Joint Meeting on IKB

Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) 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 (MIKT)

(Online 22 October 2026)

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REPORT FROM THE CMS SECRETARIAT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2030: ERADICATING ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE IN WILD BIRDS IN EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

Summary:
This document outlines the main activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat in supporting the implementation of the *Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating illegal killing, taking and trade in wild birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region* and the *MIKT Workplan 2021-2025* since May 2025.

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.

Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)

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Prepared in September 2026

By the CMS Secretariat

A. Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat and the Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) in support of the implementation of the *MIKT Workplan 2021-2025* and the *Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region (RSP)*, since the last Joint Meeting on illegal killing, taking and trade (IKB) in May 2025, in Bonn, Germany.

2. The MIKT mandate is provided through CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP15) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds.* Resolution 11.16 was adopted in 2014 in COP11, and has since been amended and updated in COP12, COP13, COP14 and COP15. Additionally, the mandate is derived from the relevant Decisions. During COP15 (Campo Grande, Brazil, March 2026) the following Decisions were adopted Decisions 15.135-15.137, related to particular aspects of the MIKT work.

These Decisions include provisions directed to Parties, the CMS Scientific Council, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), other stakeholders and the CMS Secretariat in aspects related to the progress in eradicating IKB and the related reporting using the Scoreboard.

3. The CMS Secretariat submits overview reports of activity in each Joint Meeting and they can be found in the meeting documents of all the previous meetings.

4. The MIKT Workplan 2021-2025 and the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030 have been contributing to the achievement and implementation of:

- The *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032* particularly Goal 3.
- CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP15) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*;
- the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15 *Life on Land*, which is related to biodiversity and sets a target to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;
- the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, especially Target 5;
- the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (COM (2020) 380 final) *Bringing nature back into our lives*, and, in particular, actions 3.2. on Stepping up implementation and enforcement of EU environmental legislation and 4.2.2. on Trade policy.

5. As of September 2026, the Membership of the Task Force consists of 21 CMS Parties and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union. Additionally, three Interested Parties (CMS Parties which do not have a Mediterranean coast), and one Non-Party are Observers to the MIKT. Twelve multilateral environmental agreements (represented by their Secretariats), organizations and networks, and ten non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are Observers to MIKT. Focal points in eight advisory bodies provide advice to the MIKT as needed. A list of all Members and Observers is available on the CMS MIKT website.

6. Geographic Scope of the Rome Strategic Plan

The geographic scope of the RSP includes 57 countries and the European Union (countries in **bold** are Members of the MIKT, countries in *italics* are Observers to the MIKT, the rest are parties to the Bern Convention): **Albania**, **Algeria**, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, **Croatia**, **Cyprus**, Czech Republic, Denmark, **Egypt**, Estonia, **European Union**, Finland, **France**, Georgia, *Germany*, **Greece**, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, **Israel**, **Italy**, *Jordan*, Latvia, **Lebanon**, **Libya**, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, **Malta**, Moldova, **Monaco**, **Montenegro**, **Morocco**,

Netherlands, Norway, Poland, *Portugal*, North Macedonia, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, **Slovenia**, **Spain**, Sweden, Switzerland, **Syrian Arab Republic**, **Tunisia**, *Turkey*, Ukraine, **United Kingdom**.

B. MIKT meetings

7. Meetings of the Task Force

The 6th MIKT meeting (MIKT6) was held from 13 to 15 May 2025 at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany and online (hybrid format). It was a Joint Meeting of the MIKT and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) on IKB. It was attended by 110 people, 60 in person and 50 online. The next Joint Meeting on IKB, which will be the seventh Meeting of MIKT (MIKT7) (and sixth Joint Meeting of the MIKT and the Bern Convention SFPs) is scheduled to take place online on 22 October 2026.

The eighth Meeting of MIKT (and seventh Joint Meeting of the MIKT and the Bern Convention SFPs) is scheduled to take place in person, during the 2nd quarter of 2027, in Croatia.

C. Rome Strategic Plan, MIKT Workplan and Coordination

8. Mid-term assessment of the Rome Strategic Plan

The CMS Secretariat, following discussion and agreement on the process and objectives of the exercise at the Joint Meeting on IKB in May 2025, contracted consultant Mr Marko Pecarevic to conduct a mid-term assessment of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030. The final report by the consultant was planned to be presented during the 7th Meeting of MIKT that was planned to take place online on 22 October 2026 and would be discussed further and in more detail during the 8th Meeting of MIKT in the second quarter of 2027 in Croatia.

9. The MIKT Workplan 2026-2030

Based on the results and recommendations of the mid-term assessment of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030, the CMS Secretariat prepared a proposal for the MIKT Workplan 2026-2030. The workplan was expected to be presented at the MIKT7 meeting in October 2026 and discussed and adopted during MIKT8 in the second quarter of 2027 in Croatia.

10. National IKB Action Plans (NAPs)

CMS Secretariat planned to organize a regional workshop on the Development and Implementation of National Action Plans on IKB for North African countries, from 29 September to 1st October 2026, in Tangier, Morocco. The workshop was hosted by the Moroccan National Agency for Water and Forests (Agence nationale des eaux et forêts) and was addressed to north African countries, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. It was expected to be attended by IKB experts from government and NGOs.

Result Oriented Objectives:

Objective 1: To understand the scope, scale and motivations behind illegal killing, taking and trade of birds;

11. Guidance and survey on monitoring motivations for IKB

MIKT members endorsed a document prepared by BirdLife International, titled Suggested Methodology and Guidance for Conducting Socio-Economic Research into the Motivations Behind Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Birds in June 2023. The document implements Action 1.2a) under the Objective 1, on understanding the scope, scale and motivations behind IKB in June 2023.

In 2025, the CMS Secretariat contracted BirdLife International through a small-scale funding agreement to conduct a survey on IKB motivations (Dec2025-Feb2026). The survey targeted MIKT members and observers in Mediterranean countries, as well as Republic of Türkiye and Serbia. The summary report of this study was presented in a side event during COP15, on 27 March 2026, in Campo Grande, Brazil, and the full report was planned to be presented at MIKT7, the Joint Meeting on IKB in October 2026.

Objective 2: To establish an active prevention of the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds;

12. MIKT Outreach Materials

The CMS Secretariat produced several multi-lingual outreach materials, ahead of CMS COP15 which were presented at COP side events. Specifically it produced: a generic brochure about the work of MIKT in EN, FR, ES and AR, a brochure on legislative guidance in EN, a brochure explaining the Scoreboard in EN, and a brochure on monitoring IKB in EN. Additionally, a short video was prepared in EN, FR, ES and AR languages.

All the materials are displayed on MIKT's front webpage.

13. Contributing to the Prevention Objective, the MIKT Coordinator organized two side events during COP15 promoting the work of MIKT. Specifically:

I. a side event on presenting the preliminary findings of the work of the survey on IKB Drivers and Motivations on 27 March 2026;

II. a side event on collaboration with the Wildlife Crime Academy about enforcement and forensic investigations of wildlife crimes on 24 March 2026;

Additionally, the MIKT Coordinator participated in the first meeting of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force in May 2025, in Riyadh.

14. Website updates and social media

The CMS Secretariat has maintained the MIKT website. Towards the end of 2023, a new section was launched on the MIKT website, which is dedicated to the Rome Strategic Plan, and structured around its objectives, providing in an easy-to-access location key documents and guidance endorsed by MIKT members, as well as other documents of interest.

All the outreach materials introduced above are displayed on MIKT's front webpage.

15. Reporting on IKB Action: The Scoreboard

Assessing progress through the Scoreboard is the main means of assessment mentioned in the Rome Strategic Plan.

The Scoreboard exercise was run in 2023 for the 3rd time, responses to the 2023 Scoreboard exercise were submitted by 25 countries (including 13 of the 21 MIKT members; the EU does not complete the Scoreboard as it is a national-level exercise). The analysis of the 2023 Scoreboard responses was presented at MIKT6. The main conclusions from the analysis were as follows:

i) All countries show gradual improvement between Scoreboard exercises, suggesting that the Scoreboard is a helpful tool for organizing action, prioritizing work and building ownership;
ii) Most improvement is noted in the areas of prevention, with national legislation as the best scoring area;
iii) Challenges remain in monitoring IKB, enforcement, prosecution and sanctions;
iv) National Action Plans for combating IKB are prepared in about a third of the countries, indicating the need for regional workshops to promote such plans;
v) Awareness raising and training is very much linked to available funding. Countries in North Africa and the Middle East report lack of funding, and experience difficulties in implementation.

The fourth Scoreboard exercise was due to run in 2026 and plans regarding the 2026 exercise were presented during the Joint Meeting on IKB in October 2026.

D. MIKT Coordination

16. MIKT Coordination

The CMS Secretariat, with generous support by the European Union, contracted a consultant as MIKT Coordinator. The consultant, Dr Clairie (Foteini) Papazoglou, based in Cyprus, has been under consecutive contracts since December 2020. The coordinator contract expires 30 June 2028.

E. Funding

17. The current line of funding for the MIKT activities and the coordinator post, comes from the European Union, through the NDICI Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) III between the Commission and UNEP. The NDICI funding started in March 2024 and will expire on 30 June 2028. Funding is provided for the Coordination of MIKT, as well as Meetings and Implementation of key activities of the Rome Strategic Plan. CMS COP14 extended the recognition of the European Union as a Champion Plus for their generous contribution towards the implementation of MIKT.

There is no guaranteed funding for MIKT coordination, nor for meetings or activities beyond 30 June 2028. CMS Secretariat is planning to present a fundraising strategy in the Joint Meeting on IKB in the 2nd quarter of 2027.

18. Recommended action:

The CMS MIKT Members and the Bern Convention Network of SFPs on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds are recommended to:

a) review this document, as appropriate.
b) take note of this document.