported in 2023, are much higher than the baseline, thus justifying the increasing trend.			
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>		No, but EU Member State complying with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)			
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>		National IKB Action Plan exists and is followed by government agencies, NGOs and police, but has not been submitted to judiciary.			
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>		Funding is mainly through EU LIFE projects awarded through NGOs.			
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		IKB is considered a priority by the National Bureau of Investigation. Reaction depends on capacities. No change since last report.			
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		Databases not available online, but data freely shared between stakeholders.			
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 74.0%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 77.5 %	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 81.3%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases</b>

	<b>cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> not completed		<b>prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> Completed		<b>prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed Improvement mainly due to Monitoring and Prosecution actions.
<b>GROUP A</b> 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.	<b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 83.3 %	MME data (mostly on poisoning) are provided to analyze the seasonality (peak in March /May). The database of the National Bureau of Investigation covers a broader range of crime types and therefore contains higher figures, especially for illegally transported birds across the country	<b>GROUP A</b> (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring 100.0%	Monitoring done by MME/BirdLife Hungary which maintains a database and regularly shares data with National Bureau of Investigation.
<b>GROUP B</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.	<b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 85.2 %	No change. The small decline of the score is due to a correction of the previous submission. No actual change occurred.	<b>GROUP B</b> (Q5-Q13) National legislation 85.2%	No change.
<b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 60.0%	A national strategy has been developed but more effort should go into its enforcement and updating. Nevertheless,	<b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 70.0%	Some improvements. The Action plan is being implemented by Governmental and non -governmental	<b>GROUP C</b> (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response	No change. Some good results on training of enforcement officers

	<p>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.</p>		<p>conservation organizations, but still does not engage the judiciary. Within a Life project has been possible to monitor the effort by the Riot Police National Bureau of Investigation, which has significantly increased in the last three years. On the other hand, the fight against IKB needs further effort by the National Bureau of Investigation.</p>	70.0%	<p>and other agencies at national and subnational level organised by the National Bureau of Investigation, attended by 403 staff members. Overall though, unclear how sufficient the enforcement effort is and whether gaps exist.</p>
<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 33.3%</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 50.0%</p>	<p>Some limited improvement and some re-assessment increased the score. The sentencing guidelines are not in place but important aspects of them are already incorporated into the legislation.</p>	<p><b>GROUP D</b> (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 66.7%</p>	<p>Some improvement mainly related to training received through EU LIFE project SWiPE. Penalty structure reflects severity of offences but leaves wide margin of discretion.</p>
<p><b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 93.3%</p>	<p>Hungary plays an active role in the international IKB meetings, the knowledge of drivers is comprehensive and</p>	<p><b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 93.3%</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p><b>GROUP E</b> (Q24-Q28) Prevention 93.3%</p>	<p>No change. Awareness raising activities through EU LIFE projects like</p>

	<p>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.</p>				<p>HELICON LIFE, PannonEagle LIFE and LIFE SWiPE. The drivers for IKB are well known and understood. In 2022, Ministry of Agriculture officials toured all 19 counties and presented conservation policy on IKB at meetings of professional hunters.</p>
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## LIECHTENSTEIN

<b>Overall comments:</b>						Country has submitted the Scoreboards all three times. Due to non-occurrence of IKB in the country complete scoring is not possible. Colour Green is attributed based on non -occurrence of IKB and therefore very low (non-existent) severity, and scores of areas answered.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>						<b>None provided. IKB insignificant.</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>						N/A. No IKB cases have been reported in the country the last 10 years and the Office for the Environment could not find any violations on its own initiative. Liechtenstein is a very small country of 160 km <sup>2</sup> and social checks and balances are high. If someone were to kill birds illegally or, for example, set up glue traps, someone would immediately notice this and there would be a report.
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>						N/A
<b>IKB Trend</b>						Stable and very good.
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>						N/A
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>						Legislation in the form of the Nature Conservation Act and the Hunting Act are deemed sufficient.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>						N/A
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>						N/A
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>						N/A
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>						N/A
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>		
TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: not completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 & Q4): completed	TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 & Q4): completed	TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: completed, but most questions not applicable Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 & Q4): completed	
GROUP A IKB monitoring N/A		GROUP A IKB monitoring N/A	No data are available.	GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring	No data available.	

				16.7%	
GROUP B National legislation N/A		GROUP B National legislation 95.8%	The Nature Conservation Act and the Hunting Act regulate hunting and species conservation. The legislation is considered adequate to address the IKB, although it may be difficult to assess its capacity to penalize and act as a deterrent as there have not been cases for a decade.	GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 95.8%	The relevant provisions can be found in the Nature Conservation Act and the Hunting Act.
GROUP C Enforcement response N/A		GROUP C Enforcement response No score assigned	No national action plan is required and if cases of IKB will occur in the future they shall be considered a high priority by the Law enforcement agencies. Training of enforcement staff is limited as are staff resources themselves resulting in insufficient effort in place to combat IKB. The enforcement effort is adequate to the extent of the problem and does not require training. The color code indicates the overall adequacy of the enforcement response.	GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response No score assigned.	As there are no cases scoring is not relevant, however, if IKB occurred it would be treated with high priority.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing N/A		GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing N/A	Because of the lack of IKB cases no sentencing guidelines, specialized prosecutors, and judges or training are necessary.	GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing N/A	No change reported. Still not applicable due to lack of IKB.

GROUP E Prevention N/A		GROUP E Prevention N/A	Because of the lack of IKB cases, none of the actions indicated are required.	GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention N/A	No change reported.
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## MALTA

<b>Overall comments:</b>					
		Country has submitted the Scoreboards all three times. In 2023, information submitted shows stability overall and a reduction in category D scores, related to prosecution and sentencing. No explanation is offered for this drop in score.			
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>		<b>None given. Class III as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>			
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>		The methodology used for the collection of quantitative data on illegal killing, trapping and trade is based on actual enforcement statistics on cases logged by authorities.			
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>		Well understood through studies of private researchers and mainly related to illegal trade and taxidermy of protected species.			
<b>IKB Trend</b>		<b>Stable.</b>			
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>		Detailed data on prosecution is provided involving 451 persons (and 3157 birds) for the period 2021-2023. Most of the birds involved are related to illegal trapping (taking) of protected species or illegal possession of dead or alive protected species (3023 out of 3157). For the previous Scoreboard exercise in 2020, data on prosecution concerned 247 persons and 1062 birds, but increase is attributed to greater enforcement effort and not a real increase in IKB.			
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>		Legislation in the form of the Nature Conservation Act and the Hunting Act are deemed sufficient. EU Member State.			
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>		Authorities are working to establish an IKB NAP Committee that will lead the NAP drafting and adoption of a National IKB NAP, as well as guide and oversee its implementation, following the CMS MIKT Guidance provided.			
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>		Various grants are reported for hunters' organisations and bird conservation NGOs, to raise hunters' awareness and work on conservation of wild birds.			
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		IKB an enforcement priority for nearly 30 years.			
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		There is no formal national wildlife crime database in Malta that is available to the public but the Court Services Agency of Malta publicizes select court sentences (not just wildlife crime) through its <a href="#">website</a> . The WBRU publishes convictions resulting from court sentences in its <a href="#">annual reports</a> which are publicly available.			
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	Indicators with score: completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	Indicators with score: completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	Indicators with score: completed
		90.0%		87.0%	

91.2%	<b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed		<b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed		<b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed
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 A IKB monitoring 66.7 %	No change	GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring 100.0 %	The methodology used relies on actual enforcement statistics on cases logged by authorities as indicators of scale that allow tracking of the trend and therefore progress over time without extrapolating to national scale in line with the Paper on Baseline and Methodology for assessing progress on the RSP prepared by the CMS secretariat. Actual numbers show an increase since last Scoreboard (3157 versus 1062 birds) which is attributed to increased enforcement.
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	GROUP B National legislation 92.6 %	No change	GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 100.0%	The main legal instrument is law Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (SL 549.42). The legislation is very complete, foreseeing clear penalties and sanctions, and derogations. Hunters need to have a licence and go through rigorous training

	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.				beforehand. Criminal law can be used but has never been used for IKB cases. The legislation integrates the necessary provisions of the Bern Convention, the CMS and the EU Birds Directive.
<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 90.0 %</b>	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.	<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 90.0 %</b>	No change	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 85.0%</b>	National Action Plan on IKB to be developed. Enforcement is assured through three entities, the Wild Birds Regulation Unit (WBRU), the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) and the Malta Police Force, the latter including the Police Environmental Protection Unit (EPU). Staff receive regular training and resources to carry out their duties. Authorities strive to allocate sufficient specialized staff, however staffing issues, skills shortage, delays in recruitment are sometimes reasons for lacking enough staff.
<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 100.0 %</b>	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	<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 91.7 %</b>	No change, pandemic has led to some delays.	<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q24) Prosecution and sentencing 50.0 %</b>	Judges well aware of IKB issue. Prosecution done by police (not prosecutors) and police is very experienced and aware of IKB issues.

	<p>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).</p>				<p>Legislation allows for discretion by the judiciary but also establishes aggravating factors as a guideline.</p> <p>Due to changes in place since 2020, most cases are heard and judged within six months. Judgements are uploaded in the court website.</p> <p>The score in this section is lower than previous times, but no explanation is given for this difference.</p>
<p><b>GROUP E Prevention 93.3 %</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP E Prevention 93.3 %</b></p>	<p>No change</p>	<p><b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 93.3%</b></p>	<p>The Maltese Government is actively engaging in international processes, such as the CMS MIKT, Bern Convention, IMPEL etc. The drivers for IKB are well understood and are mostly illicit trade and taxidermy of illegally acquired protected species. Increased emphasis on awareness raising for hunters, due to increase in hunting trips abroad and bird keeping. Various awareness activities reported.</p>

					National funding reported for raising awareness about legal hunting practices and bird conservation. IKB cases are publicised and condemned by the WBRU, environmental NGOs and hunting associations.
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**MONTENEGRO**

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted complete Scoreboards all three times. In 2023, information submitted shows small improvement in Enforcement and Prevention. Although scoring appears to be somewhat strict compared with average, most areas are in need of improvement, especially in relation to the effectiveness of judicial procedures. Keeping, trading and smuggling of wild birds is a concern.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>Yes. Set at between 64000-197000 birds annually (Class III), median used 130,000 birds, as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	No methodology for monitoring IKB at national level. Monitoring done at certain IKB hotspots by Center for Protection and Research of birds. Environmental Protection Agency also uses camera traps to record IKB in some areas. Around 34,000 birds are reported as IKB victims in this report from six different districts, this is quite a bit lower than the baseline set. The two previous reports used the Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016) figure as no other data was available.
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>No survey has been conducted.</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>No clear trend.</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Data on prosecutions is provided, eleven cases involving five people and less than ten birds, but it is reported that prosecution and sentencing is insufficient. Most of the criminal charges submitted to prosecutors are rejected, or no information is available on progress. Judges tend to treat IKB as a minor issue. In 2020, Some 30 people were prosecuted over the period 2018-2020 for crimes involving almost 30 bird specimens and in the 2018 report, 24 people were prosecuted and 80 birds involved. Competences split among various agencies makes retrieving and analysing prosecution data a challenge.
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	Law on Nature Protection undergoing revision in 2023, aiming to revise mainly chapters related to keeping and smuggling wild animals, especially birds. Law on Hunting and wildlife amended to be in line with EU acquis. Laws still in need of improvement, but in general, the laws are good, but what needs improvement is the general framework and especially the enforcement of those laws. Support requested in order to complete the expert assessment of legislation.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	An Action Plan is the process of being developed since 2021, but it is unclear when it is expected to be adopted.
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	No information on funding.
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	Low score reported and considered insufficient.

<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		No national database. Data collected by government agencies and NGOs but are not compiled in comprehensive report. Competence distributed through several inspectorates adds to difficulty of establishing national database.			
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 30.0%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 33.8%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 37.5%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed  Improvement mainly due to Enforcement and Prevention actions.
<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 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 on 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	<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 33.3%	The Center for protection and research of birds will carry out an assessment of the IKB problem in the year to come based on data they are currently collecting	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring</b> 33.3%	No change. Monitoring done at certain IKB hotspots by Center for Protection and Research of birds. Environmental Protection Agency also uses camera traps to record IKB in some areas.

	government agencies and NGOs.				
<b>GROUP B</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 proportionality of the penalties. These limitations result in the rejection by the prosecution of most IKB criminal charges.	<b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 55.6%	The increase of the score is due to a correction of the previous submission. No actual change occurred	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 51.9%	Small deterioration, mainly in relation to proportionality of penalties and application of organised crime legislation to IKB.
<b>GROUP C</b> 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 the governmental level. The enforcement effort is seriously limited by a lack of staff, resources, and training.	<b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 20.0%	A National Action Plan is under development lead by the Center for research and protection of birds together with the relevant institutions, and also the Ministry will contribute and assist the implementation and adoption of the action plan. Training and increase in the number of the 21 inspectors (Forestry, hunting, and environmental) are considered important needs.	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response 35.0%	Improvement in relation to existence of draft National IKB Action Plan and current processes for amending legislation that will impact enforcement.

<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 0.0%</p>	<p>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 offenses</p>	<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 8.3%</p>	<p>The only change reported is a training program on EU environmental law of Judges carried out in two events in 2019 and 2020 involving 33 people between judges, prosecutors, and other governmental staff.</p>	<p><b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing 8.3%</p>	<p>No change. It is encouraging that judges and prosecutors have expressed themselves a need for training.</p>
<p><b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 33.3%</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 33.3%</p>	<p>The hunting association has carried out a campaign on IKB targeting their members but no details are available on the effectiveness; the Center for Research and Protection of birds carries out educational and public awareness activities, but more work is required.</p>	<p><b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28)</b> Prevention 40.0%</p>	<p>Small improvement in training opportunities. The Environmental Protection Agency has conducted an awareness raising campaign on smuggling of wild animals, especially birds. The Agency has also set up a register of keepers of wild animals, which will be further legally regulated through the amendments to the law on Nature Protection.</p>

**SERBIA**

<b>Overall comments:</b>						Country has submitted the Scoreboard all three times.									
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>						<b>None given. Class III as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>									
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>						No methodology or detailed data on IKB presented. The numbers submitted related to confiscated birds only and are 27 for 2021 and 67 for 2022. Plan for better data is announced. Similarly, in 2020 report only data for confiscations were presented.									
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>						<b>Not identified</b>									
<b>IKB Trend</b>						<b>No clear trend.</b>									
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>						Data submitted showing three persons prosecuted and 40 birds involved in 2021, and nine people and 82 birds involved in 2022. In the previous report, data showed ten persons prosecuted for 155 birds in 2018, eight persons for 176 birds in 2019 and four persons for 17 birds in 2020.									
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>						No such assessment but in April 2021, the Government of Serbia officially accepted the Rome Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2030 and ordered the Ministry of Environmental Protection and other government agencies to adopt measures and activities to eradicate IKB.									
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>						National Action Plan on preventing illegal bird killing (IKB) and wildlife crime is currently being developed within the Project on Green Agenda supported by the Government of Sweden in coordination with UNDP. Additionally, Recommendation No. 205 (2019) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and subsequently the Rome Strategic Plan, has been officially accepted by the Government in April 2021 and government agencies have been ordered to adopt measures to implement it. The Government Nature Protection Programme for the period 2021-2023 includes measure 1.3.2: Suppression of illegal killing, capture and trafficking in wild species.									
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>						Funding mentioned includes the UNDP and the Government of Sweden.									
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>						A new police unit (Eco unit) charged with fighting against environmental crime and for the protection of nature has been created.									
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>						No mention.									
<b>First assessment 2018</b>						<b>Second assessment 2020</b>				<b>Third assessment 2023</b>					
<b>TOTAL SCORE 75.0%</b>		<b>Indicators with score: completed</b>				<b>TOTAL SCORE 78.8%</b>		<b>Indicators with score: completed</b>				<b>TOTAL SCORE 66.3%</b>		<b>Indicators with score: completed</b>	
		<b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of</b>						<b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of</b>						<b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and</b>	

	<b>cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> not completed		<b>cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed		<b>number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed  Decline in scores owing to better scoring.
<b>GROUP A</b> 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.	<b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 50.0%	No change National estimates of birds illegally killed or taken due to IKB is based largely on quantitative data and records.	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> IKB monitoring 66.7%	Data on IKB cases based only on seizures and confiscations.
<b>GROUP B</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	<b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 100%	No change	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 85.2%	More accurate scoring.

	legislation can be used in prosecuting IKB.				
<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 60.0%</b>	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	<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 85.0%</b>	A national action plan has been developed, approved, and being actively implemented and monitored. Joint inspection and cooperation with relevant sectoral agencies is carried out. Cooperation includes mutual notification, information exchange, assistance and common measures and actions relevant for inspection control. Inspection control in the case of illegal killing of wild bird species is carried out by the environmental inspection. At the request of the environmental inspector, field investigation is carried out by the phytosanitary inspection, veterinary inspection, the police, a public prosecutor and a professional nature protection organization.	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 60.0%</b>	A national action plan on preventing illegal bird killing (IKB) and wildlife crime is currently being developed within the Project on Green Agenda supported by the Government of Sweden in coordination with UNDP. A national committee with stakeholders will be created by 2030 due to official acceptance of Recommendation No. 205 (2019) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.
<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 66.7%</b>	Judges have some awareness of the prevalence of wildlife crimes and IKB cases result in less than 25 per cent of acquittals, but	<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 75.0%</b>	Sentencing guidelines are still in development. Cases result in acquittal in less than 25% of cases and take one or two years to reach	<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 33.3%</b>	Not clear why the score is so much lower. A new police unit (Eco unit) charged with

	the sentencing guidelines, which are included in the national action plan, are not yet formally endorsed		completion. More than 50% of judges and prosecutors dealing with wildlife issues have received training in IKB.		fighting against environmental crime and for the protection of nature has been created. But it needs practical experience and skills, and education in forensics, conservation of evidence and criminal proceedings in the crime scene.
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	GROUP E Prevention 46.7%	National government participates in about half of international meetings. Awareness raising actions are usually reactive rather than proactive.	GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 66.7%	Some improvement reported in relation to awareness raising campaigns and the regulated community.

**SPAIN**

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted complete Scoreboards all three times.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>Yes. Set at 8522 birds//year Class IV as per baseline set.</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	<p>In the current report, the number of IKB victims for the year 2022 is reported as 8544. In the 2020 report, the affected number of birds for the year was 8522, and that number was set as a baseline, showing that the number remains stable. In the 2018 report, it was reported that between 1,580 and 4,625 birds were affected by criminal activities every year in Spain. The methodology used involves receiving data about bird victims to IKB from regional administrations (autonomous communities) and extrapolating to the national level. Extrapolation is necessary because not all regional administrations provide data, so using the data provided, the total number is extrapolated to 17 autonomous communities (national level). Additionally in 2022, uses for the first time data from the Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza de la Guardia Civil (SEPRONA), which is the nature protection section of the civil protection.</p> <p>Official data used to estimate levels of IKB, include data from rehabilitation centres; data on infringement proceedings involving birds; other sources of data from official registers related to dead, captive or trafficked birds. To those are added data from SEPRONA, which do not overlap. Not all regional administrations provide data.</p>
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Drivers well researched and understood</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>Stable.</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Prosecution data reported, show that in 2022, 822 persons were prosecuted by the autonomous communities or by SEPRONA, and 4301 birds were involved. In the 2020 report, it was reported that 215 persons were prosecuted for IKB involving 6111 birds. No information on prosecution cases was provided in the 2018 report.
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	EU Member State complying with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). The law is constantly evaluated to ensure better controls to ensure more accurately tracking and keeping of wild animals. In relation to hunting legislation, the main elements that could be improved are the introduction of quotas based on latest biological data for some species, and better data on the size of the hunting bag, i.e. number of birds hunted each year.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	Spain has several plans and strategies targeted on combating IKB, some predating the RSP. In order to avoid duplication or create confusion between official documents, it was decided to continue using existing plans and legislation. The existing plans and strategies are: 1. TiIFIES Plan

	to combat illegal trafficking and international wildlife poaching. 2. Strategy against use of poisoned baits, 3. Technical guidelines for permitting capture of finches for captive breeding, 4. Technical guidelines for the regulation of hunting.				
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	Funding is mainly through EU LIFE projects awarded through NGOs.				
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	No specific priority given to IKB as all crime is a priority, but fight against the IKB and trafficking of wild animals has increased in recent years. A new Central Office for fighting environmental crime has been created.				
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>	No single coordinated case law database exists, or a database with detailed information about the kind of wildlife offences. NGOs have played an important role of raising awareness about case law through projects like LIFE EU. However, developing a database is a priority to be developed and the authorities are working collaboratively with prosecutors, the courts, enforcers and NGOs towards the development of one.				
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 73.8%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 80.0%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 77.5%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed
<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 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 five 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	<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 66.7%	The estimate has been calculated in the same method. Overall, the number seems to have increased but there are more autonomous communities providing data and participating than previously (nine instead of five) and more effort	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring</b> 66.7%	The estimate produced for this report, based on 2022 data, is produced using data from nine autonomous communities and SEPRONA for the first time. Hotspots have been identified.

			attributed. Furthermore, the impression is that for some categories (e.g. poisonings) numbers are decreasing, but data is not conclusive. So, the trend is currently unclear.		
<b>GROUP B National legislation 92.6%</b>	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.	<b>GROUP B National legislation 92.6%</b>	No change.	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 85.2%</b>	Spain is an EU member state and the legislation is considered very complete.
<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 70.0%</b>	A national action plan has been developed in consultation with all major stakeholders and it is currently being implemented by all relevant law enforcement agencies which consider IKB as a priority, although not formally	<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 80.0%</b>	An action plan exists but is not actively implemented by all enforcement agencies. Combating IKB has been identified	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 75.0%</b>	A new National Central Office (NCB) for combating and investigating environmental crime has been created, as part of SEPRONA, with the collaboration of central government and autonomous communities. In general, there are specialised staff in all autonomous

	<p>recognized. Enforcement effort is limited by understaffing of relevant agencies, which on the other hand receive adequate specific training on IKB.</p>		<p>formally as a priority and is identified as a priority among enforcement agencies. Enforcement officers regularly participate in trainings, in collaboration with NGOs also.</p>		<p>communities but if there are many cases staffing is not enough. Numerous training opportunities through government training and through NGO projects. Number of trained officials less than 50% because environmental police officials are very numerous, around 8000 at country level. Numerous new and innovative investigative techniques are being employed, using both new technology (such as telephony, drones, DNA, ballistics, etc.) and tools used for other types of crime.</p>
<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 50.0%</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 58.3%</p>	<p>Sanctions and reasoning are recorded and available to other prosecutors. Wildlife cases tend to be handled by prosecutors and judges that specialise on wildlife crime. Otherwise, no other change.</p>	<p><b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing 58.3%</p>	<p>Analysis done through project SWiPE has shown that of 4902 cases brought to the court for wildlife crime (not just birds), only 327 resulted in court cases, due to deficiencies in data, investigation etc. However, of those cases, around 90% resulted in convictions (a very high number). Training for prosecutors has reached almost all prosecutors, compared to judges, where the percentage of knowledge and training in this area seems to be lower. In Spain, the existence of a specialised environmental prosecutor's office since 2006 has contributed significantly to the adequate handling of IKB cases.</p>

<p><b>GROUP E Prevention 73.3%</b></p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>GROUP E Prevention 80.0%</b></p>	<p>Some improvement. Awareness raising efforts comprehensively target specific groups. Materials are updated and reviewed regularly.</p>	<p><b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 86.7%</b></p>	<p>Spain contributes actively in international fora. The motivations for wildlife crime have been extensively studied and are understood, through the work of government institutions (central government and autonomous regions) and NGOs through LIFE projects (e.g., LIFE Guardians). Awareness raising could be improved but already a lot of work is being done by administrations and NGOs, on issue-specific campaigns, e.g., wildlife poisoning or wildlife trafficking.</p>
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## SWITZERLAND

<b>Overall comments:</b>		Country has submitted the Scoreboard all three times. IKB in the country is extremely limited; main concern is poisoning of Peregrine Falcons and Eurasian Sparrowhawk by pigeon fanciers.			
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>		<b>None provided. IKB insignificant. Class IV as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2017).</b>			
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>		IKB cases reported are derived from programme ‘Health Monitoring of Wild Animals’ which determines the cause of death of any suspicious dead animals, including birds. The cause of death is determined by experts in specialised laboratories. The Health Monitoring of Wild Animals programme is implemented jointly by the Federal Food Safety and veterinary Office, The Federal Office for the Environment and the Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Bern			
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>		<b>Understood</b>			
<b>IKB Trend</b>		<b>Stable</b>			
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>		One pending case reported in the current Scoreboard, and one case had been reported in 2017 for the killing of a Goshawk. No cases had been reported in 2020.			
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>		Legislation considered comprehensive with dissuasive penalties.			
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>		An IKB action plan is not developed due to the very low number of cases and existing comprehensive legislation which includes dissuasive penal provisions.			
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>		N/A			
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		Not a priority because extremely low occurrence.			
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		Not clear if data on prosecutions are public.			
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
TOTAL SCORE N/A	Indicators with score: not completed  Provision on data for IKB estimate	TOTAL SCORE 85.1%	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 & Q4): completed	TOTAL SCORE 87.8%	Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 & Q4): completed

	<b>and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4): completed</b>				
GROUP A IKB monitoring N/A		GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7%	National estimate is based on quantitative data and partially on extrapolations. The attention is posed on poisoning and in particular of long-lived and scarce species Prosecutions data come from official and comprehensive data.	GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring 100.0%	A total of 56 IKB victims reported in this Scoreboard, allocated per Canton. Most cases reported in the Cantons of Basel and Bern. Data derived from the 'Health Monitoring of Wild Animals' programme explained above. In the previous Scoreboards between 0-3 cases per year had been reported.
GROUP B National legislation N/A	Dismissive penal provision	GROUP B National legislation 100.0%	The legislation has in place all definitions and checks to ensure IKB is properly addressed and punished and fully adhere to the Bern and Bonn Conventions commitments. No known cases of organized wildlife crime are known.	GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 100.0%	No change.
GROUP C Enforcement response N/A		GROUP C Enforcement response 75.0%	An IKB action plan is not developed due to the very low number of cases and existing comprehensive legislation which includes deterrent penal provisions. For the same reason, IKB is not a high enforcement priority. A working group is in place for information gathering and sharing about the poisoning of raptors following some poisoning events linked to pigeon fanciers. Enforcement staff receives	GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 75.0%	IKB crime is not considered a high priority due to the very low number of cases, the comprehensive legislation, which includes dissuasive penalties. However, IKB is closely tracked as it mainly affects long-living species with low reproductive rates (like the Peregrine Falcon) and could therefore lead to

			regular specific training and deliver, with the support of the general public, NG, and other professionals, effective enforcement of the law.		declines in local populations. There exists a specific working-group dedicated to the information exchange on the poisoning of Peregrine Falcons. The working-group includes representatives from cantonal authorities and several NGOs.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing N/A		GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 88.9%	Sentencing guidelines are enshrined in the legislation and awareness of the judges and prosecution is sufficient to properly deliver appropriate sentences and penalties generally within 2 years from the start of the court case.	GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 88.9%	No change.
GROUP E Prevention N/A		GROUP E Prevention 80.0%	Responsible for IKB cases, which are mostly poisoning of raptors feeding on medium-sized birds, are pigeon fanciers IKB has no support among the population. Sentences are published in newspapers	GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 80.0%	No change.

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

<b>Overall comments:</b>						Country has submitted the Scoreboards all three times. All areas below in need of attention.							
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>						<b>None given. Class I as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>							
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>						No methodology is available, and no estimate of the number of birds victims of IKB is provided. The estimate of birds killed is on based on expert opinion and anecdotal information. The number estimated by Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016) is considered incorrect.							
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>						<b>Not identified</b>							
<b>IKB Trend</b>						<b>Increasing</b>							
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>						No data on prosecutions provided.							
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>						The legislation is deemed to be inadequate to deter and combat IKB.							
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>						A roadmap in development since 2015 but not finished yet.							
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>						None reported.							
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>						IKB is rarely identified as a priority among enforcement agencies.							
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>						No information.							
<b>First assessment 2018</b>						<b>Second assessment 2020</b>				<b>Third assessment 2023</b>			
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.				TOTAL SCORE 26.3%		Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 & Q4): not completed		TOTAL SCORE 25.0%		Indicators with score: completed Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 & Q4): not completed	

<p>GROUP A IKB monitoring N/A</p>		<p>GROUP A IKB monitoring 0.0%</p>		<p>GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring 33.3%</p>	<p>The scoring suggests that the estimate of the number of birds killed is based on expert opinion, but no numerical estimate is submitted.</p>
<p>GROUP B National legislation N/A</p>	<p>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 games. A new hunting law is under development and a new law or decree will regulate trafficking in wild animal and plant species.</p>	<p>GROUP B National legislation 40.7%</p>	<p>The hunting law is still the old one and does not have adequate provisions to deter and combat IKB. The legislation indicates penalties that are not proportional to the nature and severity of IKB because they are not enough to act as a deterrent. Penal justice and special investigation methods cannot be applied to IKB offenses.</p>	<p>GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 33.3%</p>	<p>The law is reportedly in need of update, as currently it is inadequate for combating IKB. An update of the law is in the Higher Council for Hunting and Parliament for approval, but not clear when it might be approved.</p>
<p>GROUP C Enforcement response N/A</p>		<p>GROUP C Enforcement response 20.0%</p>	<p>No national action plan is in place but work is underway to pass a new hunting decree. The new legislation will address IKB which is currently not considered a priority. Policy development has involved many and diverse stakeholders. No information is provided on the level of staff and resources available to combat IKB and no training is reported to have been delivered. The enforcement effort is poor.</p>	<p>GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 10.0%</p>	<p>Roadmap to develop a national Action Plan through cooperation of Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW) was proposed in 2015 but it is not finished yet. Tackling IKB not seen as a priority, due to general situation in the country.</p>

					No information provided on staffing or needs.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing N/A		GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 16.7%	Sentencing guidelines are under development as the judges are scarcely aware of the IKB issue and treat the case as a minor offense. There are no specialized prosecutors or judges and no relevant training has been provided.	GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 16.7%	No change.
GROUP E Prevention N/A		GROUP E Prevention 26.7%	A Syrian delegation took part in the joint Bern / MIKT meeting in Rome. IKB drivers are not fully understood, and no significant awareness-raising activities have been carried out	GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 33.3%	No change.

## TUNISIA

<b>Overall comments:</b>						Country has submitted complete Scoreboards all three times.											
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>						<b>None given. Class III as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>											
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>						No methodology for monitoring IKB. The only platform available to the public is ‘ <i>Stop Braconnage</i> ’ (Stop Poaching) which is mainly managed by NGO ‘Les amis des Oiseaux’. Some information is also provided from the annual hunting report produced by the Forest Direction General but usually is not sufficiently detailed to be entered in the ‘Stop Braconnage’ database, and market surveys.											
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>						<b>Knowledge on motivations is incomplete</b>											
<b>IKB Trend</b>						<b>Increasing.</b>											
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>						Data on prosecutions provided in all three reports. In the 2023 report, 231 persons were prosecuted, and 533 birds affected. Main categories of offences reported were hunting during closed season, or without permit, or in hunting reserves, but also possession and trade of protected species. In the 2020 report, 176 prosecutions had been reported affecting 176 birds and in 2018, 13 cases affecting 34 birds.											
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>						National legislation is reported to be adequate but an expert assessment has not be performed in terms of how efficient it is for combating IKB. Tunisia requests assistance for performing the expert assessment.											
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>						Action for IKB covered by other plans of action. The platform ‘Stop Braconnage’ helps stimulate action by relevant field agents, and engages citizens.											
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>						None available.											
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>						Occasionally identified as priority.											
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>						No national database on wildlife crime exists.											
<b>First assessment 2018</b>						<b>Second assessment 2020</b>						<b>Third assessment 2023</b>					
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 50.6%		<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed				<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 55.8%		<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed				<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 53.25%		<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed			

					Significant rescoreing to reflect more accurate situation.
<b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 33.3%	IKB estimate is based on experts' opinions, while the data on prosecution is based on official statistics and experts' assessments.	<b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 100%	Data on IKB cases are gathered through an internet platform ( <a href="http://www.stop-braconnage.com/">http://www.stop-braconnage.com/</a> ) developed by the NGO AAO. All the data on prosecutions come from official statistics.	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> IKB monitoring 33.3%	Rescoreing to reflect more accurate situation. No change, in terms of sources of information but many more birds caught reported. Almost 75000 birds reported as opposed to around 150 birds reported in 2020, and 20000 in 2018. Data sources are the 'Stop braconnage' database, surveys in markets and expert opinion. Data reported suggest much higher number of birds affected than previously reported, and highlighting Cape Bon (El Haouaria & Kélibia) as a likely hotspot not previously reported. Additionally, data from different markets are reported.
<b>GROUP B</b> National legislation	Hunting legislation is considered adequate to deter IKB and is integrated	<b>GROUP B</b> National legislation	The score changed to better reflect the actual situation, does not indicate a	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 79.2%	No changes reported, but more accurate scoring. Organised

75.0%	into the national legislative framework. It includes a clear definition of what is permitted and what is forbidden providing for a range of sanctions and penalties. Organized crime is not known to be involved in IKB cases.	70.4%	worsening of the situation. Hunting is regulated mostly by an annual decree rather than a law; the exemptions to the general protection of wildlife are applied to the use of falcon for hunting; the law offers wide room for manoeuvre to the judges in defining the penalties.		crime legislation not applicable.
<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 40.0%</b>	No action plan, but IKB is addressed through other strategies. IKB is not considered a priority by the law enforcement agencies which experience staffing and skills limitations. This results in limited effectiveness.	<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 30.0%</b>	The score decline is due to a stricter interpretation of the criteria. No IKB action plan is in place. The participation of stakeholders in wildlife conservation policy is assured by a commission that meets every three months. No information is available on the training of law enforcement agents.	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 55.0%</b>	Forest department has various field units to cover the country, but they often lack resources and training to monitor all the vulnerable areas, or carry out necropsies and analyses. Training to build capacity and the various skills necessary is requested.
<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 25.0%</b>	IKB penal cases are generally processed within 2 years and are handled by judges and prosecutors not specialized in or trained on IKB and with limited awareness about its seriousness and treat them as minor offenses.	<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 33.3%</b>	The General Directorate of Forests has organized training for judges on environmental and wildlife crimes and a prosecutor was a member of the Tunisian delegation to the last MIKT meeting.	<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 16.7%</b>	More accurate scoring. No specialised prosecutors and no regular training available. Regular support and training requested. It is proposed to create a permanent team of experts (team IKB, from CMS) who will be available to respond

					to training needs, and to offer advice on law implementation for Mediterranean countries.
GROUP E Prevention 53.3%	Tunisian Government has participated in all relevant IKB international meetings. The understanding of the drivers is limited and actions have been developed to address the demand for illegally obtained birds.	GROUP E Prevention 60.0%	The lack of resources is the main limiting factor in developing preventive actions, although the cooperation with the NGO AAO has resulted in public awareness actions also through the online portal 'Stop Braconnage'	GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 46.7%	More accurate scoring and no change reported.

## UNITED KINGDOM

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted complete Scoreboards all three times. Main IKB issue is bird of prey crime. Trapping of songbirds, which is a problem on the island of Cyprus and in the Sovereign Base Areas Administration (SBAA) is reported by SBAA authorities under Cyprus.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>None given. Class IV as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2017)</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	The UK does not produce a holistic assessment of annual trends of the illegal killing of birds. Instead, the UK focuses on the conservation status of individual species of birds.
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Well understood</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>None provided.</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Information on prosecutions is publicly available on <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics">Criminal justice statistics - GOV.UK</a> <sup>25</sup> (www.gov.uk)
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	Legislation is complete and in no need of revision.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	No National Action Plan, but action covered by other plans and strategies, such as: <a href="#">Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2022-2025</a> <sup>26</sup> which outlines the UK police's approaches to combating wildlife crime and in particular bird of prey crime, through creating Priority Delivery Groups each with its delivery plan. 2. The <a href="#">Joint Action Plan to increase the population of Hen Harrier</a> <sup>27</sup> and 3. <a href="#">An MoU on the prevention, investigation and enforcement of Wildlife Crime</a> <sup>28</sup> between Natural England Natural Resources Body for Wales, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs Council, which outlines how the signatory parties will work in partnership on the prevention, investigation and enforcement of wildlife crime, both at a national strategic level and a local casework level. The MoU was under review and was expected to be agreed by the autumn 2023.
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	Various national funding lines reported, especially towards the UK's <a href="#">National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)</a> <sup>29</sup> which receives significant investment from the UK Home Office and Defra. The Defra investment was doubled in this reporting period.

<sup>25</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics#criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-\(cjsq\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics#criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-(cjsq))

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.nwcu.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NPCC-Wildlife-Rural-Crime-Strategy-2022-2025.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/491818/hen-harrier-action-plan-england-2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/491818/hen-harrier-action-plan-england-2016.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> [https://www.nwcu.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MoU\\_Signed\\_Final\\_Document.pdf](https://www.nwcu.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MoU_Signed_Final_Document.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.nwcu.police.uk/>

<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		Crimes against birds of prey and crimes against CITES, constitute policing priorities in the UK and are set and formally adopted every three years by the UK Tasking and Coordination Group.			
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		Most data are available in the public domain.			
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 97.4%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 97.4%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 97.4%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed
<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 100%	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. 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) • Summary offences in relation to birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act	<b>GROUP A IKB monitoring</b> 100%	Information on cases and convictions are publicly available. No official estimates of IKB. The Ministry of Justice groups offences against birds into the following three categories: 1. Summary offences in relation to birds under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 2. Summary offences in relation to nests and eggs of birds under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 3. Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring</b> 100.0%	Information publicly available. The Ministry of Justice groups offences against birds into the following three categories: 1. Summary offences in relation to birds under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 2. Summary offences in relation to nests and eggs of birds under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 3. Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds under wildlife and Countryside Act 1981  <b>2021:</b> 1. 21 prosecutions, 10 convictions

	<p>1981 (30 prosecutions in 2016)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary offences in relation to nests and eggs of birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (12 prosecutions in 2016)</li> <li>• Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds (1 prosecution in 2016)</li> </ul>		<p><b>2017:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 42 prosecutions, 32 convictions</li> <li>2. 1 prosecution, 0 convictions</li> <li>3. 4 prosecutions, 1 conviction</li> </ol> <p><b>2018:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 37 prosecutions, 23 convictions</li> <li>2. 20 prosecutions, 14 convictions</li> <li>3. 6 prosecutions, 4 convictions</li> </ol> <p><b>2019:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 31 prosecutions, 26 convictions</li> <li>2. 2 prosecutions, 0 convictions</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. 9 prosecution, 7 convictions</li> <li>3. 6 prosecutions, 2 convictions</li> </ol> <p><b>2022:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 39 prosecutions, 28 convictions</li> <li>2. 9 prosecutions, 0 convictions</li> <li>3. 6 prosecutions, 5 convictions</li> </ol>
<p><b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 100%</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 100%</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p><b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 100.0%</p>	<p>No change, legislation considered adequate.</p>

	a deterrent. Criminal and organized crime legislation are both applicable in relevant cases.				
<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 100%</b>	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.	<b>GROUP C Enforcement response 100%</b>	<p>No change</p> <p>The persecution of raptors has been identified as a UK national wildlife crime priority. Each wildlife crime priority has a delivery group to consider what action should be taken and develop a plan on prevention, intelligence and enforcement. The Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group focuses on the hen harrier, golden eagle, goshawk, peregrine, red kite and white-tailed eagle.</p> <p>In January 2019, Police Scotland held a five-day wildlife crime training course for 18 Officers involved in the investigation of wildlife crime. Developed to offer specialist knowledge and support, it was available to all wildlife crime officers currently in post. A second course is planned for 2021 with the aim for it to become</p>	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 100%</b>	<p>Significant increase of funding towards UK's National Wildlife Crime Unit from Defra, especially to target bird of prey crime in the period 2022-2025. Adoption of the <a href="#">Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2022-2025</a><sup>30</sup> which outlines the UK police's approaches, including on bird of prey crime. That has resulted in increased capacity. Natural England have funded NWCU to commence (summer 2023) a satellite tagging feasibility study where use of drones to lock on to satellite telemetry will be piloted.</p>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.nwcu.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NPCC-Wildlife-Rural-Crime-Strategy-2022-2025.pdf>

			part of the Detective Training prospectus.		
<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 77.8%</b>	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	<b>GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing 77.8%</b>	No change The CPS has published legal guidance on wildlife offences which includes IKB and raptor persecution, and can be found here: <a href="https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/wildlife-offences">https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/wildlife-offences</a> . The CPS also provides prosecutors with internal guidance on such cases. Sentencing is a matter for the judiciary.	<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 77.8%</b>	No change. The Crown Prosecution Service has <a href="#">published updated legal guidance</a> <sup>31</sup> in 2022, on wildlife offences, including guidance on IKB and bird of prey crime.
<b>GROUP E Prevention 100%</b>	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	<b>GROUP E Prevention 100%</b>	No change. Various initiatives and projects aiming to raise awareness around raptor persecution, on a national or regional scale.	<b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 100%</b>	No change. Various initiatives described at country level to raise awareness about bird of prey persecution.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/wildlife-offences>

	Scotland a yearly wildlife crime report is published				
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### 3.3 Replies from Governments that submitted the Scoreboard for the second time

#### BELGIUM (WALLONIA REGION)

<b>Overall comments:</b>	A response was received by the Wallonia Region of Belgium. Country has submitted the Scoreboard for a second time. Information submitted in 2023 is incomplete. Main issues reported are people trapping wild birds, mainly finches, to be used for singing competitions, and presenting them as captive bred, through fitting falsified bird rings. Additionally, shooting or poisoning of birds of prey is also a problem.		
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>None given. Class IV as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2017)</b>		
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	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.		
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Motivations seem to be known but question not answered.</b>		
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>Unclear.</b>		
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Not submitted as excel but in the text, data suggests main problem authorities deal with is trapping of songbirds, especially finches and laundering them as captive bred. Actions reported led to catching people on the scene and positive police actions, but no results on court cases reported.		
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	Not reported, but as EU member State has to comply with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)		
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	In development for the Wallonia Region.		
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	Not clear.		
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	IKB in general not treated as an important issue, but Anti-Poaching Unit exists for dealing with wildlife crime.		
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>	Not clear.		
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 47.5 %	<b>Indicators with score:</b> not completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 &amp; Q4):</b> not completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> N/A	<b>Indicators with score:</b> partially completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> Q2 completed  Overall score cannot be attributed because scores for areas D and E were not completed at all.

			Scores reported for A, B and C show deterioration or stability. Colour of overall score is expected average country performance based on scores attributed.
GROUP A IKB monitoring 66.7%	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 (Q1-Q4) National legislation 16.7%	Score markedly deteriorated. No clear methodology for monitoring IKB reported. No data on court cases were submitted in this report. Number of birds affected cannot be easily estimated. Main problems reported are capture of wild songbirds for keeping and singing competitions, and an observed increased tendency to falsify official bird rings to ‘launder’ birds caught in the wild as ‘captive bred’ and killing of raptors (shooting or poisoning). Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> is a species particularly affected by trapping and it is reported that methods for fitting falsified rings are ‘improved’ in recent years, thus making it more difficult to prove the falsification. In a control of a singing competition in 2023, the authorities, found that 55% of the bird rings were falsified. In another seizure, 985 birds were seized, 18 people caught and 49 positive actions followed from the seizure, executed by a special Anti-Poaching Unit.
GROUP B National 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 B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 63.0%	No change reported.

<p><b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 35.0%</p>	<p>IKB is not considered a priority and no specific strategy is in place. The antipoaching unit should be better staffed as it is estimated that there are only about 10 staff members working 150 days per year on IKB.</p>	<p><b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response 35.0%</p>	<p>The Wallonia Region has adopted an environmental law enforcement strategy, but it is not well implemented yet. There is a special ‘Stop poaching unit’ (Unité Anti Braconnage). Effort reported as insufficient.</p>
<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 33.3%</p>	<p>Sentencing guidelines are under development to offer judges support in no longer considering IKB as a minor offence.</p>	<p><b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing N/A</p>	<p>Section not completed in 2023</p>
<p><b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 40.0%</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28)</b> Prevention N/A</p>	<p>Section not completed in 2023</p>

**CYPRUS**

<b>Overall comments:</b>		Country has submitted complete Scoreboards for a second time, first time in 2020. Data reported include data for the Republic of Cyprus (where the <i>acquis communautaire</i> is applied) and for the east British Sovereign Base Areas Administration (SBAA).	
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>		<b>None given. Class II as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>	
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>		No methodology adopted. Authorities keep detailed data on prosecution and cases and NGOs conduct own monitoring. BirdLife Cyprus has a systematic programme of monitoring of trapping with nets since 2002, and CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter) collects data on trends of trapping with nets and limesticks.	
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>		<b>Well understood</b>	
<b>IKB Trend</b>		<b>Decreasing.</b>	
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>		Detailed prosecution data submitted. For the period 2020-2022: 493 persons were prosecuted in the area under the control of the Republic of Cyprus and 1184 birds involved; and 22 persons prosecuted in the SBAA and 288 birds involved. Data on prosecutions for the period 2017 – 2019, referred to 377 persons prosecuted and 8509 involved. In the same period, 30 persons were prosecuted in the SBAA. Most cases relate to use of prohibited means (bird callers, nets, limesticks) and most are in the autumn. But cases exist throughout the year, including spring. Killing or trapping of protected species is a problem too.	
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>		No, but EU Member State complying with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>		National Action Plan exists but is not actively implemented, reviewed or updated. Neither is the overseeing committee meeting about it.	
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>		No funding reported.	
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		Identified and judged as sufficient.	
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		Data on IKB court cases are kept by competent authorities and are available upon request, they are not publicly available.	
<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 72.5%	<b>Indicators with score: completed</b> <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4): completed</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 75.0%	<b>Indicators with score: completed</b> <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4): completed</b>  Slight improvement mainly in monitoring scores. Detailed prosecution data reported.

<p><b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 66.7%</p>	<p>BirdLife Cyprus produces annual estimates based on systematic monitoring of the bird trapping and does not cover other forms of IKB. According to BirdLife Cyprus the estimate of numbers of birds trapped in 2019 was: 610.000. The government provided data on prosecuted cases with seasonal and geographic details.</p>	<p><b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> IKB Monitoring 83.3%</p>	<p>According to BirdLife Cyprus annual estimate 2020: 406,000 birds 2021: 814,000 birds 2022: 460,000 birds BirdLife Cyprus reports can be found here: <a href="https://birdlifecyprus.org/el/combating-bird-crime/surveillance-programme/">https://birdlifecyprus.org/el/combating-bird-crime/surveillance-programme/</a></p> <p>Data reported by CABS for the same period are as follows: Spring Active trapping sites: 2020: - N/A due to Covid 2021: 21.4% active trapping sites of those checked. 2022: 12.6% active trapping sites of those checked. Autumn Active trapping sites: 2020: 43.9% 2021: 42.1% 2022: 44.7% Full details can be seen here: <a href="https://www.komitee.de/en/resources/downloads-and-reports/">https://www.komitee.de/en/resources/downloads-and-reports/</a></p>
<p><b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 88.9%</p>	<p>The national wildlife legislation takes into account biological and conservation aspects in hunting-related decisions. These include bag limits, game reserves (no hunting areas), designated hunting areas for specific hunting periods, law enforcement by game wardens, etc. There is not an agreement between the stakeholders regarding the extent to which the penalties are sufficient to deter IKB. Nevertheless, needs to be pointed out that all IKB cases are treated as</p>	<p><b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 88.9%</p>	<p>Legislation is reported to be sufficient. NGO BirdLife Cyprus disagrees on the score of 3, for one question, related to a reduced sanction for 14 species when caught with limesticks under certain conditions, which was voted in Parliament in 2020.</p>

	criminal infractions. No organized crime legislation is in place.		
<b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 70.0%	A specific official IKB action plan is in place, but BirdLife Cyprus believes that more effort should be undertaken on some aspects (awareness, coordination, etc.). IKB is not formally recognized as a priority at the national level although LEAs consider it a high priority, although involvement of the Cyprus Police and further efforts are required. The Game wardens of the Game & Fauna Service are the agencies entitled to combat IKB and they are usually well trained and equipped.	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response 75.0%	Action Plan exists but not actively implemented or reviewed. The government decided in June 2023 to re-establish the Police Anti-Poaching Squad (APS) which will increase capacity and help tackling poaching cases more effectively.
<b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 50.0%	There are no specialized IKB prosecutors and Judges, but acquittals are less than 10%. 60% of the penalties are administrative fees, the rest is dealt with by the Court. The legislation includes guidance on sentencing. In general, there is little judicial awareness.	<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing 50.0%	No change reported in terms of the Courts. Legislation allows for direct imposition of high administrative fines, and allows for a period of up to 1.5 months for payment. If not paid within the deadline, these cases are presented to Court (criminal law). Since the enactment of new legislation in Cyprus (July 2017) which provides for higher penalties, the total fines imposed amounted to 2.922.811 euros (Refers to figures for the Republic of Cyprus). Out of these 60,3% have been paid on time, 2.1 % is pending and 37.6% have not been paid, and thus has been presented or will be presented in Court.
<b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 66.7%	Cyprus has taken part in most international meetings but failed to submit the first Scoreboard. IKB drivers are well known and taken into consideration in the development of the National Action Plan. The regulated community is well aware of the IKB	<b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28)</b> Prevention 66.7%	No change reported. Hunters are well aware, but more needs to be done with bird breeders. It is acknowledged that more needs to be done on awareness raising.

	problem, while more work is required to engage and inform owners of captive bred birds and the general public.		
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**ICELAND**

<b>Overall comments:</b>		Country has submitted the Scoreboards for a second time (first time in 2018). Information submitted is incomplete. Low score of country should be read in relation to IKB problem, which is low.	
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>		<b>None given. Class IV as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2017)</b>	
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>		There is no methodology. Information on IKB, such as shooting of protected species, is sent by hunters to Environment Agency of Iceland, so data is ad hoc, but IKB is not considered serious problem. 492 birds victims of IKB are reported for the year 2022.	
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>		<b>Not identified</b>	
<b>IKB Trend</b>		<b>No clear trend.</b>	
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>		No prosecutions reported.	
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>		No expert assessment, but legislation receives high scores for some questions and no scores for others so picture is not clear.	
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>		No National Action Plan or other relevant document, but IKB is not considered an important problem.	
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>		None reported.	
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		Not clear and enforcement overall reported as insufficient.	
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		Not clear.	
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
TOTAL SCORE N/A	<b>Indicators with score:</b> not completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q 2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	TOTAL SCORE N/A	<b>Indicators with score:</b> partially completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed  Overall score cannot be attributed because scores for areas B and C were incomplete. Colour of overall score represents average expected country performance based on scores attributed and size of IKB.
GROUP A IKB monitoring N/A		GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB Monitoring 50.0%	No methodology or system for collecting data on IKB. Data collected ad hoc from hunters reporting shooting of protected species. Colour based on

			indication from partial answers but cannot be confirmed.
GROUP B National legislation N/A		GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation N/A	Some high scores attributed, and some questions not scored at all, so difficult to attribute a score. Colour based on indication from partial answers but cannot be confirmed.
GROUP C Enforcement response N/A		GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response N/A	Some very low scores included, and some questions not completed at all, so difficult to attribute a score. Colour based on indication from partial answers but cannot be confirmed.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing N/A		GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 16.7%	No justification provided about low scores
GROUP E Prevention N/A		GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 26.7%	No justification provided about low scores

## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

<b>Overall comments:</b>		Country submitted the Scoreboard for a second time in 2023 (first time in 2018).	
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>		<b>None given. Class IV (insignificant levels) as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2017)</b>	
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>		There is no methodology. Information on IKB, such as shooting or poisoning of protected species, is based on official criminal cases only.	
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>		<b>Not identified.</b> Knowledge about drivers is based on limited sources.	
<b>IKB Trend</b>		<b>Stable</b>	
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>		Data on prosecutions provided in both reports. In 2018, the Slovak Republic reported that they identified and prosecuted the responsible for the death of 24 protected bird species. In 2023, 12 prosecutions are reported.	
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>		No expert assessment, but legislation receives relatively high scores because EU Member State.	
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>		No National Action Plan or other relevant document but IKB numbers low.	
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>		None reported.	
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		Not clear.	
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		Police publish prosecuted cases and other relevant information on their website.	
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
TOTAL SCORE N/A	<b>Indicators with score:</b> not completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	TOTAL SCORE 53.8%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed  Overall IKB is not an important problem in the country. Cases reported are exclusively prosecuted cases.
GROUP A IKB monitoring N/A	Every year approximately 50 birds are illegally killed in Slovak Republic, mainly in the western part of the country. Because of the length of the prosecutions	GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB Monitoring 100.0%	No methodology or system for collecting data on IKB only official criminal cases are reported. The detection of IKB cases has improved and increased because wildlife and wildlife crime is increasingly monitored by NGOs and the wider

	the trend of IKB is not clear in the country.		public. Data reported are only for 2023 and 12 IKB cases are reported.
GROUP B National legislation N/A		GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 78.0%	High scoring due to legislation following also EU Directive.
GROUP C Enforcement response N/A		GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 30.0%	Overall enforcement scored 3/5 but no explanation included.
GROUP D Prosecution and sentencing N/A	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).	GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 33.3%	Specialised prosecutors exist but no specialised judges. The result depends very much on the individual interest and experience of the particular prosecutor.
GROUP E Prevention N/A		GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 40.0%	No national communication strategy on IKB. Police publishes all prosecuted cases on their website.

**SWEDEN**

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted the Scoreboards for a second time (first time in 2020). Main IKB issue is egg collecting.		
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>None given. Class IV as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2017)</b>		
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	No methodology reported, data on IKB are ad hoc. Expert opinion suggests that large eagles are mostly affected possibly to the extent of impact at population level, but no numerical data submitted. In the previous report, the average number of birds involved in IKB was about 50 for one region of Sweden.		
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Not fully understood.</b>		
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>No clear trend.</b>		
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Prosecutions and cases for illegal hunting exist, but in order to separate cases relating to birds a special kind of analysis would be needed, so none reported. In the previous report, the number of people reported as prosecuted was around twelve, involving about 80 birds, mostly eggs.		
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	No, but EU Member State complying with Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)		
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	No National Action Plan or other relevant document.		
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	None reported.		
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	IKB is not seen as priority.		
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>	Not clear.		
<b>Second assessment 2020</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 60.0%	<b>Indicators with score: completed</b> <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4): completed</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 58.7%	<b>Indicators with score: completed</b> <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4): submitted</b>
<b>GROUP A</b> <b>IKB monitoring</b> 33.3%	No estimate of the number of birds illegally taken or killed if available and it	<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> <b>IKB monitoring</b> 33.3%	No numerical data submitted. No methodology or baseline reported.

	is not clear if the figures are complete national data or not.		
<b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 96.3%	The existing legislation dealing with nature protection and hunting is considered comprehensive and providing a clear definition of the species, the timing, and places where hunting can be done and with which methods. Criminal law is sometimes applied to IKB cases and special investigation methods are used as required also in wildlife crimes.	<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 96.3%	No change reported.
<b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 20.0%	No specific IKB action plan is in place, and IKB is not considered a priority. Consequently, Police forces do not require special training, and the level of enforcement efforts is considered sufficient.	<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response 15.0%	Small difference due to small decrease in overall score. Some scoring chosen is probably a bit strict for national situation, but enforcement reported as insufficient.
<b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 58.3%	No sentencing guidelines have been prepared, but prosecutors and judges are aware of the nature and prevalence of the wildlife crime and impact and potential profits of wildlife crime as between 10 and 50% of them have received specific training.	<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing 58.3%	No change reported.
<b>GROUP E</b> Prevention 60.0%	IKB is largely driven by egg collectors but activities to address the demand are rarely implemented due to a lack of available resources. Awareness-raising activities targeted at the regulated communities have room for improvement, and rarely IKB sentences are publicized.	<b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28)</b> Prevention 60.0%	No change reported.

**REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE**

<b>Overall comments:</b>		Country has submitted the Scoreboard for a second time (first time in 2018). In 2023, information submitted shows improvement in almost all areas.	
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>		<b>None given. Class IV as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>	
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>		The number of birds estimated to be victims of IKB, are reported only for 2022, where 1266 birds were reported as victims of IKB. In contrast, in the previous report, covering 2015-2017, the numbers reported were much higher (for 2015 it was 13,893, for 2016 it was 15,501, and for 2017 it was 12,933). The 2022 number represents a striking decline, but no justification is offered for it. Additionally, the number of reported IKB victims is lower than the number of birds involved in prosecutions, which represents a discrepancy. Number of birds reported are extracted from hunting ground information system, AVBIS.	
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>		<b>Not identified.</b>	
<b>IKB Trend</b>		<b>Stable.</b>	
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>		Detailed data on prosecutions are provided from hunting ground information system, AVBIS. The numbers reported are only for 2022, and report 9511 persons prosecuted, and 6118 birds involved. Most cases related to hunting without a licence or hunting at a time when hunting is closed, however, a big number of cases also refers to illegal killing of protected species. In 2017, 10,822 cases were prosecuted involving 7,071 birds.	
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>		Legislation reported to be sufficient.	
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>		Does not exist.	
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>		Not clear.	
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>		Reported as sufficient and high scores attributed.	
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>		Not clear if data reported is publicly available.	
<b>First assessment 2018</b>		<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 59.5%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 74.0%	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed  Improvement reported on almost all areas.

<p><b>GROUP A</b> IKB monitoring 66.7%</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> National legislation 83.3%</p>	<p>No justification provided for change.</p>
<p><b>GROUP B</b> National legislation 59.3%</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 79.2%</p>	<p>No justification provided for change.</p>
<p><b>GROUP C</b> Enforcement response 50.0%</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response 75.0%</p>	<p>Higher score given but no justification provided for change.</p>
<p><b>GROUP D</b> Prosecution and sentencing 58.3%</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing 75.0%</p>	<p>Higher score given but no justification provided for change.</p>

	<p>deliver verdicts, which are appropriate to the severity of the crime</p>		
<p>GROUP E Prevention 60.0%</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 60.0%</p>	<p>No change.</p>

### 3.4 Replies from Governments that submitted the Scoreboard for the first time

#### ALGERIA

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted a Scoreboard for the first time in 2023. Submission complete. Not clear which are the main IKB issues, although poaching in wetlands, and trapping of finches evident from data submitted.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>None given. Class IV as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	No methodology, just an estimation of numbers of IKB based on casual observations by authorities and citizens. Main hotspots include are the wetlands but there is no systematic monitoring of sites across the country. For the reporting period 135 bird victims of IKB are reported, caught mainly during the winter months in wetlands.
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Drivers are not identified.</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>Increasing</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Some prosecution data submitted, concern 12280 birds, seized from people trading or possessing birds dead or alive; data exists in national database of wildlife crime but not publicly available. The vast number of birds seized is Goldfinches <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> almost 11800, but there are also a few raptors and three Houbara Bustards <i>Chlamydotis undulata</i> .
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	Legislation is being updated at the moment in anticipation of the permission of hunting again, which has been forbidden in the country since 1994. For this reason, hunting regulations have been updated. At the same time, there is a new forest law and CITES national law.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	There is no Action Plan.
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	No funding dedicated to combating IKB
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	Policing and enforcement, especially in the field, is reported as insufficient.
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>	There is a database at national level, but mainly concerns seizures of protected and threatened wild animals. It is not public, and data is mainly summarised when a case is prosecuted for presentation at the court. It could evolve to a database that includes more information.
<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 46.8	<b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed
<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> <b>IKB monitoring</b>	Data on IKB numbers are casual from forest personnel and citizens and an estimation of numbers mainly for wetlands which are also the hotspots. There is a database on seizures of protected

0.0%	wildlife species, including birds. Data on seizures (12280), suggests number of IKB significantly larger than numbers reported.
GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 66.7%	Legislation has been updated recently. Hunting is forbidden since 1994, but in anticipation of reopening of hunting strict provisions and requirements have been put in place. A national CITES law is in preparation
GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response 35.0%	There is no action plan, and effort against IKB is reported as insufficient. The biggest gap is a lack of enforcement in the field.
GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing 50.0%	Good cooperation between enforcement authorities and judges and prosecutors. General sentencing guidelines exist but are not specific for IKB. There is little information available about what happens to cases that go to Court. Sanctions will be reviewed as part of the new forest law and the new national law for CITES.
GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 46.7%	There is little understanding about the drivers of IKB. Awareness raising workshops organised across the country.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted a Scoreboard for the first time in 2023. Submission is incomplete. Main issues reported are hunting with decoys, trading protected species and keeping protected species as pets.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>Yes. Set at 29294 (Class IV), as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016)</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	No methodology. Some IKB monitoring done by NGO Naše ptice, but data based on expert guess. Detailed surveys were done only in Hutovo blato Nature Park, Livanjsko polje and Mostarsko blato.
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Not identified.</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>Decreasing</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Some prosecution data reported, concerning four persons and involving around 400 birds, but data not detailed.
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	No overall assessment has been carried out, but the law is deemed insufficient for combating IKB.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	There is a draft Action Plan drafted by NGO Naše ptice, but it hasn't been adopted yet.
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	No funding allocated to the implementation of the plan.
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	No specialised staff, monitoring of hotspots is done by NGOs, when there is project funding available. Enforcement is reported as insufficient.
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>	Not clear.
<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
TOTAL SCORE N/A	Overall score cannot be attributed because Scoreboard submission is incomplete. <b>Indicators with score:</b> not fully completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed
<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> IKB monitoring 33.3 %	Monitoring done only by NGOs. In this report period 28300 birds are reported as victims of IKB, slightly lower than the baseline set as part of the Brochet (2016) paper. The data is presented for six regions/areas. The highest number is recorded for Posavina (except Bardača) area.
<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation N/A	Legislation has some basic provisions, like forbidding 'non-selective' methods, but does not specify that wild birds cannot be deliberately taken or killed. The law is deemed insufficient.
<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response N/A	Some officers were involved in training workshops on recognising and fighting IKB, mostly poisoning, but the trainings are ad hoc, dependent on funding opportunities.

GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing N/A	A few low scores given but not fully completed so no mean score.
GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention N/A	A few low scores given but not fully completed so no mean score.

## GERMANY

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted a Scoreboard for the first time in 2023. Submission is incomplete.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>None given. Class III as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2017)</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	No methodology reported
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Not identified.</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>Unclear</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	No data submitted.
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	No overall assessment has been carried out, but the law is deemed to be sufficient for combating IKB. Country is EU Member State.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	No such document reported.
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	No funding reported.
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	None reported.
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>	Not clear.
<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
TOTAL SCORE N/A	Overall score cannot be attributed because Scoreboard submission is incomplete. <b>Indicators with score:</b> not fully completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> not submitted
GROUP A (Q1-Q4) IKB monitoring N/A	Not completed.
GROUP B (Q5-Q13) National legislation 59.3%	Hunting legislation dates back to middle of 19 <sup>th</sup> century in Germany and is well regulated. It is administered at Federal state level. Hunting areas are primarily private, owned either by individual owners or hunting cooperatives. The legislation establishes local and personal responsibility of holders of hunting rights, including sustainable game management and protection of all wild animals. The legislation foresees penalties and sanctions, and the use of criminal law is possible. Finally, the legislation foresees derogations following the criteria for exceptions stipulated in Bern Convention/CMS/EU Birds Directive.
GROUP C (Q14-Q19) Enforcement response	Not completed.

N/A	
GROUP D (Q20-Q23) Prosecution and sentencing N/A	Not completed.
GROUP E (Q24-Q28) Prevention 20.0%	A few low scores given but not fully completed so no mean score. International cooperation is reported as medium. Hunting associations offer training courses to hunters on various hunting related themes.

## ISRAEL

<b>Overall comments:</b>	Country has submitted a Scoreboard for the first time in 2023. IKB issue insignificant.
<b>Baseline (as per RSP)</b>	<b>No baseline. Class IV, as per Brochet <i>et al</i> (2016) but considered insignificant.</b>
<b>Methodology for monitoring IKB &amp; Hotspots identified (as per RSP)</b>	Very advanced data collection system called TIMI that records all wildlife data, include IKB. Data reported show between 800-2000 birds killed per year, across four Districts of Israel, largest numbers in autumn (September, October).
<b>Motivations / Drivers</b>	<b>Well understood</b>
<b>IKB Trend</b>	<b>Unclear</b>
<b>Data on prosecutions</b>	Available in extensive database.
<b>Expert Assessment on national legislation undertaken (as per RSP)</b>	Legislation has been assessed and is adequate in relation to IKB.
<b>National IKB Action Plan or other policy document adopted (as per RSP)</b>	Other relevant enforcement strategies or policies exist that cover IKB.
<b>National funding dedicated NAP IKB</b>	Significant funding available.
<b>Policing priorities identified</b>	Identified and enforcement effort and capacity very high.
<b>Data policy (including existence of national wildlife crime (IKB) database)</b>	Data publicly available.
<b>Third assessment 2023</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> 81.3%	IKB is not a major issue and the country is well prepared for dealing with it. <b>Indicators with score:</b> completed <b>Provision on data for IKB estimate and number of cases prosecuted (Q2 &amp; Q4):</b> completed Q2
<b>GROUP A (Q1-Q4)</b> IKB monitoring 83.3 %	Monitoring with application TIMI very advanced system of data collection using an application. Data on court cases publicly available.
<b>GROUP B (Q5-Q13)</b> National legislation 74.1 %	Legislation has been assessed and is adequate in relation to IKB. A gap has been identified in relation to the inability to prosecute a landowner on whose land poisoning is taking place. There is also an effort to link wildlife crime with financial crime, such as money laundering, but this has not been established yet.
<b>GROUP C (Q14-Q19)</b> Enforcement response 80.0 %	There is no Action Plan but there are other relevant enforcement strategies or policies for addressing IKB action. Field enforcement effort is reported as fully adequate to address IKB.

<b>GROUP D (Q20-Q23)</b> Prosecution and sentencing 100.0 %	There are sentencing guidelines for all wildlife crimes, not only birds. High levels of judicial training are reported, and the prosecutors are highly trained employees of the government Nature and Parks Agency that are specialised on the subjects.
<b>GROUP E (Q24-Q28)</b> Prevention 80.0 %	The public is generally very sensitised and aware of wildlife crime issues. Regulated community well aware of penalties and laws. Sentences publicized.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

The illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds remains an important threat for birds in the Mediterranean and Europe. The RSP sets the overarching goal of eradicating IKB within the geographic extent of the Bern Convention and the CMS MIKT. Additionally, it sets the goal of reducing the scale and scope of IKB by 50% by 2030 compared to a 2020 baseline. Only 4 of the 25 countries report a decreasing trend of IKB and almost half (11) report that they do not have a comprehensive picture of the scale yet. That means that renewed action is needed to monitor the situation with IKB in Europe and the Mediterranean.

Additionally, the fact that key countries for IKB, such as Albania, Egypt, France, and Lebanon, which had previously submitted a Scoreboard, did not submit a Scoreboard this time, hampers the ability to draw overall conclusions in relation to the agreed goal of the RSP.

The Scoreboard is a useful tool for reporting on the efforts of each country in addressing IKB. As can be seen by the average score improvement from one Scoreboard reporting to the next, engaging in the process also stimulates and guides action, sets priorities and brings results.

Additionally, the analysis shows that (Section 3.1) all areas still need attention from the countries, and support from the Bern Convention and CMS MIKT, but some seem more critical than others:

- a) **Monitoring:** monitoring IKB is notoriously difficult, but results demonstrate that some countries are making progress, deciding on a methodology and beginning to have a scale against which to compare progress. This can be an opportunity for countries to learn from each other and make progress. Arriving at an accurate estimate of IKB is critical, not only for assessing progress, but also for building support and ownership, as currently the only estimates available for most countries are from the Brochet *et al* (2016) and Brochet *et al* (2017) studies, which are disputed by some countries.
- b) **National Legislation:** most countries report good scores on legislation but problems with enforcement or prosecution. But as there are still countries requesting support, it means the issue of national legislation is still valid and important, as legislation is the basis for many other actions. The recommendation by one country of building a team of experts available to offer support to countries in need, could be considered.
- c) **Enforcement:** this area has been relatively low scoring from the first Scoreboard and continues to score lower than other areas. Results are related to capacity at national level which depends on many factors. However, there are also very important examples of good training opportunities and the role of projects and exchanges between countries, that should be built upon and expanded to include more countries.
- d) **Prosecution:** similarly with Enforcement, this area can benefit from training and capacity building and following the examples of countries which have best practices to share. A guide for all enforcers and prosecutors dealing with bird crime prepared by Italy could be useful for other countries too.
- e) **Prevention:** this area has shown most improvement since the last Scoreboard exercise but is also an area in which most countries agree a lot more can be done. Awareness raising and training around those issues is very linked to available funding, so the issues related to funding identified in the results section are very relevant for making progress on awareness raising.

As noted in the results section, the severity class should be considered when deciding on support, as targeting those countries in the highest severity classes can maximise the effect in terms of combating IKB.

Additionally, the issue of language should be considered as many north African countries prefer French as the language of communication, so any training or capacity building should ideally be offered in their language of preference.

The Bern Convention and the CMS MIKT during the last years have worked closely with countries encouraging progress in the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan. It is important for this to continue and to examine ways of supporting the countries which are most in need.

IKB is a fully reversible threat to birds, which, given the state of biodiversity and other critical threats like habitat loss and degradation, and the climate crisis, should be addressed with renewed priority to balance those other threats for which action is not so easy to reverse.

## 5. USEFUL RESOURCES

The Bern Convention, together with the CMS MIKT, as part of supporting the implementation of the RSP, over the last two years have endorsed a number of guidance documents that can play a role in the implementation of different objectives of the RSP, which also correspond well with the five areas of the Scoreboard.

The documents can be grouped under the following categories.

### A. National monitoring of IKB (data management of scope and scale of IKB)

[Baseline and Methodology for assessing progress toward achieving the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating illegal killing, taking and trade in wild birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region.](#)<sup>32</sup>(T-PVS/Inf (2021) 45)

*The paper outlines options that countries can pursue in defining a methodology for assessing IKB in their country and for setting a baseline. Because the paper is theoretical, it was followed up with a more practical online workshop that provided examples for IKB monitoring from different countries. The presentations from the workshop and the report can be found in the [workshop webpage](#)<sup>33</sup>.*

[Suggested Methodology and Guidance for conducting socio-economic research into the motivations behind illegal killing, taking and trade of birds.](#)<sup>34</sup> (T-PVS/Inf (2023) 09)

*The guidance has been developed by BirdLife International on behalf of the CMS Secretariat and aims to support countries conceiving and implementing national surveys / assessments of the motivations, drivers and modus operandi behind illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds.*

### B. Comprehensiveness of national legislation

[Legislative guidance Materials relating to the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds](#)<sup>35</sup>(T-PVS/Inf (2022) 18\_rev2)

*The guidance has been developed by the Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment of the Lewis and Clark Law School on behalf of the CMS Secretariat. Its aim is to furnish countries with a set of legislative ideas and options, informed by best practices and comments received during and after the Joint Meeting in June 2022, to consult and draw upon, where appropriate, in the fight against IKB. In addition, this Legislative Guidance offers further explanation and context for the Model Law on the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds (Model Law), which the CMS Secretariat developed in parallel to the Legislative Guidance under Action 3.1.*

[Model Law Provisions on illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds \(IKB\)](#)<sup>36</sup>(T-PVS/Inf (2022) 19\_rev3 )

*The Model Law Provisions has been developed by the Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment of the Lewis and Clark Law School on behalf of the CMS Secretariat. Its aim is to offer examples of legislative ideas and options, informed by best practices in different countries.*

### C. Enforcement response (preparedness of law enforcement bodies and coordination of national institutions)

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<sup>32</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/paper-on-ikb-baseline-and-methodology/1680a3c0ae>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/meeting/online-workshop-monitoring-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-ikb-migratory-birds>

<sup>34</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/inf09e-2023-suggested-methodology-and-guidance-on-motivations-final-22/1680ac6476>

<sup>35</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/inf18e-2022-rev2-legislative-guidance-ikb-/1680a6a62d>

<sup>36</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/inf19e-2022-rev3-examples-of-model-law-provisions-ikb/1680a8dd69>

Both the Scoreboard and the Rome Strategic Plan, recognise the importance of developing a National IKB Action Plan, or similar policy document as an important step towards coordinating national institutions and stakeholders, and organising action against IKB. The Bern Convention Standing Committee and the CMS MIKT have endorsed guidance on the development and implementation of national IKB Action Plans.

**[Guidance for the development and implementation of National Action Plans against the illegal killing, taking and trade of birds](#)**<sup>37</sup>(T-PVS/Inf(2022)23\_rev)

*The guidance was prepared by Carmen Naves Munoz and reviewed by the CMS Secretariat and provides guidance on what to consider when developing a National IKB Plan, what to include, how to engage the stakeholders and how to monitor the progress.*

**D. Prosecution and sentencing (effectiveness of judicial procedures)**

*In May 2018, the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) and the CMS organised a workshop with support from the European Commission LIFE project in Segovia, Spain. The workshop was addressed to prosecutors for the environment and produced a Training Package for Prosecutors in the Mediterranean Region.*

*There are two PowerPoint presentations which cover the introductory subjects covered in that workshop, while the whole package consists of four presentations, which have been shared with countries around the Mediterranean. The introductory presentations have been translated in six languages (English original and French, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Arabic). They can be found [here](#)<sup>38</sup>.*

**E. Prevention (other instruments used to address IKB) s**

*Finally, the CMS offers [a webpage dedicated to the Rome Strategic Plan](#)<sup>39</sup> organised under the Objectives of the RSP, which are very similar but not identical to the Scoreboard areas, and where the above resources as well as other documents, reports and guides can be found and consulted.*

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<sup>37</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/inf23e-rev-guidance-for-the-development-and-implementation-of-ikb-naps/1680a8dd6a>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/page/training-kit-illegal-killing-taking-and-trading-migratory-wild-birds-mediterranean-region>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/taskforce/mikt/rome-strategic-plan-2020-2023>

## ANNEX 1

List of countries, affiliation as member of Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on IKB and/or member of CMS MIKT, and submission of Scoreboard in 2018, 2020 and 2023.

Country name	Bern Convention SFP / MIKT	Submitted 2018	Submitted 2020	Submitted 2023
Albania	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	
Algeria	MIKT			YES
Andorra	Bern Convention SFP	YES		
Armenia	Bern Convention SFP			
Austria	Bern Convention SFP			
Azerbaijan	Bern Convention SFP			
Belarus	Bern Convention SFP		YES	
Belgium	Bern Convention SFP	YES		YES
Bosnia & Herzegovina	SFP/MIKT	From NGO		YES
Bulgaria	Bern Convention SFP	YES		
Croatia	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	YES
Cyprus	SFP/MIKT		YES	YES
Czech Republic	Bern Convention SFP	YES	YES	YES
Denmark	Bern Convention SFP	YES		
Egypt	MIKT		YES	
Estonia	Bern Convention SFP			
Finland	Bern Convention SFP	Just data	YES	
France	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	
Georgia	Bern Convention SFP	Just data	YES	YES
Germany	SFP/MIKT Observer			YES
Greece	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	YES
Hungary	Bern Convention SFP	YES	YES	YES
Iceland	Bern Convention SFP	YES		YES
Ireland	Bern Convention SFP			
Israel	MIKT			YES
Italy	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	YES
Jordan	MIKT Observer			
Latvia	Bern Convention SFP			
Lebanon	MIKT	YES		
Libya	MIKT			
Liechtenstein	Bern Convention SFP	Just data	YES	YES
Lithuania	Bern Convention SFP			
Luxembourg	Bern Convention SFP			
Malta	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	YES
Monaco	SFP/MIKT	YES		
Montenegro	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	YES
Morocco	SFP/MIKT		YES	
Netherlands	Bern Convention SFP	YES		
North Macedonia	Bern Convention SFP			

Norway	Bern Convention SFP	YES		
Poland	Bern Convention SFP			
Portugal	SFP/MIKT Observer			
Romania	Bern Convention SFP			
Serbia	Bern Convention SFP	YES	YES	YES
Slovak Republic	Bern Convention SFP	YES		YES
Slovenia	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	
Spain	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	YES
Sweden	Bern Convention SFP		YES	YES
Switzerland	Bern Convention SFP	Just data	YES	YES
Syrian Arab Republic	MIKT	Info Legislation	YES	YES
Tunisia	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	YES
Türkiye	SFP/MIKT Observer	YES		YES
Ukraine	Bern Convention SFP	From NGO		
United Kingdom	SFP/MIKT	YES	YES	YES
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

All countries that are Parties to the Bern Convention or member of MIKT (members and observers) are invited to submit data for the Scoreboard, except for three countries for which IKB data are not available: Burkina Faso, Senegal and the Republic of Moldova. Additionally, the European Union, a member of MIKT, does not report for the Scoreboard.