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)

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MID-TERM ASSESSMENT OF THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2030

(Prepared for the CMS Secretariat by Marko Pecarevic)

Summary:
The report presents the findings of the mid-term assessment of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030, the joint framework of the Bern Convention and the CMS MIKT for eradicating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB) in Europe and the Mediterranean Region.
It presents key findings and recommends priorities for 2026-2030.

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.

Mid-Term Assessment of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030

Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region

June 2026

Prepared for the Secretariat of the Convention
on the Conservation of Migratory Species of
Wild Animals (CMS) by Marko Pecarevic

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List of acronyms

CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
ENPE	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment
FACE	European Federation for Hunting and Conservation
IKB	Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds
IUCN Med	International Union for Conservation of Nature, Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
MIKT	CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OFB	Office français de la biodiversité
RSP	Rome Strategic Plan
SBA	Sovereign Base Areas (Cyprus)
SFP	Special Focal Points
SOARDA	Sezione Operativa Antibracconaggio e Reati in Danno agli Animali (anti-poaching unit of Carabinieri Forestali)
SSCW	Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife
TOC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
VCF	Vulture Conservation Foundation
WBRU	Wild Birds Regulation Unit
WCA	Wildlife Crime Academy

Executive summary

This is the mid-term assessment of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030 (RSP), the joint framework of the Bern Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) for eradicating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB) in Europe and the Mediterranean Region. The Plan's goal is a minimum 50% reduction in the scale and scope of IKB by 2030, against a 2020 baseline.

The assessment relies primarily on three data sources (a country questionnaire returned by 27 of the 54 countries within the geographic scope of the RSP, a Secretariat questionnaire completed by the MIKT Coordinator, and a stakeholder questionnaire from six MIKT observer organisations working at regional scale). It also takes into account the results of the three Scoreboard rounds (2018, 2020, 2023), the May 2025 NGO shadow report "The Killing 3.0", and other literature on IKB in the Mediterranean.

The assessment is organised around the Plan's theory of change. It starts with having a National Action Plan that is developed and adopted in a participatory manner. This process makes two preconditions possible: reliable data is present and all relevant actors have a stake and a clear role in the implementation of the RSP, sharing the ownership. These preconditions help generate awareness and political will — once people see solid evidence and feel implicated in the solution, the issue rises up the political agenda. Political will is the thing that actually unlocks resources: funding, staff, training, and technology. Those resources are what make enforcement, prevention, and prosecution possible on the ground. Monitoring data on IKB is necessary to keep the preconditions valid, and the results of action need to loop back to justify and sustain continued resourcing.

Key findings

- **Country implementation of RSP actions is at or below 60% on every target.** The strongest single target (Legislation 3.1) reaches 57%. Targets in the justice cluster (5.1 to 5.4) are between 19% and 28%. When the 19 non-respondents[1] are included (at estimated 10% implementation), every figure drops by 4 to 23 percentage points and the strongest target falls to 35% actions implemented.
- **Progress towards the 50% IKB reduction goal cannot be measured using the data provided by the countries.** Only six countries have established a 2020 baseline and only four have adopted a monitoring methodology. The 2023 Scoreboard covered 57% of estimated regional IKB. The qualitative evidence does not indicate that IKB has fallen substantially since 2020.
- **The four Class I countries (Egypt, Italy, Syria, Lebanon) account for around three quarters of regional IKB**. None of the four is currently on a trajectory that delivers a meaningful contribution to the 50% IKB reduction target by 2030.
- **The countries with the largest IKB problem are also among the least responsive** to the Plan's reporting. Two of the four Class I countries have submitted the scoreboard only once - Egypt in 2020 and Lebanon in 2018.

[1] Includes only countries with IKB >7000 birds per year

- **Libya is a special case**. No data has ever been provided through official reporting, but the data from NGOs indicates a potentially large increase in IKB. This makes it one of the priority countries to address.
- **The countries identify the priority gaps clearly.** Training for prosecutors and judges is the most-endorsed priority action across the questionnaire (19 of 27 responders), followed by public awareness campaigns (17 of 27 responders) and increased resources for investigation (13 of 27 responders).
- **MIKT observer organisations concentrate their work in Class III countries of the Western Balkans and North Africa.** Class III countries have a median of three observer organisations working in them; Class I countries have a median of two, with Syria at one. National-level organisations are present in Class I countries where civil society can operate (NAP advocacy, monitoring, awareness, legislative input) and absent at the delivery end where state functions are required.
- **The Secretariat's effectiveness is highest where the output is a document or methodology and lower where the action requires sustained convening**. Secretariat implementation of activities related to the NAP guidance, the motivations methodology and the legislative model law is at or near 100% completion. Implementation of actions related to community engagement (with understanding that the Secretariats cannot initiate actions on community level), repeated convening of prosecutors and judges, and the centralised database of legal quotas is below 33%.

Priorities for 2026 - 2030

- **Concentrate the effort of the Secretariat, bilateral donors and the international NGO community on the four Class I countries plus Libya.** Keeping Libya on the side as a complete unknown, the four Class I countries should be treated as the four that determine whether the 2030 goal is reachable. A dedicated situation analysis for each, completed by end-2026, should feed a focused four-country programme for 2027–2030. The RSP continues to apply to all 54 countries, but the resourcing of regional effort has to be reorganised around where the IKB volume is.
- **Use non-state action as a parallel route in the remaining period, not the supplementary one.** Monitoring and trend-tracking, prevention campaigns, field enforcement support and community engagement should be funded as separate streams alongside government action. The exception is the justice component of the chain, where civil society can support but not substitute for state functions.
- **Where political conditions for a formal NAP do not exist, the substitute is a functioning multi-stakeholder committee.** A live committee with named members, a budget line and at least one RSP-related activity per year can deliver the NAP's function without a formal NAP document. The Scoreboard should record a NAP only where the committee is operating, not where the document alone exists.
- **Treat non-submission of data as non-implementation.** Where no national baseline is submitted, the Brochet et al. (2016, 2017) figures should be the default. In countries with significant IKB (>7000 birds per year) that do not submit the scoreboard (or otherwise report),

the default reading should be that no implementation has occurred. The voluntary character of the Scoreboard is still there, but what is different is how silence is interpreted.

- **Deliver the 2027 prosecutors' and judges' workshop as planned** and use it as the start of a recurring training cycle, not a one-off event. The North Africa NAP workshop in 2026 should be followed by a Class I country roundtable in 2027.

1. Introduction

The Rome Strategic Plan (RSP) is the strategic framework for the work of the CMS MIKT and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points (SFPs) on IKB and covers the period 2020–2030. The Plan was adopted by the 39th Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in December 2019, and by MIKT through email correspondence in 2020. Its long-term goal is the eradication of IKB within the geographic extent of the Bern Convention and the CMS MIKT. The RSP goal for 2030 is a minimum 50% reduction in the scale and scope of IKB compared to a 2020 baseline.

The Plan is structured around one process-oriented objective (the development of National Action Plans on illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds, IKB NAPs) and five result-oriented objectives: understanding the scope, scale and motivations of IKB; preventing IKB; addressing IKB through national legislation; ensuring effective enforcement; and ensuring effective justice. Each result objective is broken into one to four targets, for 13 targets in total. The Plan provides for periodic assessments in 2023, 2026 and 2030.

The mid-term assessment for 2026 has three objectives:

- To assess the state of implementation of the RSP at the mid-term (2025), in relation to the process and result objectives of the Plan.
- To assess, as far as possible, progress towards the 50% reduction goal.
- To identify priority objectives and actions for the remaining period of the RSP.

1.1 Theory of Change

The RSP does not spell out its theory of change, but it is stated implicitly. It states a goal, lists objectives, and breaks each objective into targets and associated actions. This implied logic was used to construct the result chain shown in Figure 1. Each result in the chain is mapped to its corresponding RSP objectives, targets, indicators and Scoreboard codes. This mapping appears under each result heading in Section 3.2, with the full version in Annex 1.

As any model, this result chain simplifies reality in order to make it easier to interpret. There are many more connections between results than can be usefully shown — feedback loops, indirect influences, and cross-cutting effects that the diagram does not attempt to capture. The result chain in Figure 1 should be read as a simplified backbone of the most important results (R) relationships, not a complete map of how the RSP's components actually interact. With this caveat, the theory of change is as follows.

The result chain starts with **foundation and preconditions.** The fundamental step is development (and adoption) of a National Action Plan through a genuinely participatory process (R1), where equal weight needs to be placed on the process as on the final document. It allows for two preconditions

for everything that follows: reliable data on numbers of birds killed, locations and motivations (R2), and defined roles for every actor (government, enforcement, judiciary, NGOs, hunting community, local communities) in the Plan's implementation (R3).

Having the preconditions in place, and a broad coalition engaged, should yield **increased awareness and political commitment.** The credibility of the data and the breadth of the coalition together shift the perception of relevant actors and the public (R4), and elevate IKB on the political agenda, transforming it from a niche conservation concern into a national priority (R5).

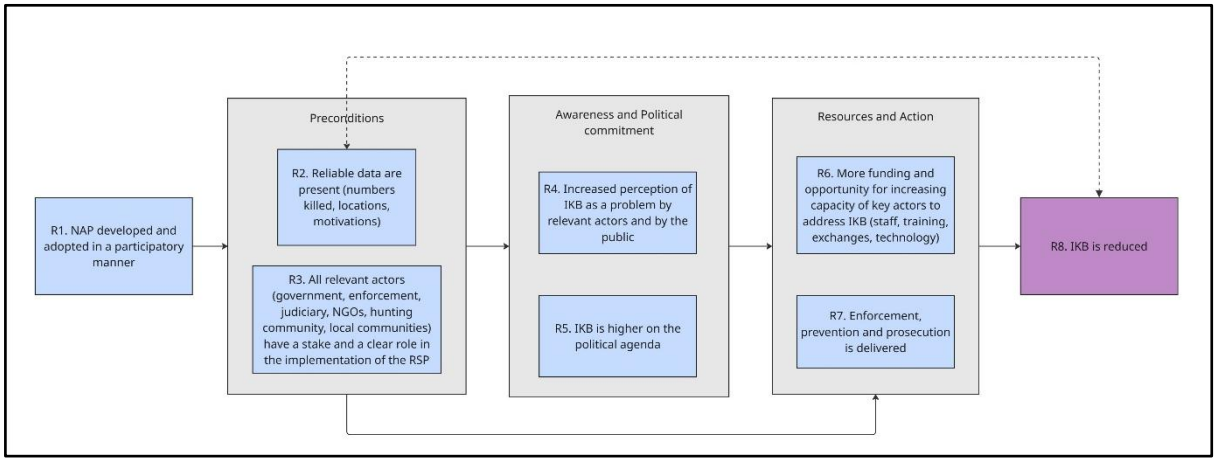


Figure 1 - The RSP result chain. Each coloured box represents a result (R) in the theory of change. Solid arrows show causal relationships between elements. The dashed arrow from R8 to R2 represents the feedback loop where the state of IKB is monitored and then used to inform future actions

Political priority unlocks **resources,** making more funding and opportunities to build capacity available (R6) (e.g. new staff, targeted training, practitioner exchanges, technology for detection, monitoring and case management). Capacity and clarity of roles then translate into **action** (R7): enforcement intensifies where risk is highest, prevention is deployed with communities, and prosecutions proceed efficiently.

Finally, all of the elements create **impact** and enable **learning.** As enforcement, prevention and prosecution improve, illegal killing declines (R8). Monitoring systems register the change, and the coalition adapts strategies and reinvests resources where they produce the largest reduction. R8 feeds back into R2, closing the loop.

The basic premise is that for RSP to succeed, there needs to be a coordinated effort on two levels in parallel: at national level and at regional level. The two Secretariats (CMS and the Bern Convention), through **MIKT and the SFP network**, are an integral part of the entire chain. They produce the formats and guidance that R1 needs, they convene the workshops essential for R4 and R6, they facilitate between countries where R7 requires cooperation.

2. Methodology

2.1 Data sources

Data was collected in different ways for different aspects of the evaluation. The available data is heterogeneous in reliability, accuracy and recency (see Section 2.5 below), and an order of preference was established for which sources to use (Table 1). Questionnaires and interviews were always the

preferred source, followed by the 2023 Scoreboard answers. Where these were not available, external data was used.[2] External data (specifically the Killing 3.0 Birdlife/Euronatur analysis (2025) was used to verify and triangulate findings from primary sources.

Table 1 - Order of preference for data used in the assessment.

State of implementation	Progress towards 50% reduction
1. Questionnaires / interviews	1. Questionnaires
2. 2023 Scoreboard results	2. 2023 Scoreboard results
3. Killing 3.0 (BirdLife / EuroNatur, 2025)	3. Killing 3.0 (BirdLife / EuroNatur, 2025)
4. Earlier Scoreboard results (2018, 2020)	4. Earlier Scoreboard results (2018, 2020)
	5. Brochet et al. (2016, 2017)

Three questionnaires were developed. (Annex 2) The first was sent to all 54 member states and observers of the MIKT and Bern Convention SFPs to assess RSP implementation at country level. The second was made for the two secretariats (CMS and Bern Convention), intended to capture progress on Secretariat-led actions. The third was sent to non-governmental stakeholders, including MIKT observer organisations.

The first two questionnaires followed the structure of the RSP. Each section began with a short paragraph explaining what counts as progress, followed by the specific actions, each rated as Not Started, In Progress, Substantially Advanced or Completed. For each objective, multiple-choice questions on main obstacles and on priority actions were also included. The stakeholder questionnaire used a different structure, listing the RSP objectives and targets and asking respondents whether and how they contributed to them.

The 54 countries covered by the RSP differ enormously in the scale of their IKB problem, and that imbalance shapes how this assessment was conducted (Table 2). Four countries account for roughly 75% of all birds illegally killed each year. At the other extreme, 14 countries lose fewer than 7,000 birds annually (about 0.2% of the regional total)[3]. For this low-severity group, the RSP's actions largely don't apply, since there is little IKB activity for them to address. Scoreboard analyses have since 2019 noted that results need to be read against each country's severity level. Following that logic, 14 low-severity countries are excluded from the main analysis[4].

Class II is empty at the mid-term following the Cyprus reclassification. Using the midpoint of the 50-74% long-term decrease estimated in the Killing 3.0 report, Cyprus's annual IKB comes to roughly 870,000 birds, placing it at the top of Class III. At the same time, the Killing 3.0 analysis reports a slight short-term increase (5–24% since 2020). The trajectory may need to be revisited in 2029 Scoreboard. The Scoreboard 2023 analysis acknowledges the decline but formally maintains Class II classification

[2]Following the logic of the RSP (p. 8, chapter 5.3), external data includes those provided by BirdLife and other relevant NGOs.

[3] According to the 2023 Scoreboard assessment and Brochet (2016, 2017)

[4]The excluded countries are: Andorra, Austria, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, North Macedonia, Slovakia, and Switzerland.

for Cyprus, pending submission of a national baseline. This assessment uses Class III based on the field evidence in the Killing 3.0 analysis.

Table 2 - IKB severity classes across the RSP geographic scope (54 countries).

Class	Birds killed / year	Countries	Estimated total IKB	%
I	> 2.5 million	4	17,500,000	74.9%
II	750,001 to 2.5 million	0	—	0%
III	100,001 to 750,000	12	~4,732,000	20.2%
IV	< 100,000	38	~1,138,000	4.9%

The analysis on implementation of RSP actions on the 40 remaining countries was done using a multi-tiered approach, with different levels of data availability and analytical depth applied across them (Figure 2). A filled questionnaire was received from 27 countries, out of which 6 were subsequently excluded because their IKB problem is insignificant. The detailed analysis subset (21 countries)

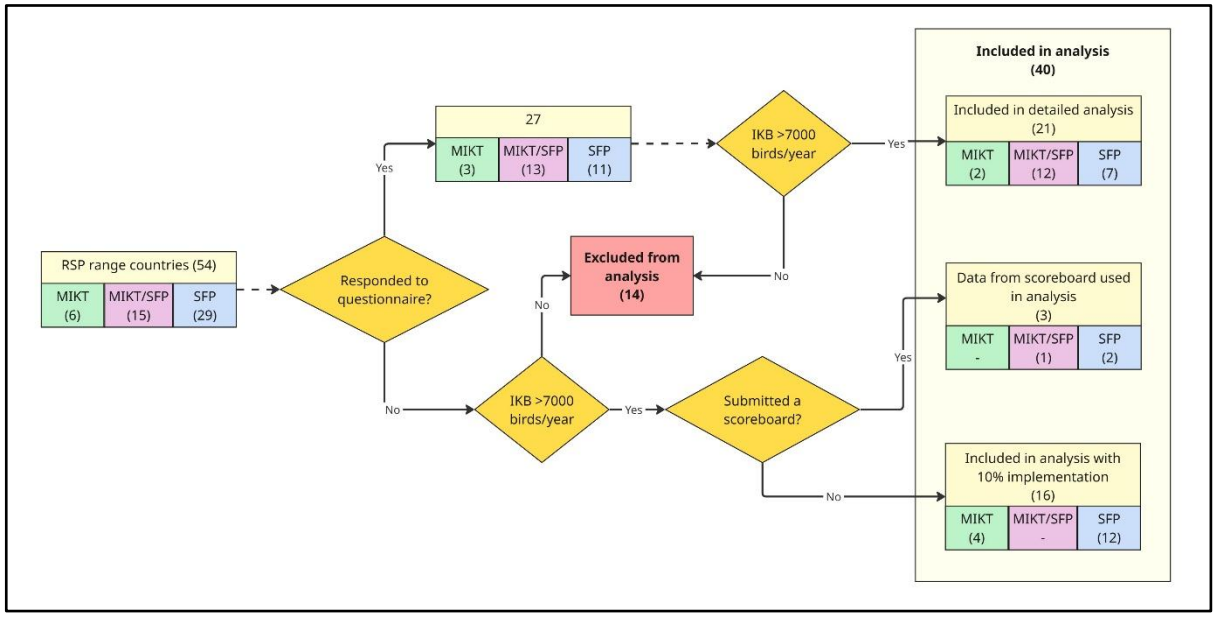


Figure 2 - Flowchart showing the logic of inclusion of countries in the RSP mid-term assessment, and the primary source of data

represents the most comprehensive evaluation, while other countries were incorporated using alternative methodologies such as the 10% implementation assumption[5] or scoreboard-derived data. The majority of countries (40 out of 54) were ultimately included in some form of analysis, representing approximately 74% inclusion rate.

[5] 10% implementation rate is assumed for the following countries: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine. It is clear that some of these countries do not have a IKB problem, but they are still above the 7'000 IKB per year.

2.2 Analytical approach

Analysis of the responses to the questionnaire. For each indicator within the questionnaire, the reported implementation status (Not Started, In Progress, Substantially Advanced, Completed) was converted to a numeric score on a 0–3 scale (0 = Not Started, 1 = In Progress, 2 = Substantially Advanced, 3 = Completed). For each country–objective combination, an average score was calculated as the arithmetic mean of all valid indicator scores reported by that country within that objective. Country–objective combinations with no reported data were excluded from the corresponding calculation and left empty in the visualisation. An aggregate score was calculated for each country as the mean of its average scores across all six objectives. **A heatmap (**Figure 3**)** was rendered as a tile plot with strategic objectives on the horizontal axis and countries on the vertical axis. Cell colour was mapped to the average score using a continuous four-stop colour gradient (red at 0, orange at 1, light green at 2, dark green at 3), and the numeric average score (rounded to one decimal place) was overlaid as text within each cell.

The **assessment is organised around the RSP's theory of change** rather than as a target by target analysis. The chain of results on which the RSP rests is used as the framework against which the evidence is interpreted. Implementation figures for each target still appear in the Findings (Table 3), but the analytical work is done at the level of the chain.

For each target, the **level of completion** was calculated as the mean implementation level of related actions across the 21 questionnaire respondents. Each rating was scored as Not Started = 0, In Progress = 1, Substantially Advanced = 2, or Completed = 3. Assigning them values of 0, 1, 2 and 3 treated them as equally spaced steps[6]. Summing the ratings across respondents gave the total "progress value" an action had received; dividing this by 3 × n (the maximum possible score, if every respondent had reported Completed) normalised the result to a 0–100% scale. The resulting figure was interpreted as the fraction of full implementation reached across the countries that responded: 0% meant no one had started, 100% meant everyone had completed the action.

A concrete example, of the answers to the question about National IKB Action Plan objective action c)[7]: of 21 respondents, 8 reported Not Started, 6 In Progress, 3 Substantially Advanced, and 4 Completed. The sum was calculated as (0×8) + (1×6) + (2×3) + (3×4) = 24, against a maximum possible score of 3 × 21 = 63, giving a score of 24/63 ≈ 38%.

For targets that mention a deadline, **timeliness** was also assessed. For each of them, the RSP milestone deadline was compared against the mid-term point of the assessment (mid-2026). An example of this is the 'specialised units in all high-IKB countries by 2025', which has not been met.

[6] The evaluators acknowledge that treating ratings as equally spaced steps may be inaccurate in some cases (e.g. the step from 0 to 1, can be shorter than the step from 2 to 3)

[7] NAP objective Action c): "By December 2022 develop and adopt National Action Plans on IKB and the mechanism for its implementation when assessed as necessary or develop and adopt other relevant document, implementation tools or mechanisms which includes actions to address IKB"

Conservation Standards[8] tools and logic have been used to structure the assessment. In particular the explicit results-chain framing, the distinction between intermediate results and outcomes, and the use of results as the unit of analysis.

It is important to mention the limitations of this assessment. The first limitation concerns the **availability of data.** Of the 54 countries in scope, 27 responded to the questionnaire and 25 submitted the 2023 Scoreboard (23 fully, 2 partially). Effectively, data is missing for over half of countries, including several known IKB hotspots. Only six countries have established the 2020 baseline and only four have adopted a methodology for monitoring IKB, which means the RSP's primary indicator cannot be formally measured for the great majority of countries at the mid-term point.

The second limitation concerns the **reliability of data.** Given the voluntary and self-reported nature of both the Scoreboard and the questionnaire, the results reflect national perceptions of progress. Country focal points have an inherent motivation to show their country's performance in the best possible light. NGOs are often implicitly motivated by donors to take a more pessimistic interpretation. Country implementation figures therefore tend to be more optimistic than the Killing 3.0 Birdlife/Euronatur analysis (2025). Without underlying mechanisms and structures (IKB committee, NAP, baseline, monitoring methodology), it is difficult to know how reliable the data is. This applies to both qualitative and quantitative data.

A **model** (result chain) is used to describe the theory of change of the RSP, and as any model, it simplifies reality[9]. We hope that the one used in this assessment is robust enough to allow for interpretation of data, drawing conclusions, and making recommendations that are useful.

[8] Conservation standards 5.0 – available at https://www.conservationstandards.org/about/

[9] George Box (statistician) famously wrote that "All models are wrong, but some are useful"

3. Findings

3.1 Results of the country questionnaire

27 countries submitted responses to the questionnaire, but only 21 were analysed in-depth (see Section 2.2). The questionnaire yielded important data about the level of implementation of the RSP actions. As explained in the methodology section, this was the primary source of data used in the assessment.

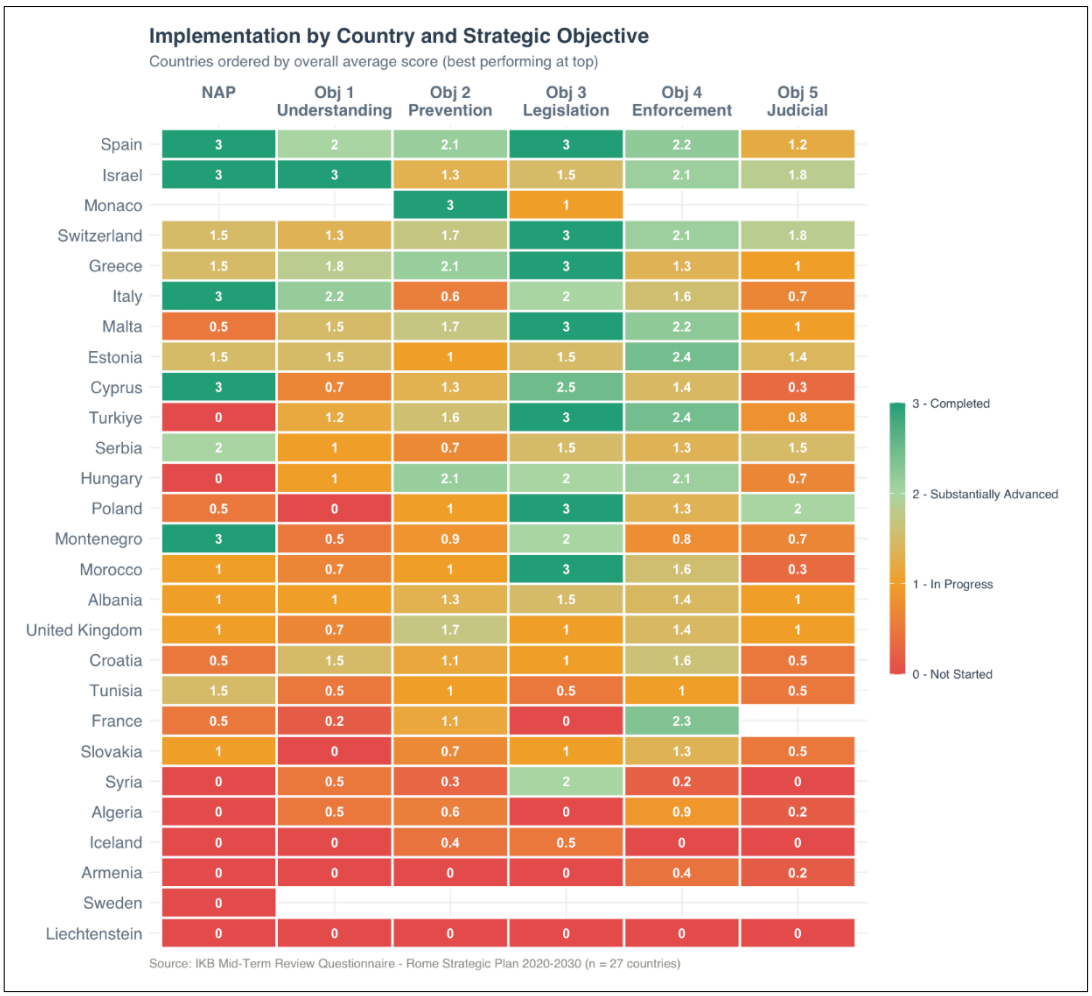


Figure 3 - Heatmap showing level of implementation of RSP actions in 27 countries that have replied to the questionnaire, grouped by RSP objectives.

The heatmap in Figure 3 shows how the countries rate the level of implementation of the RSP actions. The countries are ordered along the vertical axis of the heatmap according to their aggregate score, from lowest (bottom) to highest (top). The heatmap allows simultaneous identification of (i) which countries are furthest advanced overall, and (ii) which specific objectives represent comparative strengths or weaknesses for each country.

Although it is illustrative, the heatmap can also be misleading. For actions that were not judged as relevant some countries selected “not started” (e.g. Lichtenstein) while some others simply left it blank (e.g. Monaco). The former are assigned a value of zero, which brings down their national

average, while the latter do not have that objective count towards their average. This also illustrates the reasoning behind removing some of the countries from the analysis.

At the end of each section in the questionnaire (corresponding to an objective of the RSP), the respondents were asked to identify the main obstacles and priority actions relating to implementation of relevant actions. The responses are considered and reflected in sections 3.2 and 5, while their full list can be seen in Annex 3.

3.2 Progress against the Theory of Change

An overview of the mid-term implementation organised by the Theory of Change (TOC) is visible in Table 3. Each RSP target is placed under the Result it most directly contributes towards[10]. The "responding countries" column shows the mean across the 21 countries that have responded to the questionnaire. The "Responding + non-responding countries" column applies a 10% implementation assumption to the 19 non-respondents[11]. The Secretariat column shows the CMS Secretariat rating per Secretariat-mandated action. Cells are coloured green above 60%, yellow 30–60%, red below 30%. Dashes (grey) indicate targets with no Secretariat-mandate actions.

Table 3 - Mid-term implementation of actions grouped by the Theory of Change results. Each result (R) has multiple RSP targets that link to it, only those that have the strongest link are shown in this table. See section 2.1 for explanation of how countries were included in the analysis.

Result (R)/RSP Target	Responding countries (n=21)	Responding (21)+ non-responding countries (19) (n=40)	Secretariat
R1 — A participatory NAP *Partially achieved*			
RSP Target: Process — NAPs adopted and implemented	35%	23%	83%
R2 — Reliable, actionable data *Not achieved*			
1.1 Scale and scope understood and monitored	37%	24%	100%
1.2 Motivations understood	21%	16%	67%

[10] Several RSP targets contribute to more than one Result: for example, target 2.1 (Public recognises IKB) feeds into R4 and R5; target 3.1 (Legislation) feeds R5 and R7; targets 4.1 and 4.2 (Enforcement) feed into R6 and R7; and target 5.3 (Training) feeds into R6 and R7. The full many-to-many mapping is visible in Annex 4.
[11] Some data from scoreboard used for Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Chechia.

Result (R)/RSP Target	Responding countries (n=21)	Responding (21)+ non-responding countries (19) (n=40)	Secretariat
R3 — Stakeholder investment and role clarity *Partially achieved*			
2.2 Local communities engaged	29%	20%	0%
R4 — Awareness and prioritisation *Partially achieved*			
2.1 Public recognises IKB	47%	29%	39%
R5 — Political commitment *Partially achieved*			
3.1 Appropriate national legislation	57%	35%	100%
R6 — Resource mobilisation and capacity *Partially achieved on infrastructure, not on training*			
2.3 Technology promoted	42%	27%	45%
4.1 Appropriate enforcement priority	51%	31%	33%
4.2 Inspection, surveillance, investigation	42%	27%	33%
5.3 Prosecutors and judges trained (50% by 2025)	19%	15%	33%
R7 — Coordinated action *Not achieved on justice; partially on legislation and enforcement*			
5.1 Court-proceedings time reduced	28%	20%	—
5.2 Appropriate penalties imposed	21%	16%	—
5.4 Judicial data publicly available	27%	19%	—

The seven results of the Theory of Change (R1 to R7) are walked through in turn (Figure 4). Each is assessed using the data from the questionnaires (country implementation figures and the obstacle and priority actions), the Scoreboard time-series across the 2018, 2020 and 2023 rounds. The goal result (R8, IKB reduced) is dealt with separately in Section 3.3.

Two of seven results in the input and process part of the chain are not achieved (R2 data, the justice component of R7). The other five hold partially. The chain works in countries where the conditions were broadly present at the start of the Plan, principally Class III countries with engaged civil society and EU-aligned legal frameworks. It does not work in the Class I countries the 50% target depends on. The Secretariat's effectiveness is highest where uptake of a document or methodology is the output, and lower where the work depends on sustained convening or driving a process across countries with diverging positions.

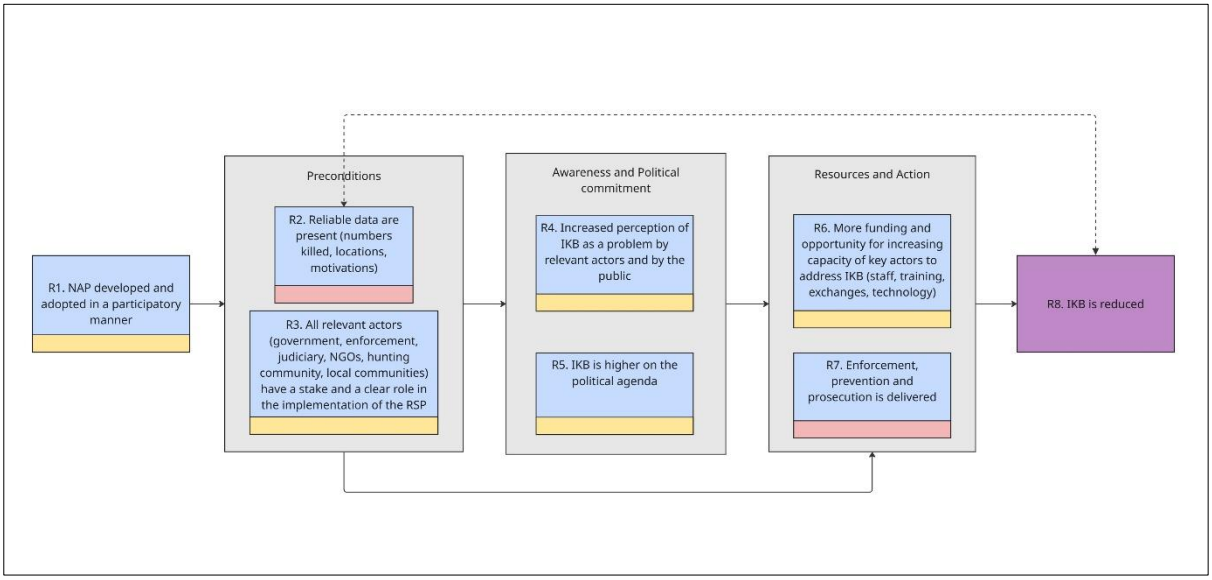


Figure 4 - Each coloured box represents a result (R) in the theory of change. Solid arrows show causal relationships between elements. Ratings are given to the level of implementation of actions relating to each result. 0-29% = red, 30-59% = yellow, 60-100% = green.

Below is an in-depth description and analysis of findings as they relate to each of the results (R). For each result, RSP objectives and targets that feed in it are listed. The traffic light colour system indicates the level implementation of relevant actions. For Results (R), the colours are identical to those in Figure 4.

Result R1 — A participatory NAP

RSP Objective	Process — National Action Plans
Target	NAPs adopted and implemented in all countries
Indicators (key)	NAPs adopted; degree of implementation; multi-stakeholder committee; funding secured
Scoreboard ref	C14

Result R1: Partially achieved. Fourteen of 21 responders have or are developing a NAP, with three standalone dedicated NAPs (Montenegro, Cyprus, Italy) produced under the RSP. The participatory requirement is met inconsistently but is the part of R1 the rest of the chain depends on. The Class I countries are least likely to engage in a participatory NAP development. Italy is the only one with a NAP, but it is not delivering the intended benefits, most notably engagement of all relevant stakeholders and reduction of IKB.

The MIKT members and the Bern Convention Standing Committee endorsed the NAP guidance in December 2022, organised the Western Balkans regional IKB NAP workshop in September 2024, and has the North Africa workshop scheduled for autumn 2026. Secretariat implementation on the NAP-related actions is at 83%. Country implementation across the 21 responders averages 35%, dropping to 23% if the 19 non-respondents are included at 10% implementation. Eleven of the 21 responders report a NAP or equivalent in place, three more are under development, and only Montenegro has a dedicated standalone NAP developed under the RSP (Cyprus and Italy NAPs predate the RSP). The rest rely on broader biodiversity or hunting plans that mention IKB, or pre-RSP plans that have not been updated, or on nothing.

Ten of 27 responders identify "A NAP is not considered necessary in our country context" as a main obstacle. This is not a capacity problem, but a disagreement with the premise of the RSP. The list includes one Class I country (Italy), one Class IV country with high-profile IKB pressure (France), and several others (UK, Israel, Estonia, Switzerland, Poland, Algeria, Morocco, Monaco). Several countries affirm the importance of NAP, but state that it is not a priority.

The Plan also asks countries to assess whether IKB can be adequately addressed through "other relevant document, implementation tools or mechanisms" before deciding a dedicated NAP is unnecessary (action NAP.b). Where this assessment is done administratively rather than through the multi-stakeholder process, which the NAP would have used, the participatory requirement is missed at the start.

R1 is about who is in the room when the NAP is made, not just whether a NAP exists. Where the NAP has been drafted inside a ministry without the enforcement bodies, the judiciary, the hunting federations and the NGOs at the table, the Scoreboard records the NAP as in place but the coalition the chain depends on has not been built. Italy's NAP, adopted in 2017 and now covered within a broader biodiversity framework, is an example.

The committee dimension matters more than the document. A NAP without an active multi-stakeholder committee is a document that may or may not be implemented; a live committee with named members, defined responsibilities and a budget line is the mechanism that delivers. The Plan's indicator iv (multi-stakeholder committee) recognises this, but the Scoreboard records the NAP and the committee as separate boxes rather than treating the committee as the test of whether the NAP is functioning. Where a committee operates without a formal NAP document, the chain can still close. Where a formal NAP exists without an operating committee, it generally does not.

Result R2 — Reliable, actionable data

RSP Objective	Objective 1 — Understand scope, scale and motivations
Target	1.1 Scale and scope
	1.2 Motivations
Indicators (key)	Monitoring baseline established; IKB hotspots identified; evidence-based motivation assessments
Scoreboard ref	A1–A4, E25, E26

Result R2: Not achieved. Of the four indicators associated with R2, only hotspot identification is on track in more than a quarter of the countries. The 2020 baseline is established in six countries (against

a target of all priority countries by 2024); the monitoring methodology is established only in four. The motivations component is the lowest-progressing target in the entire Plan.

Six countries have established the 2020 baseline and four have adopted a monitoring methodology. The 2023 Scoreboard covered 57% of estimated regional IKB compared with 82% in 2020. Country implementation on Target 1.1 (scale and scope) is at 37%, dropping to 24% with non-respondents included. Target 1.2 (motivations) is at 21%, the lowest of any target in the Plan, dropping to 16%. The Secretariat has done its part. The methodology paper is completed, the 2022 monitoring workshop was held, and Secretariat implementation on the motivations target is 67%. Country take-up has not followed.

The Scoreboard time-series shows slow movement on Area A (Monitoring): 55% in 2018, 58% in 2020, 61% in 2023, a six-point improvement among the countries that submitted the scoreboard. The overall implementation is closer to 24% when the non-responding countries are folded in. By severity class, 2023 monitoring scores are 33% for Class I (Italy and Syria), 43% for Class III, and 67% for Class IV (Figure 3, right panel). The hierarchy is exactly the inverse of where the data is needed.

Country obstacles confirm the cause: lack of systematic monitoring programmes (10 of 27 responders), insufficient funding (9), lack of standardised methodologies and baselines (8). Syria reports that "all monitoring is just haphazard observations and sporadic reports or complaints on social media." Armenia notes that identified hotspots "remain unrecognised by the national monitoring system" because the institutional authority responsible has different priorities. Italy describes a functioning national system within the 2017–2020 NAP, with seven hotspots identified and enhanced monitoring by the Carabinieri forestali.

Without numbers, the 50% target cannot be measured. Without locations, enforcement cannot be deployed where it matters. Without motivations being understood, prevention is directionless.

Result R3 — Stakeholder investment and role clarity

RSP Objective	Process — National Action Plans
	Objective 2 — Active prevention
Target	NAP indicator iv (multi-stakeholder structure)
	2.2 Local communities engaged
Indicators (key)	NAP committee; alternative livelihoods; training sessions for hunting communities
Scoreboard ref	C14, E27

Result R3: Partially achieved. Committees largely exist within the NAP structures that exist, but their functioning is inconsistent and not assessed in detail. Engagement with local communities happens where civil society is active in the country, principally in southeast Europe and North Africa, and is largely absent elsewhere.

R3 has two parts. First, whether the NAP committee structure is set up so that every relevant actor (government, enforcement, judiciary, NGOs, hunting community, local communities) has a defined role and an ongoing stake. Second, whether the most peripheral of those actors, the local communities directly involved in or affected by IKB, are engaged in the Plan. Target 2.2 implementation is 29%,

dropping to 20% with non-respondents included, with Secretariat implementation at 0% on the three community-engagement actions.

The committee structure exists more often on paper than in practice. The 11 of 21 responders that report a NAP or equivalent do not all have an actively functioning multi-stakeholder committee, and the questionnaire does not separately survey this. Seven countries report "insufficient multisectoral coordination or stakeholder engagement" as a main NAP obstacle (Cyprus, Croatia, Serbia, Tunisia, Syria, Slovakia, Albania); each has a NAP, is developing one or has one planned, but the coordination function R3 demands is not operating as intended.

The committee carries more weight than the document. A NAP document that sits on a shelf does not deliver R3. A live committee, with named representatives from enforcement, judiciary, hunting community, NGOs and local-community organisations, meeting regularly with an agenda, a budget and a record, does. The Plan's process indicators recognise this in principle (indicator iv asks for a multi-stakeholder committee), but the Scoreboard treats the existence of the document as the gate rather than the existence of an operating committee. The clearest positive case is Cyprus, which has a dedicated standalone NAP with a reportedly working multi-stakeholder structure that includes the British SBA authorities. Italy has a structure in name, but whether it is operating substantively is a contested question between the government and the NGO community.

Engagement with local communities, the harder half of R3, is patchy. The Secretariat's three community-engagement actions are at 0%. No work is reported on promotion of European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity[12]. With regard to other two actions, the Secretariats reportedly cannot initiate work on community level without first being invited by local actors. Where the work happens, it mainly happens through national NGO networks and IUCN-led programmes in southeast Europe and North Africa. FACE reports that 90% of its national member federations endorse its zero-tolerance position on IKB, which is engagement at national federation level, one layer above the local communities that R3 targets.

For Class I countries, the picture is consistent with the rest of the Class I evidence. Egypt, Syria and Lebanon do not have comparable multi-stakeholder structures. SSCW (BirdLife affiliate in Syria) has called for a NAP for several years without follow-through from the government.

Result R4 — Awareness and prioritisation

RSP Objective	Objective 2 — Active prevention of IKB
Target	2.1 General public recognises IKB
	2.2 Local communities engaged
Indicators (key)	Public awareness measured by surveys; communication campaigns; funding for awareness
Scoreboard ref	E26, E27, E28

[12]Recommendation No. 128 (2007) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

Result R4: Partially achieved. Public awareness work is happening, with measurable improvement on the Prevention area of the Scoreboard. The activity is concentrated in countries where civil society is most active, which is also where the chain works best. In Class I countries other than Italy and Lebanon, R4 has fewer national carriers and the assumption that public awareness will create a tipping point is not supported by evidence.

Country implementation on Target 2.1 is at 47% , dropping to 29% with non-respondents included, with Secretariat implementation at 39%. The Scoreboard time-series shows Prevention (Area E) moving from 61% in 2018 and 2020 to 65% in 2023, with the 2020–2023 round delivering a 5-point jump that was the largest single-round increase in any Scoreboard area. Public awareness campaigns are the most-endorsed priority action under Objective 2 (17 of 27 responders). By severity class, the 2023 Prevention score is 57% for Class I, 71% for Class III, 79% for Class IV. The same hierarchy is visible: prevention works where the political and resource conditions are present, and works less well where the IKB pressure is greatest.

The campaigns delivered in the first half of the Plan have come largely from NGOs. BirdLife's "Flight for Survival" ran from 2019 to 2021 across multiple Mediterranean countries. National BirdLife partners run country-level campaigns through radio, social media and printed material. EuroNatur supports Western Balkans campaigns through the Safe Flyways project. The Vulture Conservation Foundation has produced video and event-based campaigns on poisoning. EuroNatur's submission notes that they "have never heard of any government investing into public communication of IKB", which should be read in the context of the RSP specifically listing development of country-level communication strategies (action 2.1.c) under government responsibility.

The harder test of R4 is whether awareness is translating into a measurable shift in perception of IKB as a national problem. The 2.1 implementation figure tells us activities are happening; it does not tell us perception has shifted. Country responses repeatedly cite political will and prioritisation as the main constraint, suggesting awareness within national institutions is present but does not yet have institutional weight.

Result R5 — Political commitment

RSP Objective	Objective 2 — Active prevention of IKB
	Objective 3 — IKB addressed in national legislation
Target	2.1 General public recognises IKB
	3.1 All countries have appropriate legislation
Indicators (key)	IKB is spotlighted; 90% of countries with appropriate legislation; degree to which legislation responds to RSP targets
Scoreboard ref	E28, B5–B12

Result R5: Partially achieved. Legislation is in place at or near the 90% target across the responder pool. Whether legislation is operating as a marker of political commitment is contested by the country-reported obstacle data and by the Scoreboard participation trend. The political weight needed downstream is the weaker half of R5.

Country implementation on Target 3.1 (appropriate legislation) is at 57% , dropping to 35% with non-respondents included, with Secretariat implementation at 100% on the model legislation and bilateral

assessments offered. The Scoreboard time-series confirms Area B (Legislation) at 74%, 77%, 80% across the three rounds, starting from the highest base and improving steadily.

This is the strongest section of the chain on paper. However, 12 of 27 responders identify "poor implementation of existing laws" as the top obstacle under Objective 3. Legislation has been put in place across most of the responding countries, but a country can pass legislation that aligns with RSP targets and then not enforce it. By severity class, 2023 Legislation scores are 69% for Class I (Italy 85%, Syria 52%), 82% for Class III, 84% for Class IV. Legislation is the area where the Class I gap is smallest. However, the chain still requires the political commitment that turns the law into delivery in R7.

Scoreboard submission and participation in the mid-term assessment is the more direct indicator of political priority (Figure 5). The 2023 scoreboard saw only 25 submissions, and the questionnaire only 27 responses. The Italian submissions over the three rounds (Total scores 66%, 65%, 74%) show sustained but moderate engagement. The Egyptian submission in 2020 (52%) had no follow-up, including for the purpose of this assessment. The Lebanese submission stops at 2018. The Syrian submissions are present but at very low Total scores (26% in 2020, 25% in 2023).

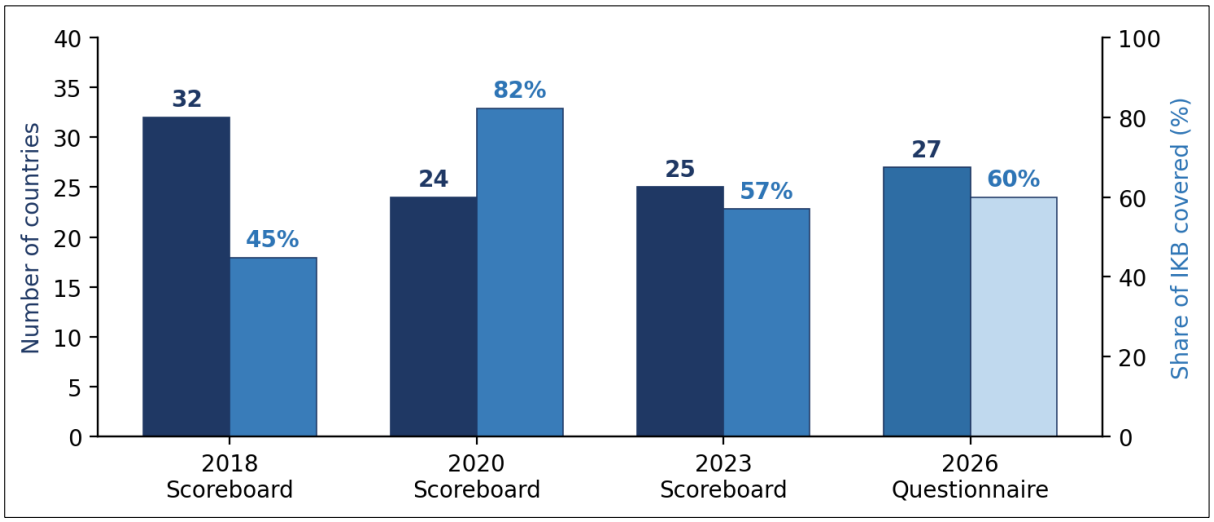


Figure 5 – Country participation against share of IKB covered across the three Scoreboard rounds and the 2026 mid-term questionnaire.

Result R6 — Resource mobilisation and capacity

RSP Objective	Objective 4 — Effective enforcement
	Objective 5 — Effective justice
Target	2.3 Technology promoted
	4.1 Enforcement priority
	4.2 Inspection/investigation support
	5.3 Prosecutors and judges trained
Indicators (key)	Specialized wildlife crime units; % personnel trained; resources for investigation
Scoreboard ref	C15, C17–C19, D22, D23

Result R6: Partially achieved on enforcement infrastructure, not achieved on the training component. The Scoreboard shows real movement on Prosecution between 2018 and 2020, then stalling. Enforcement has barely moved over six years. The 2025 milestones of specialised units in all high-IKB countries and of 50% of prosecutors and judges trained are both missed.

Target 4.1 (enforcement priority) is at 51%, dropping to 31% with non-respondents included, Secretariat at 33%. Target 4.2 (inspection and investigation support) is at 42%, dropping to 27%, Secretariat at 33%. Target 5.3 (prosecutors and judges trained) is at 19% , dropping to 15%, Secretariat at 33%. The training component is the weakest of any capacity target, against a milestone of 50% trained by 2025 that is missed by a wide margin.

The Scoreboard time-series shows Area C (Enforcement) moving from 47% in 2018 to 47% in 2020 to 50% in 2023, a three-point improvement over six years. Area D (Prosecution) moves from 37% to 42% to 50%, a thirteen-point improvement but with the largest part of the gain delivered between the 2018 and 2020 Scoreboard exercises (the gain between the 2020 and2023 exercises was less than one percentage point). By severity class, 2023 Enforcement scores are 38% for Class I, 46% for Class III, 67% for Class IV; 2023 Prosecution scores are 33% for Class I, 45% for Class III, 56% for Class IV (Figure 3). The capacity gap between Class I and the rest is widest of any result in the chain.

Country obstacles for Objective 4 confirm the picture. Lack of enforcement resources is the leading obstacle (11 of 27 responders), followed by wildlife crime not being sufficiently prioritised (10) and lack of trained personnel (9). The priority actions requested mirror the obstacles directly: increased resources for investigation and monitoring (13), increasing political support (11), training (10). Training is deliverable through the Secretariat-WCA-ENPE channel, but resources and political support need to come from Member States and from bilateral donors.

Technology (Target 2.3) is part of R6 and gives a useful split. Country implementation is 42% . Where technology was nationally owned (Turkey's AVBIS, Israel's TIMI), uptake happened. Where it required a centrally maintained product (the Secretariat-led database of legal species, quotas and seasons), it was abandoned for lack of member appetite and cost. Nationally owned investments create progress; centrally provided products without explicit national demand often do not.

Result R7 — Coordinated action

RSP Objective	Objective 3 — Legislation
	Objective 4 — Effective enforcement
	Objective 5 — Effective justice
Target	3.1 All countries have appropriate legislation
	4.1 Enforcement priority
	4.2 Inspection/investigation support
	5.1 Court proceedings time reduced
	5.2 Appropriate penalties imposed
	5.3 Prosecutors and judges trained
	5.4 Judicial data publicly available
Indicators (key)	Hotspots controlled; investigation/detection ratio; sanctions proportionate; case law accessible
Scoreboard ref	B5–B12, C15, C17–C19, D20, D22, D23

Result R7: Not achieved on the justice component; partially achieved on legislation and enforcement, but at scale insufficient to deliver the goal. The 2025 milestones across Objectives 4 and 5 are missed. The qualitative evidence does not indicate that IKB has fallen substantially since 2020.

Legislation (Target 3.1) at 57% is the strongest target. Court proceedings (5.1) at 28%, appropriate penalties (5.2) at 21%, judicial data publicly available (5.4) at 27%. The 2025 milestone for sentencing guidelines is missed across the region.

19 of 27 responders identify training for prosecutors and judges as the top priority action under Objective 5. No other priority action across any objective is endorsed by that many countries. Twelve of 27 identify lack of specialised prosecutors or judges as the leading Objective 5 obstacle, eleven identify weak penalties, eleven slow judicial processes, ten lack of training on wildlife crime for judicial staff.

The shadow report finds IKB persisting at scale across the Mediterranean. The clearest case of measured decline (the trapping reduction inside the Cyprus SBA) was largely achieved before the RSP entered force. Italy is delivering on the legislative and enforcement components but is not delivering reductions at the scale that Class I status requires. Egypt, Syria and Lebanon are not producing the data that would make a reduction visible.

What countries do once a violation is detected matters. BirdLife notes that court cases with NGO support typically result in better conviction rates and stricter penalties, with BirdLife Malta reporting a 72% success rate across 32 court cases in 2023, and SPNL in Lebanon documenting 50 violations referred to judicial authorities. Where the prosecution chain is supported by civil society, the chain delivers; where it is not, it does not.

4.3 Progress towards a 50% reduction

Result R8: Not assessable in quantitative terms; not on track in qualitative terms.

The target can only be met if the effort over the coming four years is concentrated where the volume of IKB is greatest. The goal of the RSP is a 50% reduction in the scale and scope of IKB by 2030 against the 2020 baseline. Assessing progress against that goal at mid-term is not formally possible using the data provided by the countries (see R2). The parts of the region that matter most for the target are those where the least data exist.

The qualitative evidence does not indicate that IKB has fallen substantially since 2020. A small number of countries in the Western Balkans and southern Europe report reduced IKB through sustained enforcement and awareness work. Others report stable or deteriorating situations. The clearest single case of significant reduction (the trapping decline inside the Cyprus SBA) was largely achieved before the RSP entered force, although it has been partially sustained since.

The four Class I countries account for around three quarters of the regional total. Italy is delivering only partial reduction. The trends in Syria, Egypt and Lebanon cannot be reliably assessed, but there is no basis on which to assume that any of them is on a reduction trajectory. None of the four is currently positioned to deliver a meaningful contribution to the 50% target by 2030.

Class II is empty at the mid-term following the Cyprus reclassification to Class III.

4.4 Contribution of MIKT observer organizations

The stakeholder questionnaire was returned by six MIKT observer organisations operating at network or regional scale: BirdLife International, EuroNatur, Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF), European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN Med), and the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE). Additional responses were received from organisations with national-level mandates, mainly BirdLife national partners, drawn on where their content illustrates a country-level finding. There are undoubtedly other organizations that contribute towards the targets and objectives of the RSP on both national and regional level, however the work only of those that have responded to the questionnaire are discussed here.

Each respondent indicated, per RSP objective, whether their work contributes to it and which targets and geographies they address. The figures are presence indicators, not effort indicators.

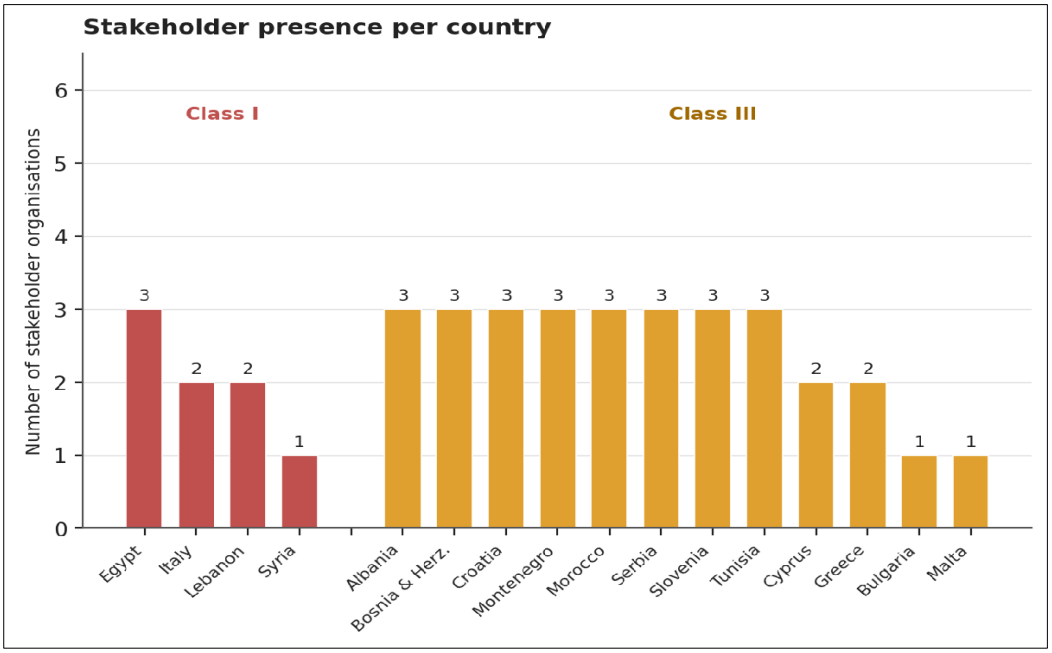


Figure 6 - Stakeholder contribution patterns - number of MIKT and/or Bern Convention observer organisations reporting work in each Class I and Class III country. Notable absence of Libya

Objective coverage is broad. Five or six of the six respondents address every objective. The two exceptions reflect the organisation's mandate. ENPE, a prosecutors' network, reports no contribution to the NAP process objective. FACE, a hunters' federation, reports no contribution to Objective 5 (justice).

Geographic distribution is concentrated in the Western Balkans, North Africa and the wider Mediterranean rim (Figure 6). EuroNatur coordinates the Safe Flyways project across six Balkan countries. VCF runs the Wildlife Crime Academy with cohorts from twenty countries. BirdLife operates across the African-Eurasian flyway through national partners. IUCN Med focuses on North Africa, principally Morocco and Tunisia with planned expansion into Egypt and Libya for 2027–2028. FACE and ENPE work at European and EU level respectively. There is a noticeable absence of any of the organizations mentioning Libya, which further highlights the need to put focus there.

Class III countries get more attention than Class I. Eight of the twelve Class III countries have three observer organisations working there; only one of the four Class I countries (Egypt) reaches that level. The Class I engagement is generally lighter and more indirect (training, inclusion in reports, future plans) than the sustained partner-based field work in southeast Europe. This is the legacy of how stakeholder funding has flowed in the past decade, principally LIFE and EU pre-accession instruments.

National-partner responses add texture to the Class I picture, particularly for Syria. SSCW, the BirdLife affiliate in Syria, reports active engagement on IKB where and when it can and has the mandate. The barriers it identifies are the instability of the country, the lack of enforcement to apply the updated hunting law, the absence of dedicated enforcement authorities, and inconsistent awareness work. Its single recommendation is dedicated training for enforcement entities and the judiciary. The Syria case illustrates the broader Class I pattern: a national partner is present and active in the parts of the chain where civil-society work is possible (NAP advocacy, monitoring, awareness, legislative input), but the chain cannot close at the delivery end (R6 and R7) because the state functions are not operating.

The barriers stakeholders identify echo the country-level findings. Political will is named as the largest constraint by EuroNatur, BirdLife and VCF. Resources, capacity and prioritisation are named by ENPE, IUCN Med and the national-partner respondents. FACE describes the problem as one shared with environmental crime more broadly and refers questions on enforcement obstacles back to the enforcement authorities themselves. No respondent identifies absence of regional guidance as a constraint, consistent with the chain analysis finding that the gap is in country-level uptake.

The Killing 3.0 analysis is among the most significant contributions made by MIKT / Bern Convention observers. It provides numerical estimates of IKB where countries are silent, and it offers complementary information on RSP implementation. This has allowed for analysis of discrepancies in what is reported for implementations, and what the field data shows as outcomes. There are many cases where countries report implementation of activities, and the shadow report notes a decrease in IKB (or at least not worsening). What is more worrying are the countries that report having institutional structures in place to address IKB, but none of them are reducing IKB since 2020. In other words, there is implementation without measurable outcomes

5. Recommendations for the second half of the RSP

5.1 The principle

The remaining four years of the RSP should be organised around one notion: **the goal is reduction of IKB, not the appearance of plan implementation**. Where the analysis shows a result is unlikely to be achieved in four years, the strategy should be to find alternate ways.

Two **operating principles** will be helpful. First, the focused effort of the CMS and Bern Convention Secretariats, the bilateral donors and international players should be **concentrated where the IKB is**, not spread evenly across countries. Second, where a state is not responsive or does not have adequate capacity, **non-state action** should be the primary route for achieving the Objectives of the RSP, not the supplementary one.

Finally, the operating principles should be as much as possible reflected in the **2026-2030 MIKT workplan.**

5.2 Where to concentrate effort

Five countries together account for roughly 78% of regional IKB[13]. They fall into three groups, each requiring a different operational response. **Egypt, Lebanon and Libya,** are effectively unknowns. They have made no recent submissions, but the field evidence consistently indicates worsening or persistent severe IKB. **Syria** submits the Scoreboard and responded to the questionnaire, so the Secretariats can see the situation, but the situation is deteriorating. **Italy** reports regularly, has an active NAP and specialized institutions, but is nonetheless not reducing IKB at the rate its severity requires.

Keeping Libya on the side as an unknown, the goal of RSP depends on what happens in Italy, Lebanon, Egypt and Syria. The RSP cannot abandon its broader geographic remit, and the Plan should continue to apply to all 54 countries. However, the effort of the Secretariats, bilateral donors and the international NGO community should be directed at the four. Currently those four are treated as just four out of fifty-four, but they should be treated as the four that determine whether the 2030 target is reachable.

In the context of priorities, this means:

1) A dedicated **situation analysis for each of the four Class I countries plus Libya**, completed by end-2026, identifying realistic routes to IKB reduction. The analyses should not be uniform, but tailored to the specific country context.
2) The five analyses should be a central component of the **2026-2030 MIKT workplan,** where specific focus should be placed on four Class I countries, and Libya.
3) The **Class III countries are the next priority**. Twelve countries in this class together account for around 20% of regional IKB. The biggest concern is that the Killing 3.0 analysis (in absence of official reporting) reports a worsening trend for several of them. Several have the political conditions for further reduction (the Western Balkans, southern Europe), and three (Greece, France, Croatia) are in the EU and reachable through LIFE and other instruments. Special attention should also be placed on Cyprus. Even though there has been a significant improvement, the number of IKB per year is still much higher than in majority of other countries. The 2030 target cannot be met from Class III alone, but they are the part of the region where the chain demonstrably works and where additional investment delivers measurable returns.
4) The **Class IV countries** (38 in total, around 5% of regional IKB) should remain in the remit of the RSP but not be a programmatic focus. A light-touch reporting expectation is the appropriate level of engagement.

5.3 Recommendations for Governments

[13] Italy 24%, Egypt 23%, Syria 17%, Lebanon 11%, Libya 2%. Libya's IKB estimate according to Brochet (2016) is 503,000. Using the Killing 3.0 analysis estimate of 25-49% increase since 2016, can increase it from 630,000 to 750,000.

The strongest single signal in the obstacles part of the questionnaire is the demand for training of prosecutors and judges, identified by 19 of 27 responders. This is a route the chain analysis flagged as not achieved (R6 training component, R7 justice component) and that the countries themselves are asking for.

1) Where a country is not currently reporting at all, bilateral diplomatic channels can be used by other governments to identify needs and offer support. It can also be used to apply pressure where the non-reporting reflects a lack of political will rather than a lack of capacity.

   Beyond that, government priorities should be sequenced by which result they unblock:

2) **Data (Result 2).** A baseline should be submitted by every Class I and Class III country, even a provisional one based on NGO field data or Brochet et al. (2016, 2017) figures. A situation in which a country has adopted the RSP but does not have a baseline six years in, is not consistent with a quantitative 2030 target.

3) Where governments lack the capacity to monitor, the obstacles data show countries themselves asking for international technical guidance (8 responders) and collaboration with NGOs and research institutions (9).

4) **Enforcement (Results 6 and 7).** Increased resources for investigation and monitoring (13 responders), increasing political support (11), and training (10) are the most-requested actions. Training can be deliverable through the Secretariat-WCA-ENPE channel. The milestone of specialised wildlife crime units in all high-IKB countries should be reset with a realistic 2028 target.

5) **Legislation (Result 7).** The reported obstacle is "poor implementation of existing laws" (12 of 27 responders), not the absence of legislation. Further work on legislative drafting will not make a big change. Work should shift to monitoring and analysis of whether the laws produce intended changes.

6) **NAPs and committees (Results 1 and 3).** Where the political conditions for a formal NAP do not exist, the realistic step is the establishment of a functioning committee with named members from relevant actors (e.g. enforcement, judiciary, hunting community, NGOs and local-community organisations). It should have regular meetings, a budget line and at least one IKB activity per year. Such a committee can deliver R1 and R3 together without a formal NAP document.

5.4 Recommendations for non-state actors

R6 (capacity) and R7 (delivery) are weakest in the countries where IKB matters most. Non-state actors, NGOs, scientific institutions, hunters' federations and the donor community, should be treated as a primary delivery channel in the remaining period of the RSP, not a supplement to government action.

The non-state priorities are:

1) **Monitoring and trend-tracking.** Where governments do not produce a baseline, non-state actors should produce one and the Plan should treat it as the formal number. The shadow report has demonstrated this is feasible at regional scale. The Plan should formalise NGO-produced figures for non-reporting countries, citing Brochet (2016) et al. as a fallback.

2) **Prevention and awareness.** Public awareness campaigns are the most-requested priority action under Objective 2 (17 of 27 responders), and the actual delivery has come from NGOs. The architecture of the second half should reflect that. Donor instruments, including LIFE while it remains available, should be directed at large-scale public-awareness campaigns in Class I and Class III countries, run by NGO consortia with Secretariat endorsement.

3) **Field enforcement support and evidence collection.** In countries where the judicial chain is not functioning, non-state actors can support by putting together evidence dossiers that travel through the CMS / Bern Convention reporting channels and the European Commission's environmental compliance mechanisms.

4) **Local communities and alternative livelihoods.** Where state engagement with local communities is minimal, NGO and IUCN-led programmes have contributed most to these targets. Donors should continue to support this work.

5.5 Recommendations for the Secretariats

The Secretariat's effectiveness has been highest where the output is an agreed document or methodology, and lower where it requires repeated convening or sustained funding for events. The second half should put more emphasis on the latter.

1) **Increase efforts to convene interested parties.** The 2027 prosecutors' workshop should be the first of a recurring series, not a one-off. The North Africa NAP workshop in 2026 should be followed by a Class I country (and Libya) roundtable in 2027. The Secretariat's most useful role over the next four years is bringing the key actors together, at predictable intervals.

2) **Engage the donor community to support identified gaps.** There is no consolidated picture of how much funding has gone into RSP implementation over five years. The Secretariats have the mandate to identify funding gaps and use this to direct donors toward the gaps.

5.6 Framework adjustments

Four structural changes to the assessment framework would make the second half of the Plan more useful and the 2030 endpoint more measurable.

1) **Revise the severity classes.** The current four-class system has ranges that are too broad to focus action or be useful as a communication tool.Five classes are proposed, with boundaries drawn where the country data shows clear gaps between clusters of countries. Each class therefore separates genuinely different-sized problems. Data defined boundaries between classes also mean that country placement inside a certain class can withstand errors in estimation. For more information see Annex 5.

2) **Use confidence in IKB data to determine type of action.** As the IKB figures come from data sources of varying reliability, actions proposed for a country should be determined by the reliability of the data on IKB. Where data is reliable focus should be on implementation of relevant activities. Where data is inferred or dated, focus should be on establishing the scale of IKB. For more information see Annex 5.

3) **Adapt the Scoreboard** to better capture RSP implementation and outcomes. A "Scoreboard working group" should be set-up and ideally develop a new Scoreboard ahead of the 2026

cycle. If this timeline is not feasible, it is an investment worth making for the 2029 round, as IKB is likely to continue beyond 2030.

4) **Default position on non-submitting countries.** Absence of data should be treated as an assumption about implementation. When no information is submitted, available data should be used with a clear order of priority (e.g. as presented in section 2.2. of this report). Where no Scoreboard or questionnaire data are submitted, the default reading should be that no implementation has occurred. The voluntary character of the Scoreboard is still there, but what changes is how silence is interpreted.

5) **Exception for countries with non-existent IKB.** Countries where IKB is verifiably absent should not be required to fill or submit the Scoreboard. A light questionnaire where the country or a national NGO describe whether there has been a change in IKB related issues should be used instead.

6) **Existence of a national action plan**. Where a formal NAP exists without an operating committee, the Plan should record it as not implemented. In other words, the reporting framework should distinguish a “paper NAP” from a “live NAP”, with the criterion being the committee that meets on a regular basis.

7) **Use the qualitative indicators that already exist.** Each of the 13 targets in the RSP has a qualitative indicator alongside its quantitative one. The first-half assessments and the Scoreboard have leaned heavily on the quantitative side and underused the qualitative. For most countries the absolute number of birds illegally killed will not be known by 2030, but qualitative markers (a functioning NAP with a committee and budget, an active enforcement unit, prosecutions in the past two years, an active monitoring scheme) are measurable. Assessing the RSP in 2030 against both sets of indicators would give a more complete picture than the 50% reduction figure alone can.

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Annexes

- Annex 1. Theory of Change relational mapping: each result (R1–R8) mapped to RSP objectives, targets, indicators, Scoreboard codes, key actions and mid-term evaluation questions.
- Annex 2. Questionnaires
- Annex 3. Country-reported obstacles and priority actions from the mid-term questionnaire (six charts).
- Annex 4. Mapping of recommendations to RSP elements
- Annex 5. Proposed revision of the IKB severity classification

Annex 1 - RSP Theory of Change relational table

RSP Theory of Change — Relational Mapping to RSP Targets, Indicators & Actions

Maps ToC results (country level) to RSP Objectives, Targets, Indicators (RSP Indicator & Actions Matrix) and Scoreboard codes. Basis for mid-term evaluation.

ToC #	ToC Result	RSP Objective	RSP Target	Relevant Indicators	Scoreboard Ref	Key Actions (RSP)	Mid-term Evaluation Question
R1	NAP developed and adopted in a participatory manner	PROCESS OBJECTIVE National Action Plans	NAPs adopted & implemented in all countries	i. Number of NAPs adopted ii. Degree of implementation of NAPs iii. Comprehensiveness of NAPs iv. NAP committee – multi-stakeholder structure v. Funding secured for NAP implementation vi. Scale/severity of species impacted identified in NAPs	C14	Format/guidance provided; CPs assess need; NAPs developed; regional workshops; multi-stakeholder committee established	Has the country developed or updated a NAP? Does it include all required stakeholders? Is funding secured for implementation?
R2	Reliable data are present (numbers killed, locations, motivations)	Objective 1 Understand scope, scale & motivations	1.1 Scale & scope fully understood & monitored 1.2 Motivations fully understood	i. Countries establishing monitoring baseline ii. Number of IKB hotspots identified per country iii. Countries completing evidence-based motivation assessments iv. Cultural/social/economic aspects considered in activities	A1–A4 E25, E26	Scoreboard approach agreed; IKB hotspots identified; monitoring via Scoreboard; national motivation surveys in common format	Has the country established a monitoring baseline? Are hotspots mapped? Have motivations/drivers been assessed using evidence-based methods?
R3	All relevant actors have a stake and a clear role in the implementation of the RSP (government, enforcement, judiciary, NGOs, hunting community, local communities)	PROCESS OBJECTIVE National Action Plans + Objective 2 Active prevention of IKB	NAPs adopted & implemented (multi-stakeholder) 2.2 Local communities engaged	iv. NAP committee – multi-stakeholder structure i. % increase of sustainable alternative livelihoods ii. Number of training sessions for hunting communities	C14 E27	Multi-stakeholder NAP committees; engagement with hunting community; European Charter on Hunting; community resilience support	Are all relevant actor groups formally represented in the NAP structure? Do enforcement, judiciary, and communities have defined and operational roles?
R4	Increased perception of IKB as a problem by relevant actors and by the public	Objective 2 Active prevention of IKB	2.1 General public recognises IKB 2.2 Local communities engaged	i. % of respondents aware of IKB (opinion surveys) ii. Number of communication campaigns targeting IKB iii. Funding dedicated to communications campaigns i. % increase of sustainable alternative livelihoods	E28 E27	Best-practice guidance; regional workshops; national communication strategies; 2 large-scale awareness campaigns (by 2025 and 2030)	Is there evidence of increased public/actor awareness of IKB? Have national communication campaigns been launched? Is awareness-raising funded?
R5	IKB is higher on the political agenda	Objective 2 Active prevention of IKB + Objective 3 IKB addressed in national legislation	2.1 General public recognises IKB 3.1 All countries have appropriate legislation	ii. Number of communication campaigns targeting IKB i. 90% of countries covered with appropriate legislation ii. Degree to which legislation responds to RSP targets	E28 B5–B12	National communication strategies; expert legislative assessment; guidelines/model legislation; legislative revision by 2023	Has IKB been formally acknowledged as a national priority? Has legislation been reviewed or updated? Are IKB issues raised in national/parliamentary fora?
R6	More funding and opportunity for increasing capacity of key actors (staff, training, exchanges, technology)	Objective 4 Effective enforcement + Objective 5 Effective justice	4.1 Appropriate enforcement priority 4.2 Support for inspection/surveillance/investigation 5.3 Prosecutors & judges trained (50% by 2025)	i. % of hotspots controlled ii. % of inspectors/police/prosecutors/judges trained iii. Resources assigned to detection/investigation/prosecution iv. Number of specialised enforcement units i. % of enforcement personnel with IKB training i. % of trained prosecutors/judges ii. IKB prominent in wildlife crime training content i. % increase in use of leading technologies	C15 C17–C19 D22, D23 — (technology)	Specialised training; capacity-building programme; wildlife crime units; staff exchanges; centralised online DB of legal quotas/seasons; promote technology (AVBIS, TIMI models)	Has dedicated funding been secured for enforcement capacity? Are training programmes operational? Are exchanges and technology tools deployed in the country?
R7	Enforcement, prevention and prosecution is delivered	Objective 3 IKB addressed in legislation + Objective 4 Effective enforcement + Objective 5 Effective justice	3.1 All countries have appropriate legislation 4.1 Appropriate enforcement priority 4.2 Support for inspection/surveillance/investigation 5.1 Court proceedings time reduced 5.2 Appropriate penalties imposed 5.3 Prosecutors & judges trained 5.4 Judicial data publicly available	i. % of hotspots controlled ii. Ratio of investigated to detected/reported incidents iii. % of incidents punished with effective sanctions iv. Formal structures for national/international consultation i. % of IKB proceedings concluded within 1 year ii. % of convictions with penalties meeting sentencing guidelines iii. Average fine sentenced for IKB i. % increase of publicly accessible judicial processes	B5–B12 C15 C17–C19 D20 D22, D23	Specialised enforcement units; sentencing guidelines adopted; training for justice officials; case law databases; record & publish prosecutions; experience-sharing programme; IMPEL/ENPE/Europol coordination	Are hotspots being actively controlled? Is prosecution rate improving? Are penalties proportionate and consistent with guidelines? Is judicial data publicly accessible?
R8	IKB is reduced (Impact + Learning cycle)	All Objectives (Impact & feedback loop)	All 2030 milestones (monitored via Scoreboard)	All quantitative indicators across A, B, C, D, E Scoreboard sections — especially trend data over time (baseline vs. current) — Scoreboard overall score improvement	A1–A4 B5–B12 C14–C19 D20–D23 E25–E28	Monitoring cycle maintained; results fed back into NAP/RSP planning; coalition reviews and adapts strategies; data guide reinvestment toward highest-impact areas	Is there measurable trend data showing reduction in IKB? Are Scoreboard scores improving over time? Is monitoring data being used to adapt national strategies?

LEGEND — ToC Result Types

- R1 — Foundation (NAP process)
- R2, R3 — Preconditions (data + stakeholder roles)
- R4, R5 — Awareness & political commitment
- R6 — Resource mobilisation & capacity
- R7 — Coordinated action (enforcement/prevention/prosecution)
- R8 — Impact & learning (IKB reduced)

Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030

The Rome Strategic Plan on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds (IKB) is an international action framework adopted under the Bern Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) together with partners and relevant stakeholders, designed to tackle the illegal killing, taking and trading of wild birds across Europe and the Mediterranean. Its timeframe runs to 2030 and is structured around one process-oriented objective (develop National Action Plans), and five result-oriented objectives:

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

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

Objective 3. To ensure that the illegal killing of birds is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation.

Objective 4. To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken.

Objective 5. To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences.

This survey is addressed to organisations and bodies identified as key partners in the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan. Its purpose is to assess whether and how the work your organisation carries out contributes — directly or indirectly — to the objectives and actions set out in the Plan since 2020. Although primary responsibility for implementation of actions of the RSP is on national governments, we realize that there are many contributions that are made by other organizations. Your responses will be an important element of the mid-term review, and will help identify gaps, good practices and recommendations for the next implementation period.

Adding your email below will allow for your responses to be automatically sent back to you.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Profile

Please complete the contact details below before starting the questionnaire. This information will help the Secretariat follow up, if needed.

2. **Organisation / Institution** *

3. **Contact Name** *

4. **Job Title / Role**

5. **Phone number (optional)**

6. **We may contact you for follow-up to better understand your responses or clarify specific points**

Check all that apply.

☐ I consent to being contacted for follow-up purposes related to this survey.

7. **Are there other stakeholders or persons who contributedin filling this questionnaire?** *

Process-oriented objective: develop National Action Plans

This objective is achieved when a country has adopted a National IKB Action Plan (or an equivalent document), identified priority IKB issues and species, established a coordination mechanism to guide its implementation, and initiated actions with clearly defined responsibilities and allocated resources.

8. Does your work contribute to this objective?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Yes *Skip to question 9*
- ◯ No *Skip to question 11*

Process-oriented objective: develop National Action Plans

This objective is achieved when a country has adopted a National IKB Action Plan (or an equivalent document), identified priority IKB issues and species, established a coordination mechanism to guide its implementation, and initiated actions with clearly defined responsibilities and allocated resources.

9. How does your work contribute to this objective?

10. Where are these actions being implemented (geographic scope)?

Objective 1. Understanding the Scale, Scope and Motivations of IKB

Progress under this objective is achieved when a country possesses reliable information on the scale, scope, and distribution of illegal killing, taking, and trade of birds. This includes the identification of hotspots and a clear understanding of the underlying motivations for these activities. Progress may involve the establishment of monitoring systems, the conduct of national assessments, and regular data collection to inform policy-making and enforcement actions.

11. Does your work contribute to this objective?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Yes *Skip to question 12*
- ◯ No *Skip to question 15*

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

12. If yes, which specific targets are being addressed by your work?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ 1.1 — The scale and scope of IKB is fully understood in each country and monitored regularly
- ☐ 1.2 — The motivations behind the illegal killing of birds are fully understood in each country and action to address these drivers is included in the national action plan

13. How does your work contribute to these targets?

14. Where are these actions being implemented (geographic scope)?

Objective 2. Active Prevention of IKB

Progress under this objective is achieved when a country actively works to prevent IKB through awareness campaigns, engagement with key communities and stakeholders, and the implementation of tools or approaches that reduce the likelihood of offences.

15. Does your work contribute to this objective?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Yes *Skip to question 16*
- ◯ No *Skip to question 19*

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

16. If yes, which specific targets are being addressed by your work?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ 2.1 — General public recognises IKB and its negative impacts
- ☐ 2.2 — Local and other relevant communities are engaged in and benefit from wildlife conservation
- ☐ 2.3 — Use of cutting-edge technology is promoted to address key technical limitations hindering eradication of IKB

17. How does your work contribute to these targets?

18. Where are these actions being implemented (geographic scope)?

Objective 3. Effective National Legislation

Progress under this objective is achieved when national legislation clearly prohibits the illegal killing, taking, and trade of birds and establishes appropriate sanctions and legal mechanisms to address offences, in accordance with international commitments.

19. Does your work contribute to this objective?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 20*
- No *Skip to question 22*

Objective 3. To ensure that the illegal killing of birds is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation.

Progress under this objective is achieved when national legislation clearly prohibits the illegal killing, taking, and trade of birds and establishes appropriate sanctions and legal mechanisms to address offences, in accordance with international commitments.

20. How does your work contribute to this target?

21. Where are these actions being implemented (geographic scope)?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Objective 4. Effective Enforcement

Progress under this objective is achieved when competent authorities actively enforce legislation through monitoring, inspections, investigations, and cooperation among enforcement bodies, with adequate capacity and resources to address IKB cases.

22. Does your work contribute to this objective?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Yes *Skip to question 23*
- ◯ No *Skip to question 26*

Objective 4. To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken.

23. If yes, which specific targets are being addressed by your work?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ 4.1 — IKB is afforded appropriate and proportionate enforcement priority at national, regional and local level
- ☐ 4.2 — Support is provided to facilitate effective implementation of inspection, surveillance, detection, investigation, prosecution and application of sanctions

24. How does your work contribute to these targets?

25. Where are these actions being implemented (geographic scope)?

Objective 5. Effective Justice for IKB Offences

Progress under this objective is achieved when IKB offences are effectively processed by the judicial system, with cases brought to court, appropriate sanctions applied, and judicial outcomes contributing to deterrence.

26. Does your work contribute to this objective?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 27*
- No *Skip to question 30*

Objective 5. To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences.

27. If yes, which specific targets are being addressed by your work?

Check all that apply.

- [ ] 5.1 — The average period for initiation and conclusion of court proceedings in IKB cases is reduced
- [ ] 5.2 — All criminal or administrative proceedings in IKB cases where conviction is achieved result in penalties in line with sentencing guidelines
- [ ] 5.3 — A core group of prosecutors and judges have received training in IKB-related aspects
- [ ] 5.4 — Information on judicial processes and sentencing statistics is publicly available in all countries

28. How does your work contribute to these targets?

29. Where are these actions being implemented (geographic scope)?

Feedback for improving future implementation

30. What do you consider to be the main barriers for implementing the Rome Strategic Plan and achieving its ultimate goal?

31. What new actions or approaches would you recommend to strengthen the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan and better achieve its goals? Who should they be implemented by (e.g. the Secreatariat, countries, NGOs)?

32. Are there any other ways in which your organization contributes to the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan? If so, please specify.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire

Your responses will contribute to the mid-term review of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030.

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Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030 - Implementation Progress Assessment (Secretariat)

In RSP, there are many activities where the key actors are the CMS and the Bern Convention. This questionnaire
assesses your progress in implementing the RSP.

This questionnaire assesses progress in implementing the Rome Strategic Plan. Your responses will be used for the mid-term assessment.

We understand that some actions are ongoing. If this is the case, please describe this in the space for notes.

* Indicates required question

Profile

1. **Contact Name** *

2. **Organisation / Institution** *

3. **Job Title / Role**

4. **Email Address** *

Process Objective — National Action Plans (NAPs)

For each action below, use this scale: Not Started / In Progress / Substantially Advanced / Completed

5. **NAP.a: Provide a format including guidance for the development and implementation of National IKB Action Plans.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

6. **NAP.a: Notes / Evidence**

7. **NAP.d: Within the period 2020-2030, organize regional workshops to support the development (finished by 2024) and implementation of National Action Plans, where needed.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

8. **NAP.d: Notes / Evidence**

Objective 1 – Understanding the Scale, Scope and Motivations of IKB

Progress under this objective means that the country has reliable information on the scale and distribution of illegal killing, taking and trade of birds, including identification of hotspots and an understanding of the motivations behind these activities. This may include monitoring systems, national assessments and regular data collection that inform policy and enforcement.

9. **1.2.b: Facilitate the development of agreed methodology and guidance for national surveys and review of the motivations behind IKB.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

10. **1.2.b: Notes**

11. **1.2.c: Summary report of the countries assessments to identify priority countries for action, issues and recommendations is produced** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

12. **1.2.c: Notes**

Objective 2 – Active Prevention of IKB

Progress under this objective means that the country actively works to prevent IKB through awareness campaigns, engagement with key communities and stakeholders, and the use of tools or approaches that reduce the likelihood of offences occurring.

13. **2.1.a: By 2024, provide best practice guidance on how to implement activities aimed at preventing illegal killing targeting the main identified motivations for IKB (for example guidance on alternative livelihoods, education and awareness-raising including on engaging with various stakeholder groups, guidance for National Focal Points etc.)** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

14. **2.1.a: Notes**

15. **2.1.b: Organize regional workshops for government representatives and stakeholders on best practices for outreach aiming at preventing IKB, based on the best practice guidance.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

16. **2.1.b: Notes**

17. **2.1.c: Encourage countries to develop national communication strategies to prevent IKB addressing national stakeholders** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

18. **2.1.c: Notes**

19. **2.1.d: By 2025 and 2030 have developed and implemented two large-scale campaigns on IKB implemented throughout the geographic scope of the Bern Convention and the MIKT** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

20. **2.1.d: Notes**

21. **2.1.e: Provide overarching basic information on IKB, including materials provided by countries and stakeholders on official websites from countries and organisations.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

22. **2.1.e: Notes**

23. **2.1.f: Ensure presence in multilateral fora, including side events and other events in relevant conferences and meetings.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

24. **2.1.f: Notes**

25. **2.2.a: Encourage close engagement with members of local and other relevant communities, key community actors and leaders, local educators and younger generations to mobilize their support in the fight against IKB** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

26. **2.2.a: Notes**

27. **2.2.b: Raise awareness on and use of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity adopted by the Bern Convention and other relevant Codes of conduct.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

28. **2.2.b: Notes**

29. **2.2.c: Support measures for community resilience, which could limit recourse to IKB.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

30. **2.2.c: Notes**

31. **2.3.a: Promote technological expertise and innovative solutions, including needed funding** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

32. **2.3.a: Notes**

33. **2.3.b: Identify fora and experts to facilitate sharing and exchange technological expertise among range states.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

34. **2.3.b: Notes**

35. **2.3.c: Develop, maintain and update a centralized online database shared with all range states listing species/sub-species that can be legally hunted within each range state / regions, hunting quotas and the period during which such hunting may be allowed.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

36. **2.3.c: Notes**

Objective 3 – Effective National Legislation

Progress under this objective means that national legislation clearly prohibits illegal killing, taking and trade of birds and provides appropriate sanctions and legal mechanisms to address offences in line with international commitments.

37. **3.1.b: By December 2020, develop guidelines on effective legislation including examples of model legislation on combating IKB that has proved effective and disseminate to all countries.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

38. **3.1.b: Notes**

39. **3.1.d: Facilitate support for countries in need of guidance in revising national legislation, as requested (rolling task).** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

40. **3.1.d: Notes**

Objective 4 — Effective Enforcement

Progress under this objective means that competent authorities actively enforce legislation through monitoring, inspections, investigations and cooperation between enforcement bodies, with sufficient capacity and resources to address IKB cases.

41. **4.1.a: By 2022, consult national governments and stakeholders on the existing available enforcement resources and prioritization of enforcement at the appropriate jurisdictional level and disseminate the information**

Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

42. **4.1.a: Notes**

43. **4.2.b: By 2023, a programme of support for countries in facilitating exchange of compliance assurance and enforcement expertise, training for inspectors, police and customs officers and other enforcement personnel, capacity-building, intelligence on illegal trade and similar activities, in the areas of relevance to overall capacity building for enforcement against IKB, is developed.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

44. **4.2.b: Notes**

Objective 5 – Effective Justice for IKB Offences

Progress under this objective means that IKB offences are effectively processed by the judicial system, with cases brought to court, appropriate sanctions applied and judicial outcomes contributing to deterrence.

45. **5.3.b: Develop and enact a programme to support experience sharing, and capacity-building among prosecutors and judges involved in IKB cases.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

46. **5.3.b: Notes**

Thank you for your contribution!

Your input will support the assessment and implementation of actions to address illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB).

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Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030 Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region

Implementation Progress Assessment Questionnaire: *Mid-Term Review · 2025–2026*

This questionnaire assesses your country's progress in implementing the Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030 on eradicating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB). For each action, please indicate the current level of progress and add any relevant notes or evidence. At the end of each objective, there are two additional questions. One deals with barriers and one with possible solutions. Please answer those as well, this information is essential for the Secretariat to better understand national needs and challenges.

We encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders (ministries, NGOs, hunters, academia or any other focal points or agencies) in the compilation of this questionnaire and overall assessment.

We understand that some actions are ongoing. If this is the case, please describe this in the space for notes.

Adding your email below will allow for your responses to be automatically sent back to you.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Country Profile

Please complete the contact details below before starting the questionnaire. This information will help the Secretariat follow up if needed.

2. **Country / Range State** *

3. **Organisation / Institution** *

4. **Contact Name** *

5. **Job Title / Role**

6. **Phone number (optional)**

7. **We may contact you for follow-up to better understand your responses or clarify specific points**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] I consent to being contacted for follow-up purposes related to this survey.

8. **Are there other stakeholders who contributed to this assessment?** *

9. **Is there a current National IKB Action Plan or equivalent policy document in place?** * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, a dedicated National IKB Action Plan is in place
- Yes, IKB is covered within a broader biodiversity/wildlife action plan or equivalent policy document
- Under development
- No, but planned
- No

Scoreboard 2023 Submission

10. **Did your country submit the IKB Scoreboard in 2023?** *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, submitted *Skip to section 5 (**Implementation of RSP actions**)*
- Not submitted
- Yes, but incomplete

Skip to question 10

Scoreboard 2023 Submission

11. **We understand that reporting can be challenging. Could you share the main reasons why the 2023 Scoreboard was not submitted or the submission was incomplete? This information will help us provide better-targeted support. Please select all that apply:**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Insufficient staff or capacity to collect and compile the required data
- [ ] Limited awareness that the Scoreboard submission was due
- [ ] Data not available in the required format
- [ ] The Scoreboard format does not fully reflect our national situation
- [ ] Difficulties navigating the online reporting system (ORS)
- [ ] No dedicated national focal point assigned for IKB or Scoreboard reporting
- [ ] Political or administrative changes during the reporting period
- [ ] Lack of funding to support data collection and reporting
- [ ] We plan to submit a comprehensive response in the next Scoreboard
- [ ] Other: _____

12. **What support would help your country submit the next Scoreboard (2026)?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Implementation of RSP actions

The structure of the questionaire follows the RSP objectives - one process-oriented objective (National Action Plans) and five result-oriented objectives:

Objective 1 - To understand the scope, scale of and motivations behind IKB,

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

Objective 3 - To ensure that the illegal killing of birds is addressed effectively and efficiently in national legislation,

Objective 4 - To ensure that effective and efficient enforcement of relevant legislation is undertaken,

Objective 5 - To ensure effective and efficient justice for IKB-related offences.

At the beginning of each section, a short paragraph explains what counts as progress for that objective. It is then followed by specific **Actions, which need to be rated according to the level of completion.** Each **Action** is linked to a specifi RSP objective and target.

For example, question 1.1a, corresponds to:

- *Objective 1 (To understand the scope, scale of and motivations behind IKB),*

- Target 1.1(The scale and scope of IKB is fully understood in each country covered by the scope of the Rome Strategic Plan and monitored regularly), and

- Action a (By the end of May 2020, the countries, in consultation with stakeholders decide on an approach for using the Scoreboard to set a baseline and a methodology for assessing progress toward achieving the Rome Strategic Plan, as referred to in section 5.4 of the plan).

Process Objective — National Action Plans (NAPs)

Progress means that a country has adopted a National IKB Action Plan (or equivalent document), identified priority IKB issues and species, established a coordination structure to guide implementation and started implementing the actions with allocated responsibilities and resources.

For each action below, use this scale: Not Started / In Progress / Substantially Advanced / Completed

13. **NAP.b: Based on the Scoreboard or other relevant source of information, each country assesses the need to develop and adopt a National Action Plan (NAP), taking into consideration recommendations made by the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats.**

Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

14. **NAP.b: Notes / Evidence**

15. **NAP.c: Develop and adopt National Action Plans on IKB and the mechanism for its implementation when assessed as necessary, or develop other relevant documents, implementation tools or mechanisms which include actions to address IKB.**

Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

16. **NAP.c: Notes / Evidence**

17. **What are the main obstacles preventing either the development, adoption, or implementation of National IKB Action Plans (NAPs)? Select all that apply:**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] A NAP is not considered necessary in our country context
- [ ] Lack of financial resources or funding
- [ ] Limited technical capacity or expertise
- [ ] Insufficient multisectoral coordination or stakeholder engagement
- [ ] Lack of national data on on illegal killing, trapping, or trade (IKB)
- [ ] Low political commitment or priority given to this issue
- [ ] Legal or regulatory barriers
- [ ] Other: _____

18. **What actions would be most effective to address these obstacles and support the development or implementation of NAPs? Select all that apply:**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Receiving technical or expert support
- [ ] Organisation of regional or national workshops for capacity-building
- [ ] Establishment of national committees or multi-stakeholder platforms
- [ ] Development of national level monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- [ ] Securing dedicated funding for NAP implementation
- [ ] Adoption of legal or policy instruments addressing IKB
- [ ] Other: _____

Objective 1 – Understanding the Scale, Scope and Motivations of IKB

Progress under this objective means that the country has reliable information on the scale, scope and distribution of illegal killing, taking and trade of birds, including identification of hotspots and an understanding of the motivations behind these activities. This may include monitoring systems, national assessments and regular data collection that inform policy and enforcement.

For each action below, use this scale: Not Started / In Progress / Substantially Advanced / Completed

19. **1.1.a: Countries, in consultation with stakeholders, decide on an approach for using the Scoreboard to set a baseline and a methodology for assessing progress toward achieving the Rome Strategic Plan.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

20. **1.1.a: Notes**

21. **1.1.b: IKB hotspots are identified and a monitoring system is established.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

22. **1.1.b: Notes**

23. **1.1.c: Monitoring carried out using the Scoreboard as agreed approach to assess the scale and scope of IKB as well as activities to address it. Findings resulting from relevant research studies in the region will be considered.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

24. **1.1.c: Notes**

25. **1.2.a: Countries develop surveys (or review existing ones) to understand motivations for IKB and implement them.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

26. **1.2.a: Notes**

27. **1.2.b: National surveys are completed based on agreed methodology and guidance, to further refine understanding of IKB motivations.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

28. **1.2.b: Notes**

29. **1.2.d: Recommendations are issued to address the identified motivations and appropriate action is included in National Action Plans and implemented.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

30. **1.2.d: Notes**

31. **What are the main barriers to understanding the scale, hotspots and motivations of IKB in your country? Select up to 3**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Lack of systematic monitoring programmes
- [ ] Insufficient funding for monitoring or research
- [ ] Lack of trained personnel
- [ ] Lack of standardized methodologies and lack of baseline
- [ ] Limited reporting of incidents
- [ ] Lack of data sharing between institutions
- [ ] Limited socio-economic research on motivations
- [ ] Difficulty engaging communities involved in IKB
- [ ] Low political priority
- [ ] Other: _____

32. **Which actions would be most important or effective to improve understanding of IKB in your country? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Identifying and monitoring IKB hotspots
- [ ] Developing national monitoring systems
- [ ] Research on motivations and drivers of IKB
- [ ] Collaboration with NGOs and research institutions
- [ ] International technical guidance
- [ ] Other: _____

Objective 2 – Active Prevention of IKB

Progress under this objective means that the country actively works to prevent IKB through awareness campaigns, engagement with key communities and stakeholders, and the use of tools or approaches that reduce the likelihood of offences occurring.

For each action below, use this scale: Not Started / In Progress / Substantially Advanced / Completed

33. **2.1.e: Provide overarching basic information on IKB, including materials provided by countries and stakeholders, on official websites from countries and organisations.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

34. **2.1.e: Notes**

35. **2.1.f: Ensure presence in multilateral fora, including side events and other events in relevant conferences and meetings.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

36. **2.1.f: Notes**

37. **2.2.a: Encourage close engagement with local and other relevant communities, key community actors and leaders, local educators and younger generations to mobilise their support in the fight against IKB.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

38. **2.2.a: Notes**

39. **2.2.b: Raise awareness on and use of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity and other relevant Codes of Conduct.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

40. **2.2.b: Notes**

41. **2.2.c: Support measures for community resilience which could limit recourse to IKB.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

42. **2.2.c: Notes**

43. **2.3.a: Promote technological expertise and innovative solutions (e.g. drones, DNA sequencing, human-detecting cameras), including needed funding.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

44. **2.3.a: Notes**

45. **2.3.c: Develop, maintain and update a centralized online database listing species that can be legally hunted, hunting quotas, and periods during which hunting is allowed.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

46. **2.3.c: Notes**

47. **What are the main barriers to preventing IKB in your country? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Low public awareness of IKB and its impacts
- [ ] Cultural traditions linked to bird killing or trapping
- [ ] Economic incentives or lack of alternative livelihoods
- [ ] Lack of community engagement
- [ ] Lack of funding for prevention actions
- [ ] Limited use of technology for monitoring and detection
- [ ] Lack of coordination between stakeholders
- [ ] Poor enforcement capacity
- [ ] Lack of political support
- [ ] Other: _____

48. **Which actions are most effective for prevention in your national context? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Public awareness campaigns
- [ ] National communication strategies
- [ ] Engagement with local communities and leaders
- [ ] Promotion of codes of conduct for hunters
- [ ] Alternative livelihood programmes
- [ ] Use of technological tools (e.g. drones, cameras)
- [ ] Sharing technological expertise between countries
- [ ] Other: _____

Objective 3 – Effective National Legislation

Progress under this objective means that national legislation clearly prohibits illegal killing, taking and trade of birds and provides appropriate sanctions and legal mechanisms to address offences in line with international commitments.

For each action below, use this scale: Not Started / In Progress / Substantially Advanced / Completed

49. **3.1.a: Undertake an expert assessment of national legislation addressing IKB in each range state to identify possible gaps.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

50. **3.1.a: Notes**

51. **3.1.c: Develop and/or revise national legislation and report on progress as necessary.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

52. **3.1.c: Notes**

53. **What are the main obstacles to having effective legislation addressing IKB in your country? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Existing legislation is insufficient or outdated
- [ ] Weak penalties for wildlife crimes
- [ ] Lack of political support for legislative reform
- [ ] Slow legislative processes
- [ ] Lack of legal expertise
- [ ] Poor implementation of existing laws
- [ ] Other: _____

54. **Which actions would most improve national legislation addressing IKB? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Expert assessments of national legislation
- [ ] Development of model legislation guidelines
- [ ] Revision of national legislation
- [ ] International legal support and guidance
- [ ] Other: _____

Objective 4 — Effective Enforcement

Progress under this objective means that competent authorities actively enforce legislation through monitoring, inspections, investigations and cooperation between enforcement bodies, with sufficient capacity and resources to address IKB cases.

For each action below, use this scale: Not Started / In Progress / Substantially Advanced / Completed

55. **4.1.b: Organize specialized training for compliance assurance and enforcement personnel dealing with IKB issues, including inspectors, police officers, prosecutors and judges.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

56. **4.1.b: Notes**

57. **4.1.c: Develop specialized enforcement units dealing with wildlife crime.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

58. **4.1.c: Notes**

59. **4.2.a: Ensure that specialist support and specific information and materials for raising awareness is available to relevant police forces.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

60. **4.2.a: Notes**

61. **4.2.b: Ensure a sufficient number of specialised staff and appropriate resources for investigation, detection and field control, as well as necropsies, other forensic analysis and related activities.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

62. **4.2.b: Notes**

63. **4.2.d: Where considered appropriate and necessary, enforcement agencies implement the following actions (check all that apply):**

Check all that apply.

	Not Started	In Progress	Substantially Advanced	Completed
4.2.d.I Survey inspection, surveillance and active detection of IKB, including regular patrolling and monitoring at known blackspots, markets, internet, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.2.d.II Ensure prompt and effective investigation of all incidences of IKB detected or reported to authorities.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.2.d.III Take the necessary measures to ensure that IKB is punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions; transmit	☐	☐	☐	☐

cases promptly for prosecution in accordance with the law.				
4.2.d.IV Maintain records of all incidences of IKB detected or reported, the response of authorities and action resulting from investigation, and make them publicly available.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.2.d.V Have access to the database listed under Target 2.3, Action c.	☐	☐	☐	☐

64. **4.2.d: Notes**

65. **What are the main barriers to effective enforcement against IKB in your country? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Lack of enforcement resources
- [ ] Lack of trained personnel
- [ ] Wildlife crime is not sufficiently prioritised
- [ ] Lack of specialised units
- [ ] Limited intelligence on illegal trade
- [ ] Lack of forensic capacity
- [ ] Weak inter-agency coordination
- [ ] Other: _____

66. **Which actions would most improve enforcement against IKB in your country? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Training for enforcement personnel
- [ ] Establishing specialised wildlife crime units
- [ ] Increased resources for investigation and monitoring
- [ ] International cooperation and intelligence sharing
- [ ] Monitoring of hotspots and markets
- [ ] Development of incident databases
- [ ] Increasing political support
- [ ] Other: _____

Objective 5 – Effective Justice for IKB Offences

Progress under this objective means that IKB offences are effectively processed by the judicial system, with cases brought to court, appropriate sanctions applied and judicial outcomes contributing to deterrence.

For each action below, use this scale: Not Started / In Progress / Substantially Advanced / Completed

67. **5.1.a: Adopt national sentencing guidelines for IKB cases (where the National Criminal Code does not contain the judicial requirements related to IKB cases) based on international guidance and recommendations.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

68. **5.1.a: Notes**

69. **5.2.a: Include sentencing guidelines, and have regard to existing international guidance, in training activities at national level for relevant justice officials and staff regarding IKB.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

70. **5.2.a: Notes**

71. **5.3.a: Continue training sessions for the specialisation of prosecutors and judges on IKB-related aspects, complementing trainings organised by the European Commission, ENPE and other organisations. The target is that at least 50% of judges and prosecutors who deal with wildlife crime within the country have received training in IKB-related aspects.**

Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

72. **5.3.a: Notes**

73. **5.3.b: Develop and enact a programme to support experience sharing and capacity-building among prosecutors and judges involved in IKB cases.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

74. **5.3.b: Notes**

75. **5.4.a: Record and make publicly accessible information on prosecution and sentences/sanctions applied in the case of IKB-related criminal or administrative proceedings, in accordance with national law.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

76. **5.4.a: Notes**

77. **5.4.b: Achieve that information on judicial processes and sentencing statistics is publicly available in all countries, so that the public can access data on IKB-related prosecutions and outcomes.** Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Not Started
- In Progress
- Substantially Advanced
- Completed

78. **5.4.b: Notes**

79. **What limits the effective prosecution of IKB offences in your country? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Slow judicial processes
- [ ] Lack of specialised prosecutors or judges
- [ ] Lack of training on wildlife crime for judicial staff
- [ ] Weak penalties imposed by courts
- [ ] Lack of evidence or forensic capacity
- [ ] Limited transparency of judicial outcomes
- [ ] Other: _____

80. **Which actions would most improve the judicial response to IKB in your country? Select up to 3.**

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Sentencing guidelines for wildlife crime
- [ ] Training for prosecutors and judges
- [ ] Exchange of experience between countries
- [ ] Public access to prosecution and sentencing data
- [ ] Development of case law databases
- [ ] Other: _____

Support from the Secretariat

81. **How could the Secretariat support you better to implement the Rome Strategic Plan and help to reduce the illegal killing of birds?**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

82. **Any additional context about your country's situation regarding IKB (optional)**

Thank you for completing this assessment.

Your responses will contribute to the mid-term review of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030 and help the Bern Convention and CMS MIKT Secretariat provide better-targeted support to your country.

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Annex 3. Country-reported obstacles and priority actions from the mid-term questionnaire.



Priority Actions by Strategic Objective

Top 5 actions most frequently requested by responding countries



Source: IKB Mid-Term Review Questionnaire - Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030 (n = 27 countries)

Annex 4 - Mapping of recommendations to RSP elements

Annex 4 — Mapping of recommendations to RSP elements

Each recommendation from Section 5 of this assessment is mapped to the corresponding element of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030. Recommendations that do not map to any specific RSP Objective, Target or Action are marked accordingly; in those cases the recommendation represents either a methodological adjustment to the assessment framework, an operational addition not foreseen in the Plan, or a re-weighting of how an existing element is read.

Recommendation	RSP Objective(s)	RSP element mapped	Comment
Section 5.1 — The principle			
The remaining four years should be organised around reduction of IKB, not the appearance of plan implementation.	RSP overall	Overarching long-term goal (eradication of IKB). RSP 2030 Goal (50% reduction).	No direct association with any specific Action. This is a re-statement of the Plan's own goal as the operating criterion for the second half.
Concentrate effort where the IKB is, not spread evenly across countries.	RSP overall	Section 4 — Vision ("distinct regional focus on Mediterranean hotspots").	No direct association with any specific Objective or Action. The Plan recognises the regional focus principle but applies its actions universally across all 54 Range States.
Where state action is the bottleneck and the state is not moving, non-state action should be the primary route, not the supplementary one.	RSP overall	Main Actors columns across all Objectives include stakeholders, NGOs, hunters' federations.	The RSP names non-state actors as supporting actors but does not designate them as primary delivery in any specific Action. This recommendation reweights the existing actor structure.
Section 5.2 — Where to concentrate effort			
Focus on the four highest-IKB countries (Italy, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon), plus Libya	RSP overall	Section 4 — Vision (Mediterranean regional focus). Severity classes (Scoreboard methodology).	The Plan does not contain a class-based prioritisation of effort. This recommendation operationalises the Mediterranean-focus principle.
Dedicated situation analysis for each of the four Class I countries plus Libya by end-2026, feeding a focused five-country programme for 2027–2030.	Process objective; Objective 1	Process Action b (by Dec 2021): each Contracting Party assesses the need to develop and adopt a NAP. Objective 1, Target 1.1, Action b (by Dec 2024): IKB hotspots identified and a monitoring system established in each Range State.	The situation analyses operationalise two Actions that are formally due (assessment of NAP need by 2021; hotspot identification by 2024) and overdue in these five countries.

Recommendation	RSP Objective(s)	RSP element mapped	Comment
Class III countries as the next priority	RSP overall	No direct mapping to any Action.	No direct association. The Plan does not contain a Class-based prioritisation of effort.
Class IV countries remain in the Plan but receive light-touch reporting expectations.	RSP overall	No direct mapping to any Action.	No direct association. The Plan does not differentiate reporting expectations by severity class.
Section 5.3 — Recommendations for governments			
Training of prosecutors and judges.	Objective 5	Target 5.3 (Prosecutors and judges trained on wildlife crime). Action 5.2.a (include sentencing guidelines in training activities at national level for relevant justice officials).	The recommendation reinforces an existing Target and Action that the chain analysis has flagged as not achieved at the 2025 milestone.
Bilateral diplomatic channels used to identify needs and offer support to non-reporting countries, or to apply pressure where non-reporting reflects political will rather than capacity.	RSP overall	No direct mapping.	No direct association. The RSP does not contain a peer-pressure mechanism or a formal role for bilateral diplomacy.
Data (R2). A baseline should be submitted by every Class I and Class III country, even a provisional one.	Objective 1	Target 1.1 (Scale and scope understood and monitored). Action 1.1.a (by May 2020): set a baseline and monitoring methodology. Action 1.1.b (by Dec 2024): hotspots identified and monitoring system established.	Both formally due Actions are overdue in most Class I and III countries. The provisional baseline (NGO field data or Brochet et al.) is an interpretation route consistent with the Plan's Section 5.3 ("external data including those provided by BirdLife and other NGOs").
Where governments lack capacity to monitor, international technical guidance and collaboration with NGOs and research institutions should be developed	Objective 1	Target 1.1; Action 1.1.a and 1.1.b. Means of verification: documentation provided by countries and stakeholders. Main actors: countries and stakeholders with support from the Secretariats.	The Plan already names stakeholders as supporting actors for these Actions. This recommendation activates the existing structure.
Increased resources for investigation and monitoring, increased political support, and training.	Objective 4	Target 4.1 (Enforcement priority). Target 4.2 (Inspection, surveillance, investigation).	The recommendation reflects country-reported obstacles aligned to these Targets.

Recommendation	RSP Objective(s)	RSP element mapped	Comment
Specialised wildlife crime units in all high-IKB countries should be reset with a realistic 2028 target.	Objective 4	Target 4.1.	The 2025 milestone for specialised units is missed across high-IKB countries; this recommendation proposes a new realistic date.
Shift from legislative drafting to monitoring and analysis of whether laws produce intended changes.	Objective 3	Target 3.1 (Appropriate national legislation). Indicators (qualitative): degree to which legislation responds to RSP targets.	Target 3.1 covers appropriate legislation but does not contain a monitoring of implementation Action. This recommendation extends the scope of Target 3.1 into the implementation phase.
Where political conditions for a formal NAP do not exist, the establishment of a functioning multi-stakeholder committee should be the realistic step.	Process objective	Qualitative indicator iii: existence of a multi-stakeholder committee. Process Action b: assessment of the need for a NAP.	Link to the existing qualitative indicator iii. The recommendation changes how the indicator is read: the committee becomes the substantive test, the NAP document becomes secondary.
Section 5.4 — Recommendations for non-state actors			
Monitoring and trend-tracking. Where governments do not produce a baseline, non-state actors should produce one and the Plan should treat it as the formal number.	Objective 1	Target 1.1, Action 1.1.a (baseline). Means of verification ("documentation provided by countries and stakeholders"). Section 5.3 of the Plan ("external data including BirdLife and other NGOs").	The Plan already foresees external data as a source. This recommendation formalises the use of NGO figures as the default where the government does not submit.
Public awareness campaigns are the most-requested action under Objective 2; donor instruments (LIFE while available) should be directed at large-scale NGO-led campaigns in Class I and III countries.	Objective 2	Target 2.1 (General public recognises IKB as a serious offence). Indicator and means of verification: public awareness surveys, communication campaigns.	NGO consortia delivery is consistent with the "Main Actors" structure for Target 2.1. The Secretariat endorsement element is a coordination addition.
Field enforcement support and evidence collection through evidence dossiers travelling through CMS/Bern Convention reporting channels and EU environmental compliance mechanisms.	Objective 4; Objective 5	Target 4.2 (Inspection, surveillance, investigation). Targets 5.1–5.4 (Justice cluster).	The RSP does not designate non-state evidence collection as an Action, although stakeholders are named as main actors in the enforcement and justice cluster. This recommendation extends an implied role into a formal one.
Local communities and alternative livelihoods. NGO and IUCN-led programmes have contributed most to these targets; donors should continue to support this work.	Objective 2	Target 2.2 (Local communities engaged). Indicator: alternative livelihoods.	The recommendation aligns with the existing Target and indicator and confirms the current delivery pattern.

Recommendation	RSP Objective(s)	RSP element mapped	Comment
Section 5.5 — Recommendations for the Secretariats			
Increase efforts to convene interested parties. Recurring prosecutors' workshop (from 2027); North Africa NAP workshop 2026 followed by a Class I + Libya roundtable 2027.	Process objective; Objective 5	Process Action a (Secretariats provide format/guidance for NAPs). Objective 5, Action 5.2.a (training, ENPE-supported). Main Actors columns: Secretariats as conveners across multiple Objectives.	Direct link to existing Secretariat-led Actions. The recommendation makes the convening role recurring rather than one-off.
Engage the donor community to support identified gaps; the Secretariats have the mandate to identify funding gaps.	RSP overall	No direct mapping.	No direct association. The RSP does not contain a funding/donor coordination Action. This recommendation proposes an addition to the Secretariats' formal role.
Section 5.6 — Framework adjustments			
Reclassify the severity classes (current four-class system has ranges that are too broad).	RSP overall	Scoreboard methodology (severity classes used in Section 5 Parameters).	No direct mapping to any Objective or Action. This is a methodological adjustment to the Scoreboard framework rather than to the RSP's targets.
Adapt the Scoreboard to better capture RSP implementation and outcomes (for 2026 or 2029 cycle).	RSP overall	Section 5.4 (Assessments) — Scoreboard as the primary self-assessment tool.	No direct mapping to any Objective. This recommendation affects the assessment framework rather than the Objectives.
Default position on non-submitting countries: absence of data should be treated as an assumption about implementation; available external data should be used by order of priority.	RSP overall	Section 5.3 (External data including BirdLife and other NGOs). Section 5.4 (Assessments).	The Plan already names external data as an available source. This recommendation specifies how silence should be interpreted, which the current framework leaves open.
Existence of a National Action Plan: distinguish a "paper NAP" from a "live NAP", with the criterion being a committee that meets regularly.	Process objective	Indicator (quantitative) ii: degree of implementation of NAPs. Indicator (qualitative) iii: existence of multi-stakeholder committee.	The recommendation operationalises the existing degree of implementation indicator by tying it to the committee criterion.
Collect and use the qualitative indicators that already exist alongside the quantitative ones, when assessing the RSP in 2030.	All Objectives	Each Target has a qualitative indicator alongside its quantitative indicator (Process Objective indicator iii; 1.1 indicator iii; 1.2 indicator iii; 2.1 indicator iii; etc.).	The qualitative indicators are already part of the Plan; this recommendation is a reminder to collect qualitative data to facilitate future evaluation and learing .

Mapping legend

Direct mapping	Recommendation maps to a specific RSP Objective, Target, Action or indicator.
Partial mapping	Recommendation relates to an existing Objective or Target but extends or reweights it, or only partly fits an existing Action.
No direct association	No specific Objective, Target or Action in the RSP corresponds to the recommendation.

Most of the substantive recommendations in Section 5.3 (governments) and 5.4 (non-state actors) map directly to existing RSP Targets and Actions, and the mid-term assessment is identifying that those Actions are not being implemented at the rate the Plan requires rather than that new Actions are needed. The recommendations in Section 5.1 (principle), 5.2 (concentration), 5.5 (Secretariat engagement of donors) and most of 5.6 (framework adjustments) do not map to specific Actions because they propose operational, structural or methodological additions to the Plan rather than substantive new commitments. The qualitative-indicator recommendation (5.6, last item) is a strong case for using what the Plan already contains rather than adding new measurement infrastructure ahead of the 2030 assessment.

Annex 5 — Proposed revision of the IKB severity classification

The current four-class system uses bands too wide to guide action or to communicate progress. This annex proposes five severity classes based on the estimated number of birds illegally killed per year, and a confidence rating based on the source of the data. The class tells us how large the problem is, the confidence rating tells us what type of actions should be prioritized.

1. Severity classes

Five classes are proposed, with boundaries drawn where the country data shows clear gaps between clusters of countries. Each line therefore separates genuinely different-sized problems, and country placement inside a certain class can withstand errors in data (up to a certain degree). The 7,000 floor is retained from the current system.

Class	Estimated IKB per year	
1	≥ 1,000,000	A large gap between Lebanon at 2.3M and Cyprus at ~870k makes 1M a natural cut.
2	250,000 – 1,000,000	A visible gap between Spain/Albania (~260k) and the next cluster (~130k)
3	50,000 – 250,000	A gap between Turkey at 71k and Bosnia at 35k
4	7,000 – 50,000	Persistent low-level killing; the 7,000 floor is the existing "insignificance" threshold, kept for continuity
5	< 7,000	Separated from Class 4 because the required response is different (periodic review or light monitoring, not action).

2. Confidence rating

Each country's estimate is rated by its source, not by judgement:

- **Measured.** National IKB number submitted via a recent Scoreboard derived from reliable monitoring.
- **Inferred.** Current classification and trend from the Killing 3.0 analysis, no fresh absolute number. Data from old Scoreboards
- **Assumed.** Brochet (2016/2017) figure carried forward; no recent report.

3. Type of action, by class and confidence

The class sets the scale of the response; the confidence rating sets the first move. Where the number is trusted, act on the problem; where it is not, act on the measurement first.

Class	Measured	Inferred	Assumed
1 – 2	High priority Targeted intervention	Act + baseline in parallel	Baseline first
3 – 4	Targeted intervention	Act + firm up estimate	Re-measure
5	Periodic review	Light monitoring	Verification survey

4. Truly non-existent IKB

Class 5 is split by confidence rating, not by a new numeric threshold:

- **Verified absent.** Class 5 with a Measured or Inferred rating (e.g., Monaco, Liechtenstein, and other states with documented near-zero killing). Watching brief only — no dedicated programme.

- **Undetermined low.** Class 5 with an Assumed rating. Requires a verification survey before the country can be recorded as absent.

This distinguishes countries that have *shown* IKB to be non-existent from those where it has simply never been counted.

5. Nature of the killing

The type of species affected modifies priority within a class — 6,000 raptors call for a stronger response than 6,000 common passerines. This information will not always be available. Where it is documented, it is applied as one of the factors in setting priority actions; where it is not, the class alone determines priority.

6. Examples of how the new system could be used

Class 1 (>1,000,000 birds/year): Italy vs. Egypt

Both countries sit near the top of the region — Italy at ~5.6M, Egypt at ~5.4M — but the evidence behind those numbers is very different. Italy submits Scoreboards, has a national action plan on IKB, and can draw on a large body of NGO monitoring; its rating is **Measured**. Egypt has never submitted a national baseline, and the 5.4M figure is Brochet's 2016 estimate with a possible range from 0.3M to 10.6M; its rating is **Assumed**.

- **Italy - Enforce.** The problem is well characterised. Strengthen enforcement at known hotspots, target the dominant killing practices, and track reductions against the baseline through successive reporting rounds.
- **Egypt - Baseline assessment first.** An enforcement programme implemented without a proper understanding of the true scale, geography and species involved would most likely fail. The top priority is commissioning a national IKB assessment (e.g. through a partner NGO or a bilateral scientific project) before any intervention plan is written.

Class 2 (250,000 – 1,000,000 birds/year): Cyprus vs. Libya

Both are in Class 2 — Cyprus at ~870k (down from a 2.3M), Libya at ~503k — but the evidence base differs sharply. Cyprus has 2024 NGO data documenting a 50–74% long-term reduction; its rating is **Inferred**. Libya has never submitted a Scoreboard and there is no recent independent estimate; its rating is **Assumed**.

- **Cyprus - Act + baseline in parallel.** The trajectory is well understood and enforcement is already producing results, so continue targeted work at the remaining hotspots. In parallel, formalise a national baseline through the Scoreboard so that further reductions can be tracked with confidence and the class placement is anchored on submitted rather than inferred data.
- **Libya – Baseline assessment first.** A credible intervention cannot be designed on a decade-old estimate for a country with no independent monitoring. The first step is a fresh assessment — most likely commissioned through a partner NGO (or under a UN-supported mechanism given the security context), after which the class placement can be confirmed or revised and an action plan built on evidence.