Joint Meeting on IKB

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

(Online 22 October 2026)

UNEP/CMS/MIKT7/Inf.2.1

RESOLUTION 11.16 (REV.COP15)

THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

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.

UN environment programme

CMS

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP15)

Original: English

THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th Meeting (Campo Grande, March 2026)

Recalling Article III (5) of the Convention, which provides for Parties that are Range States to prohibit the taking of species included in Appendix I, and Article V (5) (k) on Guidelines for AGREEMENTS, which suggests, where appropriate and feasible, each Agreement should prepare for procedures for coordinating action to suppress illegal taking,

Further recalling that the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU), the Action Plan for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds (AEMLAP) as adopted through Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP15), and most other bird-related MOUs and action plans under CMS include measures related to the protection of birds,

Acknowledging the collaborative effort of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime working to bring coordinated support to national wildlife law enforcement agencies and regional networks, and the need to establish a coordination mechanism between the Consortium and CMS in relation to the mandates laid out in this Resolution on illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds,

Noting the *Guidelines to Prevent Poisoning of Migratory Birds* as adopted through Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP15) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds* and the AEMLAP,

Noting the definition of the illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds as agreed in the European Conference on Illegal Killing of Birds, Larnaca, Cyprus, in 2011: “Activities which are illegal under national or regional law/regulations and involve the deliberate pursuit, killing, injuring or catching alive of wild birds or are aimed at illegal marketing live or dead specimens of wild birds, including their parts and derivatives. Such activities include but are not limited to: killing/trapping in closed periods, in areas with prohibitions in force, by unauthorised persons and/or protected species; use of prohibited means and substances; breach of bag limits; possession, donation, use, movement, transfer, offer for sale, advertisement, consumption, import, introduction from the sea, transit or export, of specimens.”,

Regretting that illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds still represent important factors against the achievement and maintenance of the favourable conservation status of bird populations in all major flyways, negatively affecting conservation actions undertaken by States and resulting in adverse impacts on the conservation, legal hunting, agriculture and tourism sectors,

Concerned that there are continued and intensified illegal killing, including poisoning via usage of poisoned carcasses and poisoning baits against carnivores, taking and trade of migratory birds in some areas, although also with significant reductions in others, and that the risk remains high that this is contributing to population declines of a number of species including some that are listed on CMS Appendix I and globally threatened with extinction (e.g., Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus)*, Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola)* and Marsh Seedeater (*Sporophila palustris)*),

Aware that the use of mist nets and other nets is a major cause of illegal, killing, taking and trade of birds, including of CMS Appendix I species and that control of the production and sale of such nets can be the most effective way of reducing such illegal activity,

Aware that subsistence uses, recreational activities and organized crime are key drivers of such illegal killing, taking and trade for, *inter alia*, supply of food, trophies, cage birds, and support of traditional practices,

Aware that there is need for full analysis of motivation and drivers of deliberate illegal killing of birds, which could be country or region specific,

Aware that actions are necessary to decrease the demand and/or to change consumer behaviour with regards to products, such as food, taxidermies, decorative and songbirds, live birds of prey, bird parts used for belief-based use, etc.,

Aware that such illegal killing, taking and trade are a cause of great national and international public concern along each flyway,

Welcoming the practical responses by several Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments to international concern about illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds,

Noting the Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the protection of the environment through criminal law,

Noting the adoption of the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, by the Council of Europe,

Welcoming the recent enhanced focus on tackling the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean region including through:

- Recommendation No 164 (2013) of the Bern Convention Standing Committee on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds;
- The formerly AEWA-led, multi-stakeholder *Plan of Action to address bird trapping along the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt and Libya* (UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.10.12) the development of which was funded by the Government of Germany and which was integrated into the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT); and
- The BirdLife International-led reviews of the scale and extent of illegal killing and taking in the Mediterranean, Northern and Central Europe and the Caucasus, and its development of guidance for monitoring the extent of such illegal activities, updated in 2022.

Also welcoming the review of the scale and scope of illegal killing and taking in the Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq led by BirdLife International and the Ornithological Society of the Middle East with cooperation with several governmental and non-governmental organizations in the region to assess the scale and scope of illegal killing of migratory birds and further welcoming the collaboration in place to develop a roadmap to address the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB) in this region,

Noting with concern that recent work coordinated by BirdLife International (Serratosa et al. 2024), found that 38% of tracked large migratory birds in the African-Eurasian flyway where cause of death could be determined were illegally killed,

Noting also that the 2026 CMS review of available information on the impact of take and trade of migratory birds for consumption in Africa and Eurasia (UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.28.1b), found the majority of CMS-listed species taken for consumption were reported as taken illegally,

Recognizing the role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the species' survival,

Welcoming the Declaration of the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade which states that "*Action to tackle the illegal trade in elephants and rhinoceroses will strengthen our effectiveness in tackling the illegal trade in other endangered species*",

Acknowledging the role of legal and sustainable hunting of birds in sustainable livelihoods and conservation of habitats and the role of the hunting community in promoting and encouraging compliance with the law and sustainable hunting practices,

Welcoming the recent synergies on actions to prevent illegal killing created between the Bern Convention, the European Union, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), AEWA and the Raptors MOU and encouraging the continuation of their cooperation on the conservation of migratory birds,

Noting the Cairo Declaration supporting a zero-tolerance approach on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Region adopted at its first meeting,

Welcoming the support from the Bern Convention Standing Committee to the organization of joint meetings of the Bern Convention Special Focal Points (SFPs) Network and MIKT, and acknowledging the productive cooperation established between both networks in the fight against illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds,

Welcoming the work on the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region, as a coordinated effort by the MIKT and the Bern Convention,

Acknowledging the efforts of the CMS Secretariat to build a sustainable line of cooperation with INTERPOL and EUROPOL within the framework of MIKT, towards effective law enforcement responses in the Mediterranean and serving as a basis to support other task forces established to address the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in other regions, when appropriate,

Welcoming the cooperation between the CMS Secretariat and the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) to train prosecutors and investigators from countries in the Mediterranean that have responsibility for law enforcement to protect migratory birds,

Acknowledging the need to establish lines of action and co-operation on criminal matters affecting the environment in order to harmonize the national legislations,

Welcoming the support of the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union and the efforts of European BirdLife partners to assess levels of implementation and enforcement of Directive 2008/99/EC on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law by EU Member States, and welcoming also the creation of a European Network of Environmental Crime as a coordination mechanism between legal and other practitioners which works to prevent and prosecute illegal bird killing and capture, facilitate information exchange, as well as builds communication channels with other networks and MEA Secretariats,

Recognizing the work of the East Asian-Australasian Flyways Partnership (EAAFP) to prevent illegal hunting[1] and unsustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds, and welcoming the establishment of the task force on illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds along the flyway, modelled on MIKT,

Acknowledging the interest of the Range States in developing an initiative against illegal taking of birds in South-West Asia expressed at *the BirdLife International Workshop toward a Roadmap to tackle illegal killing of birds in the Middle East* held in Jordan in October 2021,

Welcoming the kind support of the government of Saudi Arabia to host the working group meeting in January 2024, and to the establishment of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force, launched in May 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and supporting of the Coordinator,

Noting the European Commission Communication COM (2016), 710 final, Commission Work Programme 2017 “Delivering a Europe that protects, empowers and defends”, and welcoming the initiative under Priority 10 envisaging an Action Plan on Environmental Compliance Assurance to support Member States on the promotion, monitoring and compliance enforcement by duty-holders with EU environmental law,

Noting the European Commission Communication COM (2017) 198 final, “An Action Plan for nature, people the economy” and the associated Commission Staff Working Document (2017) 139 final, “Factsheet providing details of actions in the Action Plan for Nature, people and the economy and the Council Conclusions of 19 June 2017,

Noting the European Commission Communication (COM (2020) 380 final) *EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives*, and, in particular, actions 3.2. on Stepping up implementation and enforcement of EU environmental legislation and 4.2.2. on Trade policy,

Noting the EU Commission Communication COM (2018) 10 final “EU actions to improve environmental compliance and governance” and the associated Commission Staff WD (2018) 10 final “Environmental Compliance Assurance — scope, concept and need for EU actions”,

Welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, approved by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022, and its Target 5, to ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal,

[1] There are regional differences in the agreed terminology, in English, for the problem of the illegal removal of birds from the wild; in Europe and the Mediterranean, the agreed term is “illegal killing and taking” to avoid confusion with legitimate hunting practices, whereas in Asia-Australasia and South-West Asia regions, the agreed term is “illegal hunting and taking” due to cultural sensitivities.

Referring to the *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032* and in particular Target 3.1 which states "By 2032, any take, use and trade of migratory species listed in CMS Appendices is sustainable, safe and legal, overexploitation is prevented, risk of pathogen spillover is reduced and negative impacts on non-target species and their ecosystems are minimized' *(*CMS Resolution 14.1 (Rev.COP15)*)*,

Having regard to the Strategic Plan of AEWA 2019-2027, especially Objective 2.1.b: "By MOP8, Parties establish and/or maintain adequate systems for making realistic estimates of all forms of waterbird harvesting, including illegal taking, at national level" and 2.2.e. "By MOP9, Parties that have not already done so implement measures to reduce, and as far as possible eliminate, illegal taking (in accordance with paragraph 4.1.6 of the AEWA Action Plan)" and the Action Plan of the Raptors MOU, especially Priority Actions 1.2 to ensure legislation protects all birds of prey from deliberate killing, disturbance, egg-collection, wild taking and trade and 1.3 on banning poisons,

Acknowledging the widespread adoption of the zero-tolerance approach, as well as progress at the Party level towards the monitoring of illegal activities and the adoption of a coordinated approach covering each stage of the chain of activities related to illegal killing, taking or trade,

Taking note of the declaration and outcomes of the Global Flyways Summit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, April 2018, related to Illegal Killing of Birds, and

Noting the report '*Bird hunting in mainland Southeast Asia: Situation analysis and recommendations for conservation action'*, produced in contribution to Objective 1 of the ITTEA workplan 2023-2027 and coordinated by BirdLife International, in cooperation with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative and several non-governmental organizations and government agencies in the region and further noting the collaboration in place to develop national action plans to address the illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds in this region,

The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to commit to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to any deliberate illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds and to adopting a full and proactive role in fighting against these illegal activities, thereby notably contributing to the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its Target 5 on illegal use, harvest and trade of wild species;

2. *Calls* on Parties and *invites* non-Parties and stakeholders to prioritize cases of illegal killing, taking and trade of birds, with special attention to profit-motivated crime and organized crime, taking into account the different levels of persons involved, from individuals to organized crime groups;

3. *Calls* on Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, to engage in immediate cooperation to address the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds through support of, and collaboration with, existing international initiatives and mechanisms to address these issues, as well as establishing (as appropriate and where added value can be assured) Task Forces targeted at facilitating concerted action to eliminate illegal killing, taking and trade of shared populations of migratory birds in those areas where such problems are prevalent;

4. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties, in collaboration with relevant frameworks and stakeholders, where concerns regarding cross-border illegal killing exist, to collaborate under the framework of CMS regarding information-sharing on reported incidents, collating data and piloting solutions, such as best practice guidance for hunting tourism companies;

5. *Calls* on the Secretariat to convene an Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean[2] in conjunction with the Secretariats of AEWA, the Raptors MOU, the AEMLAP and the Bern Convention, involving the Mediterranean Parties, including the European Union, other interested Parties, including from outside the region, and other stakeholders such as BirdLife International and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE), in line with the Terms of Reference in Annex 1, and to facilitate the implementation of existing guidelines and action plans, and particularly the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: *Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region* and to consider whether any new guidelines, action plans or other recommendations to respond to specific problems are necessary;

6. *Acknowledges* the work of MIKT in developing the Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds, implementing the Scoreboard assessments and promoting its use as a voluntary tool for Parties to assess their own progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds;

7. *Requests* the Task Forces using the Scoreboard for self-assessment of their efforts in combating illegal taking of migratory birds to collect experiences from the practical use of the Scoreboard for its potential further development and submit their proposal to the relevant Secretariat(s) for evaluation, and requests the Secretariat(s), to submit if necessary, propositions of amendments to the relevant Standing Committee(s) for adoption;

8. *Decides* to establish[3], subject to the availability of resources, an Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA) and adopts the terms of reference included in the Annex 2 to this Resolution;

9. *Decides* to establish, subject to the availability of resources, a South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force[4] following a successful meeting of the Working Group in Riyadh in January 2024;

10. *Instructs* the Secretariat to actively work with Parties and non-Party Range States and others in South and Central America and the Caribbean to conduct an assessment of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in that region, building upon recent assessments of illegal take of shorebirds;

11. *Urges* Parties and *encourages* non-Parties, to ensure adequate national legislation to protect migratory species is in place and properly implemented and enforced, in line with CMS and its relevant associated instruments and other international instruments;

[2] The Task Force was established after COP11.
[3] The Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force was established under the name *Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway (ITTEA)* and had its inaugural meeting on 12 March 2023 in Brisbane, Australia.
4 The South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force had its inaugural meeting on 20-21 May 2025, in Riyadh.

12. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to promote and ensure synergies between work to implement the Guidelines to Prevent Poisoning of Migratory Birds as adopted through Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP15), in particular in relation to poisoned baits, and to prevent illegal killing of birds;

13. *Requests* the Task Forces to encourage monitoring of the trends in illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds using comparable methodologies internationally and to facilitate the exchange of best practice experience in combating these activities, especially between particular trouble spots around the globe, building on the experience gained in the Mediterranean;

14. *Instructs* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of resources, and building on the experience in the Mediterranean to support efforts to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds elsewhere in the world, including through the organization of workshops, as appropriate;

15. *Calls* on Parties and *invites* non-Parties and stakeholders, to develop and implement National Action Plans for Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds, or similar policy documents, outlining all the necessary actions, activities and processes necessary to combat illegal taking of birds at national level and promoting a zero-tolerance approach;

16. *Calls* on Parties and *invites* non-Parties and stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat, to strengthen national and local capacity for addressing illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds, inter alia, by developing training courses, translating and disseminating relevant materials and examples of best practice, sharing protocols and regulations, transferring technology, and promoting the use of online tools, forensic techniques in wildlife investigations and other tools to address specific issues;

17. *Urges* Parties and *invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors to support financially the operations of the Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, including through funding for its coordination, and subject to the results of monitoring mentioned in paragraph 5, the development of equivalent Task Forces at other trouble spots, including through the provision of financial assistance to developing countries for relevant capacity-building; and

18. *Calls on* the Secretariat to report progress, on behalf of the task forces on addressing illegal taking of migratory birds in the Mediterranean, Asia-Pacific, South-West Asia and other similar initiatives elsewhere in the world, on implementation and, as much as possible, on assessment of the efficacy of measures taken, at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex 1 to the Resolution

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force (MIKT)

1. Background and purpose

This Task Force is established in line with the mandate provided by the Resolution adopted at COP11 entitled "The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds" to assist the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its associated instruments, relevant MEAs and Conventions to fulfil their obligations to protect migratory birds from illegal killing, taking and trade.

2. Goal

To ensure that no illegal killing, taking and trade of birds takes place in the Mediterranean Region.

3. Role

The role of the Task Force is to facilitate concerted efforts and procedures to combat illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean Region. It will facilitate the implementation of the existing guidelines and action plans in particular the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds, and to consider whether any new guidelines, action plans or other recommendations to respond to specific problems are necessary.

4. Scope

The Task Force will be regional covering all coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Task Force will cover all migratory bird taxa as identified by CMS and its relevant associated instruments, which regularly occur in the Mediterranean Region.

5. Remit

The Task Force will:

a. Promote and facilitate implementation of relevant decisions and plans adopted in the framework of MEAs or other frameworks;

b. Set priorities for its actions and implement them;

c. Assist in resource mobilization for priority actions;

d. Monitor the implementation of the relevant decisions and plans and their effectiveness and submit progress reports to the governing bodies of the participating MEAs;

e. Stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how; and

f. Strengthen regional and international networks.

6. Membership

The Task Force membership will comprise representatives of relevant government institutions in the field of environment, game management, law enforcement and judiciary in the Parties to the participating MEAs in the Mediterranean Region.

It will also involve observers from the Secretariats of the participating MEAs, as well as academic institutions, the hunting community, NGOs and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

The following representatives will also be invited to contribute to the Task Force:

- Representatives of Parties elsewhere in the African-Eurasian Flyway and beyond that wish to support the work of the Task Force;
- Representatives of the CMS Scientific Council, AEWA Technical Committee, Raptors MoU Technical Advisory Group, Bern Convention Expert Group on Birds;
- Representatives of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group, African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Working Group and Flyways Working Group; and
- Independent experts on migratory bird ecology and policy, the different kinds of illegal bird killing, taking and trade and their prevention.

7. Governance

The Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members.

The Task Force will operate by seeking consensus, as much as possible, among the group.

The Task Force will operate in accordance with a *modus operandi*, which shall be established once the Task Force has been convened.

8. Operation

Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed by the Task Force with the following functions:

- Organize the meetings of the Task Force and prepare the background documents;
- Maintain and moderate the Task Force communication platform (website and intranet);
- Facilitate implementation of decisions of the Task Force, as necessary;
- Facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization; and
- Facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force.

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting.

Between meetings business will be conducted electronically through an online workspace (intranet) within the Task Force's website, which will provide the primary mode of communication.

The Task Force, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, will organize regional workshops in trouble spot areas to assist in developing appropriate local or regional solutions.

Annex 2 to the Resolution

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ILLEGAL TAKING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE (ITTEA)

Background and purpose

This Task Force is established in line with the mandate provided by Resolution 11.16 *The prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds,* to assist the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its associated instruments, relevant MEAs and Conventions to fulfil their obligations to protect migratory birds from illegal hunting, taking and trade.

Goal

To ensure that no illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds (ITB) takes place in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF).

Role

To facilitate concerted efforts and procedures to combat ITB in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway in close cooperation with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).

Scope

The Task Force will be regional, covering all States of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway as follows: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea (South Korea), the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), United States of America and Vietnam.

The Task Force will cover all migratory bird taxa as identified by CMS.

Remit

The Task Force will:

- Support and guide a review on the status of hunting regulations related to migratory birds in the EAAF;
- Support and guide a situation analysis on ITB in the flyway, building on the existing work of CMS MIKT in the Mediterranean, Europe and Middle East;
- Promote and facilitate implementation of relevant Decisions and plans adopted in the framework of MEAs or other frameworks, especially the CMS, Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) and bilateral migratory bird agreements;
- Stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience, best practice and knowledge;
- Assist in resource mobilization for priority actions, including cooperation with ASEAN;
- Monitor the implementation of the relevant Decisions and plans and their effectiveness, and regularly submit progress reports to the governing bodies of participating MEAs, including via an intergovernmental 'scoreboard' to indicate progress on eliminating ITB;

- Strengthen regional and international networks with experience on ITB (e.g. ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network); and
- Liaise and share experience with both the CMS MIKT and the EAAFP Task Force.

Membership

The Task Force membership will be comprised of representatives of relevant government institutions related to the environment, game management, law enforcement and the judiciary in the countries that are Parties to the participating MEAs in the EAAF Region.

It will also comprise observers from the Secretariats of the participating MEAs and frameworks, as well as academic institutions, the hunting community, NGOs and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

In addition, the following representatives will be invited to contribute to the Task Force:

- Representatives of Parties elsewhere in the EAAF and beyond that wish to support the work of the Task Force;
- Representatives of the CMS Scientific Council, CMS MIKT, EAAFP Task Force, AEWA Technical Committee, the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Working Group, the Flyways Working Group, and other groups with relevant experience;
- Representatives from relevant Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements and relevant IUCN specialist groups; and
- Relevant independent experts on ITB and on migratory bird ecology and policy.

Governance

The Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members.

The Task Force will operate by seeking consensus, as much as possible, among the group, and in accordance with a *modus operandi* which shall be developed once the Task Force is convened.

Operation

Funding permitting, a Coordinator will be appointed by the Task Force. She/he will be responsible for:

- organizing the meetings of the Task Force and preparing the background documents;
- maintaining and moderating the Task Force`s communication platform (website and intranet);
- facilitating implementation of decisions of the Task Force;
- facilitating fundraising and resource mobilization; and
- facilitating engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force.

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting. Between meetings business will be conducted electronically through an online workspace (intranet) within the Task Force's website, which will provide the primary mode of communication.

In collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations and subject to the availability of funds, the Task Force will organize regional workshops in trouble-spot areas to assist in the development of appropriate local or regional solutions.