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

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CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS FOR FUTURE REPORTING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN AND FREQUENCY AND FORMAT OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Summary:
The document presents discussion points for future reporting under the Rome Strategic Plan and frequency of future meetings.

MIKT Members and Bern Convention SFPs are invited to review the document and propose a possible way forward.

(Prepared by the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats)

CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS FOR FUTURE REPORTING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ROME STRATEGIC PLAN AND FREQUENCY AND FORMAT OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Background

1. The Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: *Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region* was developed as the common strategic framework of CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (SFPs) at the second joint meeting which took place in Rome in May 2019.

2. The Rome Strategic Plan was officially adopted by the Bern Convention Parties at the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee in December 2019. In June 2020, after consultation via electronic means, the latest version adopted by the Bern Convention was subsequently adopted by the MIKT Member States, with the understanding that a detailed and ambitious workplan would be developed for specific actions to be implemented by MIKT Members and Observers in the Mediterranean that will capture concerns raised during the consultation – including the possibility to agree on the use of an independent monitoring mechanism to assess progress made against the workplan and combating IKB under the MIKT.

3. The Rome Strategic Plan (RSP) foresees a periodic assessment using the IKB Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating IKB, a monitoring tool developed in 2017 and previously used as reporting tool for the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020, the Programme of Work 2016-2020. The Scoreboard is a voluntary self-assessment tool that enables national governments to measure their progress in implementing their commitments related to this area. To date, two rounds of Scoreboard assessments have been completed (in 2018 and 2020).

4. In addition to the Scoreboard, until 2020 and before the entry into force of the Rome Strategic Plan, reporting on IKB also foresaw the completion by MIKT Members and Bern Convention IKB Focal Points of separate national reports, submitted ahead of joint meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs and the CMS MIKT. These reports were consolidated by the Secretariats and shared as a compilation document at the meetings in Malta in 2017 and in Rome in 2019. The template for the national reports was largely based on the Tunis Action Plan, the first IKB plan for Mediterranean countries, adopted in 2013 for the period 2013-2020.

5. From 2021 onwards, the Strategic Framework for both CMS MIKT countries and Bern Convention SFPs is the Rome Strategic Plan. Section 5.4 of the Rome Strategic Plan indicates how to assess the progress toward the objectives of the plan.

   The plan foresees two type of assessments:
   - the periodic assessment based on the Scoreboard, which is planned to be completed in 2023, 2026 and 2029 (Section 5.4.(1)). The Plan also foresees that the Scoreboard *'may need to be adjusted as appropriate to ensure that countries can effectively use the Scoreboard alongside the Rome Strategic Plan.'.*
   - a mid-term assessment of the plan in 2025 and a final assessment in 2030. According to Section 5.4.(2), these may include the following elements:

"i. *Assessing the empirical measures of success through the outcomes identified by the indicators for each objective. The indicators for each of the actions of the Rome Strategic Plan establish a logical framework matrix that forms the overall composite index, allowing measuring of progress against the 2020 baseline.*

ii. Assessments will be informed by national reporting to the Conventions, independent research and the periodic Scoreboard information as responded by countries, including other relevant information."

Therefore, the above-mentioned provisions suggest that the indicators included in the Rome Strategic Plan can be used to measure progress against the objectives of the Plan and to complement the information collected from the Scoreboard, with a narrative assessment of secondary sources of information (namely, national reporting to the Conventions, independent research and the information included in the Scoreboard).

Considerations for future reporting and frequency of meetings

6. When the Rome Strategic Plan (RSP) was developed the Scoreboard already existed and was taken into consideration during the drafting of the Rome Strategic Plan. Therefore, the Scoreboard indicators correspond quite well with most of the RSP objectives and actions . Nevertheless, there are some elements of the RSP which would not be sufficiently reported through the Scoreboard. This means that assessing the implementation and success of these elements would require some other forms of reporting. The gaps mentioned above relate mostly to information about fundraising, communication and awareness raising activities, capacity building initiatives and needs assessment, and participation in international cooperation meetings, trainings and other opportunities. Separate national reports could be adopted to fill these gaps.

> ➢ **Possible question for discussion:**
> - Which tools can be used to ensure a complete reporting under the RSP?

7. In order to consider the possible reporting gaps by MIKT Members and Bern Convention SFPs using the Scoreboard, the following options are presented as a basis for discussion:

   A) The Secretariats will create a new reporting template that will complement the Scoreboard and address specifically the gaps. This report will be requested ahead of each joint meeting and shall be submitted irrespective of the timing of the Scoreboard submission.

   B) The Secretariats will create a new reporting template that will complement the Scoreboard and address specifically the gaps. This report will be requested ahead of the mid-term assessment in 2025 and the final assessment in 2030.

   C) The Secretariats will create a new reporting template that will complement the Scoreboard and address specifically the gaps. This report will be requested together with the Scoreboard in 2023, 2026 and 2029, irrespective of the timing of any joint meeting.

8. Currently, when filling in the Scoreboard, MIKT Members and Bern Convention SFPs are encouraged to involve a wide array of stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and complete reporting and to capture the wide efforts undertaken by all stakeholders at national level to combat IKB.

9. Observers to the MIKT and to the Bern Convention are also invited to the joint meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs and the CMS MIKT, where they can make interventions on their activities contributing to the international commitments to combat IKB and their reports can be found in the joint meeting reports or through their presentations, which are posted online on the meeting website.

> ➢ **Possible question for discussion:**
> - Is a more structured approach to observers' reporting needed?
> - What could be the reporting schedule?

10. Similarly to the point above, currently the CMS and Bern Secretariats submit a narrative report or report only orally, during the joint meetings, covering especially the activities undertaken to support the international dimension to combat IKB.

> ➢ **Possible question for discussion:**
> - Is a more structured approach to the Secretariats' reporting needed?

11. Finally, whereas the Scoreboard is to be completed every three years from 2020 onwards, the joint meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs and the CMS MIKT, could take place more frequently than that.

> ➢ **Possible questions for discussion**:
> - How frequently should the joint meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs and the CMS MIKT take place?
> - Are there alternative formats the group wants to consider for more frequent meetings (e.g. one face-to-face, one online)?
> - What are the financial implications of having more frequent meetings?
> - Should the Group agree on having more frequent meetings, what kind of reporting could be associated to it?

Recommended actions:

The Members of CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds are recommended to:

a) Take note of this document;

b) Adopt reporting Option A), B) or C) for Bern Convention SFPs and CMS MIKT members.

c) Adopt proposal for Observers and Secretariats.

d) Make proposals for the frequency of joint meetings of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs and the CMS MIKT, and for potential formats of meetings, and adopt a timeline for such future meetings.